



RANEPA
THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY
OF NATIONAL ECONOMY
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

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From 23 November 2020 to 27 September 2021

10 November 2021 (updated from 28 October 2021)

Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.

We encourage readers to send comments to

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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, as has happened with this edition, which is updated from the one released on 28 October 2021. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for the contents of this report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the G20 Research Group.

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Introduction and Summary

The G20 2020 Riyadh 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 Institutional Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). The report analyzes compliance by G20 members with 20 priority commitments carefully selected from the total of 107 commitments made at the Riyadh Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on 21–22 November 2020. This final report covers relevant actions taken by the G20 members between 23 November 2020 to 27 September 2021, which builds on the interim report that covered actions taken up to 22 May.

This version of the report, dated 10 November 2021, reflects updated information received after the version of 28 October 2021 was received. Scores have been recalibrated accordingly.

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 joined this multi-year project in 2005, followed by RANEPA. 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.¹

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 107 commitments at the Riyadh Summit.² These commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA, are drawn from the official Riyadh 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

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

² A commitment is defined as a discrete, specific, publicly expressed, collectively agreed statement of intent; a 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).

the world, as well as individual and collective pledges. Selected commitments must also meet secondary criteria of performance measurability and ability to comply to some degree within a year, as well as the tertiary criterion of significance as identified by scientific teams and relevant stakeholders in the host country.

For the 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report, 20 priority commitments were selected for assessment by the University of Toronto and the RANEPa teams (see Table 1).

Final Compliance Scores

This assessment is based on relevant, publicly available information relating to actions taken from 23 November 2020 to 27 September 2021. 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 20 commitments, G20 members achieved average compliance of +0.72 (86%).

Final Compliance by Member

For final compliance with the Riyadh Summit's priority commitments, Germany had the highest compliance at +1.00 (100%), followed Korea, the United Kingdom and the European Union at +0.95 (98%), Australia and France at +0.90 (95%). Host Saudi Arabia tied for 12th with Brazil at +0.65 (83%). India had the lowest compliance score at +0.35 (68%). The difference between the highest and lowest G20 member compliance scores is 0.65. All the scores by G20 members are listed in Table 3.

Final Compliance by Commitment

The tax commitment on base erosion and profit shifting achieved full compliance at +1.00 (100%). It was followed by the climate change commitment on the Paris Agreement at +0.95 (98%) and three commitments – on international taxation systems, capital markets and inclusive growth – at +0.90 (95%). The trade commitment on open markets had the lowest compliance at +0.12 (56%). All the scores by commitment are listed in Table 4.

Table 1: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth | “We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 2 | Macroeconomics: Capital Markets | “We will strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth, including through promoting sustainable capital flows and developing domestic capital markets.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 3 | Trade: Investment | “We strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 4 | Trade: Open Markets | “[We strive to]...keep our markets open.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 5 | Digital Economy: Consumer Rights | “We support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 6 | International Taxation: Tax Systems | “We will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 7 | International Taxation: BEPS | “We remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 8 | Crime and Corruption: Threats | “We reiterate our strong commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 9 | Labour and Employment: Job Protection | “We will continue to support workers through training and reskilling policies.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 10 | Gender: Inequalities | “As many women have been disproportionately affected by the crisis, we will work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 11 | Gender: Economic Participation and Entrepreneurship | “We will take steps to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 12 | Development: Debt Relief | “We are committed to implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 13 | Development: COVID-19 | “We remain determined to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 14 | Health: Preparedness and Response | “We commit to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 | Health: Information Sharing | “[We reaffirm our commitment to] the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 16 | Health: Vaccine Distribution | “We will spare no effort to ensure their [vaccines] affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation. In this regard, we fully support all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 17 | Energy: Fossil Fuels | “We reaffirm our joint commitment on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 18 | Environment: Marine Plastic Litter | “We reaffirm our commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 19 | Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy | “We endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration) |
| 20 | Climate Change: Paris Agreement | “Signatories to the Paris Agreement who confirmed at Osaka their determination to implement it, once again, reaffirm their commitment to its full implementation, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.” (G20 Environment Ministers Meeting) |

Table 2: 2020 G20 Riyadh 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 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.90 | 95% |
| 2 | Macroeconomics: Capital Markets | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.90 | 95% |
| 3 | Trade: Investment | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.65 | 83% |
| 4 | Trade: Open Markets | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 | +1 | n/a | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +0.12 | 56% |
| 5 | Digital Economy: Consumer Rights | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +0.80 | 90% |
| 6 | International Taxation: Tax Systems | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.90 | 95% |
| 7 | International Taxation: BEPS | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1.00 | 100% |
| 8 | Crime and Corruption: Threats | -1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.60 | 80% |
| 9 | Labour and Employment: Job Protection | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | -1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.65 | 83% |
| 10 | Gender: Inequalities | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.85 | 93% |
| 11 | Gender: Economic Participation | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.70 | 85% |
| 12 | Development: Debt Relief | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.65 | 83% |
| 13 | Development: COVID-19 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | -1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.85 | 93% |
| 14 | Health: Preparedness and Response | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.80 | 90% |
| 15 | Health: Information Sharing | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.80 | 90% |
| 16 | Health: Vaccine Distribution | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.70 | 85% |
| 17 | Energy: Fossil Fuels | -1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.40 | 70% |

2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

| | 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 | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-------|-----|
| 18 | Environment: Marine Plastic Litter | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | -1 | -1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +0.45 | 73% | |
| 19 | Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.55 | 78% | |
| 20 | Climate Change: Paris Agreement | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | 0 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +0.95 | 98% | |
| | Final Score | +0.60 | +0.90 | +0.65 | +0.85 | +0.70 | +0.90 | +1.00 | +0.35 | +0.55 | +0.63 | +0.75 | +0.95 | +0.40 | +0.55 | +0.65 | +0.45 | +0.70 | +0.95 | +0.85 | +0.95 | +0.72 | 86% |
| | | 80% | 95% | 83% | 93% | 85% | 95% | 100% | 68% | 78% | 82% | 88% | 98% | 70% | 78% | 83% | 73% | 85% | 98% | 93% | 98% | 86% | |

Table 3: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance by Member

| Rank | Member | Average | |
|------|----------------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| 1 | Germany | +1.00 | 100% |
| 2 | European Union | +0.95 | 98% |
| | Korea | | |
| | United Kingdom | | |
| 5 | Australia | +0.90 | 95% |
| | France | | |
| 7 | Canada | +0.85 | 93% |
| | United States | | |
| 9 | Japan | +0.75 | 88% |
| 10 | China | +0.70 | 85% |
| | Turkey | | |
| 12 | Brazil | +0.65 | 83% |
| | Saudi Arabia | | |
| 14 | Italy | +0.63 | 82% |
| 15 | Argentina | +0.60 | 80% |
| 16 | Indonesia | +0.55 | 78% |
| | Russia | | |
| 18 | South Africa | +0.45 | 73% |
| 19 | Mexico | +0.40 | 70% |
| 20 | India | +0.35 | 68% |

Table 4: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance by Commitment

| Rank | Commitment | Average | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| 1 | International Taxation: BEPS | +1.00 | 100% |
| 2 | Climate Change: Paris Agreement | +0.95 | 98% |
| 3 | International Taxation: Tax Systems | +0.90 | 95% |
| | Macroeconomics: Capital Markets | | |
| | Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth | | |
| 6 | Development: COVID-19 | +0.85 | 93% |
| | Gender: Inequalities | | |
| 8 | Digital Economy: Consumer Rights | +0.80 | 90% |
| | Health: Information Sharing | | |
| | Health: Preparedness and Response | | |
| 11 | Gender: Economic Participation and Entrepreneurship | +0.70 | 85% |
| | Health: Vaccine Distribution | | 85% |
| 13 | Development: Debt Relief | +0.65 | 83% |
| | Labour and Employment: Job Protection | | |
| | Trade: Investment | | |
| 16 | Crime and Corruption: Threats | +0.60 | 80% |
| 17 | Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy | +0.55 | 78% |
| 18 | Environment: Marine Plastic Litter | +0.45 | 73% |
| 19 | Energy: Fossil Fuels | +0.40 | 70% |
| 20 | Trade: Open Markets | +0.12 | 56% |

Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008-2020

| Member | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | |
|----------------|--------------------|------|----------------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| | Washington 2008 | | London 2009 | | Pittsburgh 2009 | | Toronto 2010 | | Seoul 2010 | | Cannes 2011 | | Los Cabos 2012 | |
| Argentina | 0 | 50% | -0.60 | 20% | -0.13 | 44% | 0 | 50% | -0.08 | 46% | 0 | 50% | +0.31 | 66% |
| Australia | n/a | - | +0.60 | 80% | +0.50 | 75% | +0.56 | 78% | +0.85 | 93% | +0.67 | 84% | +0.94 | 97% |
| Brazil | +1.00 | 100% | +0.20 | 60% | -0.63 | 19% | +0.29 | 65% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.56 | 78% |
| Canada | +1.00 | 100% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.63 | 82% | +0.78 | 89% | +0.69 | 85% | +0.73 | 87% | +0.75 | 88% |
| China | 0 | 50% | -0.40 | 30% | +0.13 | 57% | +0.38 | 69% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.53 | 77% | +0.38 | 69% |
| France | +1.00 | 100% | +0.80 | 90% | +0.63 | 82% | +0.56 | 78% | +0.77 | 89% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.69 | 85% |
| Germany | +1.00 | 100% | +0.80 | 90% | +0.63 | 82% | +0.56 | 78% | +0.54 | 77% | +0.67 | 84% | +0.56 | 78% |
| India | 0 | 50% | -0.40 | 30% | -0.38 | 31% | -0.29 | 36% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.50 | 75% |
| Indonesia | n/a | - | -0.40 | 30% | -0.63 | 19% | -0.13 | 44% | +0.36 | 68% | +0.14 | 57% | +0.47 | 74% |
| Italy | +1.00 | 100% | 0 | 50% | +0.13 | 57% | +0.56 | 78% | +0.77 | 89% | +0.80 | 90% | +0.19 | 60% |
| Japan | +1.00 | 100% | +0.20 | 60% | +0.50 | 75% | +0.56 | 78% | +0.62 | 81% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.50 | 75% |
| Korea | n/a | - | 0 | 50% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.56 | 78% | +0.46 | 73% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.63 | 82% |
| Mexico | +1.00 | 100% | 0 | 50% | +0.25 | 63% | -0.14 | 43% | +0.58 | 79% | +0.67 | 84% | +0.69 | 85% |
| Russia | 0 | 50% | +0.40 | 70% | +0.38 | 69% | +0.13 | 57% | +0.59 | 80% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.63 | 82% |
| Saudi Arabia | n/a | - | +0.20 | 60% | -0.13 | 44% | -0.13 | 44% | +0.08 | 54% | +0.21 | 61% | +0.50 | 75% |
| South Africa | +1.00 | 100% | +0.40 | 70% | +0.63 | 82% | -0.14 | 43% | +0.33 | 67% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.47 | 74% |
| Turkey | n/a | - | +0.20 | 60% | -0.25 | 38% | -0.14 | 43% | +0.17 | 59% | +0.20 | 60% | +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% |
| United States | 0 | 50% | +0.40 | 70% | +1.00 | 100% | +0.33 | 67% | +0.38 | 69% | +0.53 | 77% | +0.81 | 91% |
| European Union | +1.00 | 100% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.38 | 69% | +0.57 | 79% | +0.82 | 91% | +0.85 | 93% | +0.75 | 88% |
| Average | +0.67 | 83% | +0.23 | 62% | +0.24 | 62% | +0.28 | 64% | +0.50 | 75% | +0.54 | 77% | +0.57 | 79% |

n/a = not available

| Member | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | Final | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|----------------------|------|---------------|------|----------------|------|
| | St. Petersburg 2013 | | Brisbane 2014 | | Antalya 2015 | | Hangzhou 2016 | | Hamburg 2017 | | Buenos Aires 2018 | | Osaka 2019 | | Riyadh 2020 | |
| Argentina | +0.06 | 53% | +0.06 | 53% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.63 | 82% | +0.82 | 91% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.60 | 80% |
| Australia | +0.63 | 81% | +0.59 | 79% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.79 | 89% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.80 | 90% | +0.74 | 87% | +0.90 | 95% |
| Brazil | +0.31 | 66% | +0.12 | 56% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.58 | 79% | +0.82 | 91% | +0.70 | 85% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.65 | 83% |
| Canada | +0.44 | 72% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.84 | 92% | +0.94 | 97% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.79 | 89% | +0.85 | 93% |
| China | +0.19 | 59% | +0.59 | 79% | +0.59 | 79% | +0.74 | 87% | +0.76 | 88% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.70 | 85% |
| France | +0.69 | 84% | +0.63 | 81% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.63 | 82% | +0.94 | 97% | +1.00 | 100% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.90 | 95% |
| Germany | +0.75 | 88% | +0.69 | 84% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.79 | 89% | +0.88 | 94% | +0.65 | 83% | +0.88 | 94% | +1.00 | 100% |
| India | +0.63 | 81% | +0.59 | 79% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.63 | 82% | +0.82 | 91% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.58 | 79% | +0.35 | 68% |
| Indonesia | +0.50 | 75% | +0.12 | 56% | +0.18 | 59% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.94 | 97% | +0.45 | 73% | +0.32 | 66% | +0.55 | 78% |
| Italy | +0.44 | 72% | +0.13 | 56% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.32 | 66% | +0.76 | 88% | +0.35 | 68% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.63 | 82% |
| Japan | +0.31 | 66% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.35 | 68% | +0.68 | 84% | +0.76 | 88% | +0.55 | 78% | +0.58 | 79% | +0.75 | 88% |
| Korea | +0.38 | 69% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.68 | 84% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.95 | 98% |
| Mexico | +0.38 | 69% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.60 | 80% | +0.53 | 76% | +0.40 | 70% |
| Russia | +0.44 | 72% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.68 | 84% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.35 | 68% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.55 | 78% |
| Saudi Arabia | +0.06 | 53% | -0.24 | 38% | +0.35 | 68% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.59 | 79% | +0.45 | 73% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.65 | 83% |
| South Africa | +0.25 | 63% | -0.12 | 44% | +0.24 | 62% | +0.37 | 68% | +0.65 | 82% | +0.45 | 73% | +0.37 | 68% | +0.45 | 73% |
| Turkey | +0.25 | 63% | 0 | 50% | +0.41 | 71% | +0.37 | 68% | +0.29 | 65% | +0.05 | 53% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.70 | 85% |
| United Kingdom | +0.75 | 88% | +0.76 | 88% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.47 | 74% | +0.94 | 97% | +0.25 | 63% | +0.74 | 87% | +0.95 | 98% |
| United States | +0.69 | 84% | +0.76 | 88% | +0.71 | 85% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.35 | 68% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.85 | 93% |
| European Union | +0.63 | 81% | +0.75 | 88% | +0.81 | 91% | +0.84 | 92% | 0.94 | 97% | +0.37 | 68% | +1.00 | 100% | +0.95 | 98% |
| Average | +0.44 | 72% | +0.42 | 71% | +0.55 | 77% | +0.60 | 80% | 0.75 | 87% | +0.57 | 78% | +0.57 | 79% | +0.72 | 86% |

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 in period immediately following 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.

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 a 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. Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth

“We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth.”

G20 Riyadh 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 | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | | +1 |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.90 (95%) | |

Background

Inclusive economic growth has been a major area of interest at G20 summits in recent years. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought into greater light the deep inequalities in economic growth and prospects among countries around the world. According to the World Bank, in 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic is estimated to push 88 to 115 million people into extreme poverty (defined as living on less than USD1.90 daily), with that number potentially rising to 150 million by 2021.³ Even prior to the pandemic, the World Bank noted that “the rate of [poverty] reduction slowed to less than half a percentage point per year between 2015 and 2017.”⁴ Consequently, this commitment aims to highlight that promoting inclusive economic growth requires addressing systemic inequalities in the global economy that hinder the participation of all.

³ COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021>

⁴ COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 7 October 2020. Data of Access: 20 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders recognized that fostering inclusive growth requires the use of “all policy tools and strong engagement with stakeholders.”⁵ Additionally, they strived to ensure that growth is “robust,” “inclusive,” and “delivers more quality jobs.”⁶ According to the communiqué, rising inequalities negatively affect economies and “hinder our objective of lifting growth.”⁷ They affirmed that global trade and investment continue to be important for fuelling economic growth and development, generating employment and contributing to welfare and inclusive growth. They further affirmed their support for “policies that allow firms of all sizes, particularly SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises], in countries at all levels of economic development to participate in and take full advantage of Global Value Chains and encourage greater participation and value addition by developing countries.”⁸

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to advance “strong, balanced, sustainable, and inclusive growth” under the Hangzhou Consensus.⁹ This action plan focused on four key themes: vision, integration, openness and inclusiveness.¹⁰ Furthermore, leaders agreed that fiscal, monetary and structural policies were essential in achieving these goals and should be tailored to an individual country’s circumstances. Monetary policy was necessary to continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central banks’ mandates, whereas fiscal policy offers flexibility in making tax policy and public expenditure more growth-friendly.¹¹

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their responsibility of maintaining and fostering strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Building on commitments made at the Hangzhou Summit, the G20 leaders promised to make significant progress in building resilience, improving sustainability and assuming responsibility.¹² Furthermore, they agreed that globalization’s benefits have not been shared with all countries equally and committed to enabling people to better “seize its opportunities.”¹³ Talks also focused on combating global issues of terrorism, poverty, climate change, energy security, stability, gender inequality and job creation.¹⁴

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to their previous year’s pledge of using all three policy tools to “achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.”¹⁵ An additional focus on infrastructure growth as a criterion for inclusive growth was included; G20 leaders called

⁵ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqu.html>

⁶ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqu.html>

⁷ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqu.html>

⁸ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqu.html>

⁹ G20 Hangzhou Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017 Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

¹⁰ G20 Hangzhou Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date : 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

¹¹ G20 Hangzhou Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

¹² G20 Hamburg Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹³ G20 Hamburg Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁴ G20 Hamburg Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵ G20 Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

for more private investment in infrastructure to address the continuing financing gap.¹⁶ The Buenos Aires Action Plan highlights key areas where member's implemented policy measures have had success in promoting inclusive growth, including taxation, social security reform, financial regulation, labour market changes and health insurance.¹⁷

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to using all policy tools to achieve “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth” and also mentioned the need to guard against negative consequences of policy measures by engaging in dialogue and building confidence.¹⁸ The G20 leaders also made a note of the importance of healthy current account statements, highlighting the increasing imbalances found in developed countries and stressed the need to calibrate economies and increase monitoring to prevent worsening.

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, leaders affirmed the need to promote greater Access to Opportunities as part of their focus on Ensuring an Inclusive Recovery that Tackles Inequalities.¹⁹ Thus, G20 leaders released the following commitment: “We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth.”²⁰

“Continue our efforts” is understood to mean carrying on “commitments that are established and implemented. It should be interpreted to mean new actions will be added to the already existing ones.”²¹ “Reaffirm” is understood to mean “affirm again whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify.”²²

“Reduce inequalities” in this context refers to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 10 first outlined in the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, to which G20 leaders remained “resolved to play a leading role in contributing to [its] timely implementation.”²³ Specifically, SDG 10 consists of several related macroeconomic targets that read as follows:

- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average;
- By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;

¹⁶ G20 Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁷ G20 Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁹ G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁰ G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²³ G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard;
- Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality;
- Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations;
- Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;
- Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements;
- Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular, least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs;
- By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.²⁴

“Previous commitments,” in this context, refers to declarations and initiatives put forward by G20 leaders at past summit meetings, which have been outlined above. Particular commitments to note include the G20 leaders at the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit commitment to using the “policy tools” produced by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), namely Investing in People and Places, Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets and Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions to achieve growth.²⁵ Another key commitment was in the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration which further reaffirmed that safeguarding against downside risks through enhancing confidence and promoting supportive fiscal and monetary policy.²⁶

“Inclusive growth” is defined by the OECD as “economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all.”²⁷ This interpretation of the term is further bolstered by the United Nations Development Programme, which views inclusive growth as “consisting of both participation and benefit-sharing, where everyone can participate in the growth process and can equally share [its] benefits.”²⁸

This commitment is divided into four key areas of action: increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for SMEs and

²⁴ Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (New York) 21 October 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

²⁵ Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2018buenosaires-final/10-2018-g20-compliance-growth.pdf>

²⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷ What is Inclusive Growth, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/>

²⁸ Report on the OECD Framework for Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG_MCM_ENG.pdf

entrepreneurs, and the upskilling and reskilling of workers. These areas of reform have been published in an OECD report entitled *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, calling for G20 members' to better enhance equal access to opportunities for all. Incorporating phenomena including globalization, digitalization, demographics, climate change, as well as the impact of COVID-19, this report was endorsed by the G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration, highlighting the importance of greater access to opportunities and affirming their commitment to "ensuring an inclusive recovery that tackles inequalities."²⁹

Increased Access to Opportunities for Youth

The first area of reform arises from the acknowledgement that "effective employment and social support can help young people to successfully transition from the educational system to the labour market."³⁰ Youth from disadvantaged backgrounds perform worse than advantaged students due to their comparatively adverse environments according to the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment.³¹ Furthermore, the OECD estimates that approximately 19 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds are classified as not in employment, education or training (NEET) across G20 economies, the number potentially greater following the onset of COVID-19.³²

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: improving access to early childhood education and care, the reduction of child poverty through social policy, promoting high-quality vocational education and training, and providing adequate employment and social support for NEET youth.³³ These actions are predominantly domestic in scope, however, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G20 members specifically towards increasing access to opportunities for youth can be included in compliance.

Increased Opportunities for Women

The OECD recognized that "across G20 economies, women still do not have the same labour market opportunities as men," noting that COVID-19 "risks having a greater impact on women."³⁴ While G20 economies have been recognized for "significant progress towards...reducing the gender

²⁹ *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁰ *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³¹ *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³² *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³³ *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁴ *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

gap in labour force participation by 25 per cent by 2025,³⁵ gaps in job quality and earnings still remain,³⁶ which are expected to widen throughout the pandemic.

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: supporting the unpaid care burden of children through incentivizing paternity care leave, ensuring access to maternity care leave and greater access to formal childcare, addressing systemic gender occupational inequalities particularly in science, technology, engineering and math, the implementation of budgeting that sufficiently consider and provide an effective framework to ensure gender equality, and conducting greater research on existing gaps in the labour market.³⁷ While these actions are predominantly domestic in scope, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G20 members specifically towards increasing access to opportunities for women can be included in compliance.

Increased Opportunities for SMEs and Entrepreneurs

Enterprises are defined by the OECD as “legal entities possessing the right to conduct business on their own.”³⁸ While the size varies from country to country, the OECD states that any enterprise consisting of fewer than 250 employees is considered a small and medium enterprise.³⁹ While barriers for SMEs and entrepreneurs have declined over the years, it has been recognized that “informal workers have fewer opportunities to invest in their skills and build a career,”⁴⁰ particularly women and youth. Furthermore, the OECD notes that SMEs and entrepreneurs in G20 member states have experienced added burdens of declining revenue, liquidity shortages and limited access to social protection measures through the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: promoting a business environment that encourages a level playing field for SMEs, supporting greater access to financing for SMEs as well as entrepreneurship particularly for women and youth, encouraging effective labour market regulation, and promoting greater research on the “extent of informal-sector activities.”⁴²

³⁵ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁶ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁷ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁸ Enterprises by Business Size, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://data.oecd.org/entrepreneur/enterprises-by-business-size>

³⁹ Enterprises by Business Size, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://data.oecd.org/entrepreneur/enterprises-by-business-size>

⁴⁰ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴¹ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴² Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

Upskilling and Reskilling of Workers

The OECD has recognized that “new technologies have been replacing workers in many middle-skill routine occupations while resting new jobs at both the high and low ends of the skills spectrum.”⁴³ The automation of several sectors in the economy and “mismatch in skills” leading to under-qualification in certain occupations and over-qualification in others in G20 economies have changed the nature of labour markets worldwide.⁴⁴ In particular, COVID-19 has accelerated digitalization processes and rapidly shifted labour demand across sectors, in turn inducing redundancies in workers’ skills.⁴⁵

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to the reduction of financial barriers for adult learning, more individualized, worker-centric training, creating training programmes that address the demand for job-specific skills, improving the certification of these programs, and offering sufficient support for unemployed workers.⁴⁶

The G20 member will be found in full compliance if it takes strong action in all four areas of the commitment with an eye to promoting inclusive growth, or it takes strong action in two or three areas and some action in the other two areas. Partial compliance includes taking strong action in one or two areas and some action in three areas, or some action in all four areas. Anything less than this, or less than 50 per cent of the commitment, counts as a –1 for non-compliance.

Examples of partial action include verbal reaffirmations, assigned follow-up, attendance at meetings or inclusion in institutions but no evidence of active participation in such meetings. Strong action for full compliance can include allocation of money or personnel, promotion of a program, changes in regulation and legislation, cabinet reconfigurations or enforcement through policy or judicial action that addresses the relevant areas of reform above, information sharing or the sponsoring, signing or ratification of a commitment-related international treaty, joining and financing an international organization, provision of financial support directly or through international institutions, or international policy actions that address relevant areas of reform, etc.

⁴³ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴⁴ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴⁵ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴⁶ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | The G20 member takes action in zero OR one area of increasing access to opportunities for youth, women, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. |
| 0 | The G20 member takes strong action in two OR three areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, women, SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers, or some action in all areas. |
| +1 | The G20 member takes strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, women, SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers, or strong action in three areas and some action in one. |

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Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development announced a ARS300 million initiative to create and strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) university centres, to “provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the country.”⁴⁷ Part of the Program for Competitiveness of Regional Economies, the initiative hopes to “enhance competitiveness and promote the export capacity of [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)] and value chains” through financing “training, equipment and technical assistance.”⁴⁸

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Social Development announced 370 award winners of the Empower Youth Competition.⁴⁹ With over 8,000 registered participants, the project was “aimed at unemployed people between 18 and 29 years old, with experience in the areas of carpentry, gastronomy, rubber, gardening, hairdressing, textiles or design in audiovisual communication so that they can obtain machinery and tools for launch or strengthen their ventures.”⁵⁰

On 3 December 2020, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Economy Melina Mallamace and the National Director of Economy, Equality and Gender Mercedes D’Alessandro participated in a meeting of the Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective.⁵¹ The discussion pertained to the impact of COVID-19 on female employment in Argentina, noting that the crisis has

⁴⁷ The Ministry of Productive Development will Invest \$ 300 M for the creation of SME Centers in universities throughout the country, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-invertira-300-m-para-la-creacion-de-centros-pymes-en>

⁴⁸ The Ministry of Productive Development will Invest \$ 300 M for the creation of SME Centers in universities throughout the country, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-invertira-300-m-para-la-creacion-de-centros-pymes-en>

⁴⁹ Empower Youth Contest: Social Development awarded 370 projects from all over the country, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/concurso-potenciar-jovenes-desarrollo-social-premio-370-proyectos-de-todo-el-pais>

⁵⁰ Empower Youth Contest: Social Development awarded 370 projects from all over the country, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/concurso-potenciar-jovenes-desarrollo-social-premio-370-proyectos-de-todo-el-pais>

⁵¹ The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective debated on economic recovery and gender equality, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-debatio-sobre-sobre-la>

disproportionately impacted women in the tourism, healthcare and textile sectors.⁵² The participants outlined several plans including “developing a map of productive development with a gender perspective,” encouraging more women to participate in the digitalized industries and technology sectors, increasing the number of female employees in the civil service and continuing gender-sensitive budgets, all to be implemented in 2021.^{53,54}

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development opened lines of credits amounting to ARS3.5 billion for MSMEs to “develop national productive investment projects,” with a maximum of ARS15 million per project.⁵⁵ The Direct Loans for Productive Reactivation program aims to promote the “financial inclusion of micro and small companies and cooperatives that have difficulties accessing bank financing.”⁵⁶

On 11 December 2020, Secretary of Economic Policy Haroldo Montagu met with representatives the Association of National Entrepreneurs for National Development to discuss the challenges SMEs are facing during the pandemic.⁵⁷ The representatives highlighted the support SMEs had received throughout the pandemic including the Solidarity Law for Social and Productive Reactivation and the Work and Production Assistance Programs, but recommended that SMEs and entrepreneurs earn greater participation in political affairs.⁵⁸

On 13 January 2021, Minister of Social Development Daniel Arroyo and President of the Argentine Foundation for the Promotion of Investments and International Trade Juan Unsandivaras signed an agreement to work on “linking entrepreneurs of the social economy with the [external] market” by developing regional agendas for exports, establishing training and advisory bodies and facilitating contact with foreign investors “to generate opportunities for entrepreneurs in the social economy.”⁵⁹

On 23 January 2021, Executive Decree No. 39/2021 was made public which states that there would be an extension for 90 calendar days on the ban against dismissals without just cause and dismissals

⁵² The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective debated on economic recovery and gender equality, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-debatio-sobre-sobre-la>

⁵³ The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective debated on economic recovery and gender equality, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-debatio-sobre-sobre-la>

⁵⁴ The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective made its 2020 assessment and set goals for 2021, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-hizo-su-balance-2020-y>

⁵⁵ The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-otorgara-creditos-directos-para-micro-y-pequenas>

⁵⁶ The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-otorgara-creditos-directos-para-micro-y-pequenas>

⁵⁷ The Secretary for Economic Policy met with SME representatives at the Palacio de Hacienda, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-secretario-de-politica-economica-se-reunio-con-representantes-pymes-en-el-palacio-de>

⁵⁸ The Secretary for Economic Policy met with SME representatives at the Palacio de Hacienda, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-secretario-de-politica-economica-se-reunio-con-representantes-pymes-en-el-palacio-de>

⁵⁹ Agreement to promote the link between entrepreneurs and the international market, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acuerdo-para-promover-el-vinculo-entre-emprendedores-y-el-mercado-internacional>

and suspensions grounded on reduced or decreased workloads and force majeure.⁶⁰ Additionally, the decree announced that there would be an extension of the duplication of severance payments till December 2021.⁶¹

On 17 February 2021, Argentina passed Resolution 178/2021 that established monetary supplements worth ARS4500 per month for youth attending training courses and activities in search of employment.⁶²

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta announced the implementation of the University Program of the School of Professional Education, aimed at training the professional skills of students in the “strategic development of the productive and technological sector.”⁶³ The program would see training courses, support on research and strengthening cooperation between universities and international training centres.⁶⁴

On 3 March 2021, Argentina attended a meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group which included discussion about increasing the role of SMEs in the international economy. Undersecretary for Economic Multilateral and Bilateral Negotiations Carola Ramón noted that “helping MSMEs to achieve international trade integration is vital, given their contribution to employment and development.”⁶⁵

On 3 March 2021, Argentina announced an ARS2.1 billion investment in the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies.⁶⁶ Located in each of the 23 provinces as well as the capital Buenos Aires, the centers will enable the central government to work more closely with regional authorities and social organizations to provide more comprehensive access to assistance, programs and resources to women and the LGBTQ+ community facing gender-based violence.⁶⁷

On 5 March 2021, Argentina jointly presented a cooperation programme with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund to develop an adequate institutional framework for children and

⁶⁰ Argentina: Termination Bans and Other Employment Measures Are Extended, Mondaq (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/argentina/litigation-contracts-and-force-majeure/1039538/termination-bans-and-other-employment-measures-are-extended>

⁶¹ Argentina: Termination Bans and Other Employment Measures Are Extended, Mondaq (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/argentina/litigation-contracts-and-force-majeure/1039538/termination-bans-and-other-employment-measures-are-extended>

⁶² The Government updated the economic aid within the framework of the Youth Program, Training and Employment Insurance and Promote, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-actualizo-las-ayudas-economicas-en-el-marco-del-programa-jovenes-seguro-de>

⁶³ Trotta launched new professional education program, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-lanzo-nuevo-programa-de-educacion-profesional>

⁶⁴ Trotta launched new professional education program, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-lanzo-nuevo-programa-de-educacion-profesional>

⁶⁵ G20: Argentina attends First Trade and Investment Group Meeting chaired by Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/g20-argentina-attends-first-trade-and-investment-group-meeting-chaired-italy>

⁶⁶ The National Government announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

⁶⁷ The National Government announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

adolescents.⁶⁸ Through broad engagement with the Ministries of Economy, Social Development, Education and the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family, USD50,000 is to be allocated to assess the effectiveness of early childhood care, USD150,000 towards strengthening opportunities for youth. The document notes that for each core action, “support will be given for the development of evidence-based policies with a rights-based focus and a gender perspective, the allocation of adequate and sustainable budgets, a wider offering of inclusive, quality services.”⁶⁹

On 9 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá announced a new set of measures intended to bridge the gender gap in the Foreign Ministry. The most significant measures included the reduction of “gender-based unequal opportunities and treatment,” with particular attention paid to the persistent gender pay gap.⁷⁰

On 11 March 2021, the 2021 budget for the Progresar scholarship program was boosted to more than ARS27 billion marking a 163.7 per cent increase.⁷¹ The scholarships have been divided into four categories: those for tertiary and university students, for nursing students, for those completing of primary and secondary school, and for professional training courses.⁷²

On 15 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Special Programs against Violence for Gender Reasons Carolina Varsky met with representatives of the native community in Tucumán and officials from nearby communes to work on strengthening the state’s response capacity to gender-based violence.⁷³ In the meetings that took place, the National Plan of Action against Gender Violence was presented, training session of gender perspectives was carried out and the creation of the Primary Care Office was announced.⁷⁴

On 31 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Equality Policies Pilar Escalante met with social organizations and municipal authorities of Lavalle to jointly plan for greater equality and economic autonomy for women.⁷⁵ The meeting concluded that the main obstacles for women in these

⁶⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF agreed on new 2021-2025 UNICEF programme for Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/ministry-foreign-affairs-and-unicef-agreed-new-2021-2025-unicef-programme>

⁶⁹ Costed evaluation plan—Argentina—UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021-2025, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/4511/file/2021-PL15-Argentina_CEP-EN-2021.03.08.pdf

⁷⁰ Felipe Solá announced measures to bridge gender gap within Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/felipe-sola-announced-measures-bridge-gender-gap-within-foreign-ministry>

⁷¹ Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

⁷² Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

⁷³ Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

⁷⁴ Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

⁷⁵ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

communities include access to land, work tools, property and lack of connectivity.⁷⁶ The Undersecretary also visited numerous sites to learn more about the needs of women in schools in rural areas.⁷⁷

On 7 April 2021, Argentina attended a meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents to discuss rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery pathways for middle-income countries (MIC) following the pandemic.⁷⁸ Argentina noted two crucial mechanisms that should be focused on for improving the economic situation of MICs through the international financial system: allocation of special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund and establishing debt-restructuring methods that support inclusivity.

On 22 April 2021, Minister Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development, to be implemented in the Norte Grande Region of Argentina.⁷⁹ The plan consists of ten key actions: “the creation of a Comprehensive Vocational Training System; the creation of Technological Centers for Educational Innovation in the National Universities; the delivery of Strategic Study Scholarships for Sustainable Development; the development of a National Technological Innovation Program for Vocational Training through INET; the certification and accreditation of knowledge and skills acquired at work and in education to promote integration with the labor market; the creation of Regional Technological Centers for Vocational Training to strengthen the link between education, production, work and local development; the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people’s capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer, the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people’s capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer.”⁸⁰

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the World of Work Pamela Ares participated in the “Socio-economic Recovery Program”

⁷⁶ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

⁷⁷ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

⁷⁸ G20: Joint declaration of Argentina and Mexico on a rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/g20-declaracion-conjunta-de-argentina-y-mexico-sobre-una-recuperacion-rapida-inclusiva-y>

⁷⁹ Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-presento-el-programa-nacional-de-educacion-para-el-trabajo-y-el-desarrollo>

⁸⁰ Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-presento-el-programa-nacional-de-educacion-para-el-trabajo-y-el-desarrollo>

Steering Committee to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the economic autonomy of women.⁸¹ The meeting focused on two key aspects: increasing labour market participation through equal distribution of unpaid care and improving financial education for women.⁸²

On 23 April 2021, Minister Trotta signed an agreement with the General Confederation of Labor of the Argentine Republic to develop education and work programs within the framework for the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development.⁸³ In particular, the programs seek to emphasize Vocational Training in conjunction with the national university system and using technological equipment and development to adapt to the modern economy.⁸⁴

On 10 May 2021, Chief of Staff Santiago Cafiero and Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas hosted the First Meeting for Productive Reactivation.⁸⁵ During this meeting, the government announced additional funding for SMEs. The Bank of the Argentine Nation will be offering a line of credit specifically to support the digital transformation of SMEs.⁸⁶ These businesses can request loans of ARS3 million to ARS30 million at a subsidized, fixed interest rate.⁸⁷ This move will help Argentinian SMEs be more active and competitive in the online space.

On 16 May 2021, the Programa PyMEs en Gondolas was launched to promote the commercialization of family farming and MSMEs in supermarket chains.⁸⁸ The program involves connecting businesses with professionals in the food industry, providing ARS1.5 billion for bolstering production capacity as well as ARS1.7 billion to be provide direct financing.⁸⁹ Under the Gondolas Law established by the Ministry of Internal Trade, the program aims provide businesses

⁸¹ First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

⁸² First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

⁸³ Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

⁸⁴ Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

⁸⁵ Cafiero and Kulfas announced a new credit line for digitization of SMEs, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-y-kulfas-anunciaron-nueva-linea-de-creditos-para-digitalizacion-de-pymes>

⁸⁶ Cafiero and Kulfas announced a new credit line for digitization of SMEs, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-y-kulfas-anunciaron-nueva-linea-de-creditos-para-digitalizacion-de-pymes>

⁸⁷ Cafiero and Kulfas announced a new credit line for digitization of SMEs, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-y-kulfas-anunciaron-nueva-linea-de-creditos-para-digitalizacion-de-pymes>

⁸⁸ The Government will present this Monday the SMEs in Gondolas Program, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presentara-este-lunes-el-programa-pymes-en-gondolas>

⁸⁹The Government will present this Monday the SMEs in Gondolas Program, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presentara-este-lunes-el-programa-pymes-en-gondolas>

with the means to “sustain the technical and production level necessary to allow them to consolidate over time as suppliers to large chains.”⁹⁰

On 19 May 2021, the Ministry of Productive Development and National University of Río Negro announced the establishment of a new SME University Center that would provide services to businesses in the “fruit, tourism, beer and wine[.], logging and mining” industries.⁹¹ ARS8.5 million would be given to address five main areas: digital transformation; strengthening of strategic value chains; the addition of value at source, the incorporation of management technologies, as well as design and innovation in processes and products.⁹²

On 14 June 2021, Argentina launched the Federal Strengthening Program for the Eradication of Child Labor.⁹³ The program aims to eradicate child labor by working with provincial leaders and non-governmental organizations.⁹⁴

On 28 July 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero announced the launch of the “Te Sumo” program.⁹⁵ This youth employment program aims to encourage youth between 18 and 24 years old with high school diplomas to work and SMEs.⁹⁶ Measures to support this goal include reducing employer contributions for SME employers that hire youth and providing financial assistance by covering some of the expenses associated with discharging an employee.⁹⁷

On 9 August 2021, President Alberto Fernández launched Youth Week and announced the launch of the Argentina Program.⁹⁸ This program aims to train 60,000 youth in coding and programming with additional support such as subsidized laptops and free internet connection.⁹⁹

⁹⁰ The Government will present this Monday the SMEs in Gondolas Program, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presentara-este-lunes-el-programa-pymes-en-gondolas>

⁹¹ Productive Development and the National University of Río Negro will invest more than \$ 8.5 million to create a SME Center, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/desarrollo-productivo-y-la-universidad-nacional-de-rio-negro-invertiran-mas-de-85-millones>

⁹² Productive Development and the National University of Río Negro will invest more than \$ 8.5 million to create a SME Center, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/desarrollo-productivo-y-la-universidad-nacional-de-rio-negro-invertiran-mas-de-85-millones>

⁹³ Cafiero: "It is morally unacceptable that there are girls and boys destined for labor exploitation", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-es-moralmente-inaceptable-que-haya-pibas-y-pibes-destinados-la-explotacion-laboral>

⁹⁴ Cafiero: "It is morally unacceptable that there are girls and boys destined for labor exploitation", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-es-moralmente-inaceptable-que-haya-pibas-y-pibes-destinados-la-explotacion-laboral>

⁹⁵ The National Government launched the youth employment program "Te Sumo", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-el-programa-de-empleo-joven-te-sumo>

⁹⁶ The National Government launched the youth employment program "Te Sumo", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-el-programa-de-empleo-joven-te-sumo>

⁹⁷ The National Government launched the youth employment program "Te Sumo", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-el-programa-de-empleo-joven-te-sumo>

⁹⁸ The President led the opening ceremony of the Youth Week, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presidente-encabezo-el-acto-de-apertura-de-la-semana-de-las-juventudes>

Argentina has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through numerous budgetary and regulatory initiatives aimed at increasing access to these groups to the labour market, facilitating training programs and subsidizing local businesses, Argentina has fully complied with its commitments towards reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj, Tammy Cheng and Malhaar Moharir

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, Australia announced three new skills project hubs for the mining sector in order to facilitate better delivery of training and quicker assessment.¹⁰⁰ These three hubs include an apprenticeships hub, digital transformation hub, and attraction and retention hub, all designed to modernize training and promote rewarding careers for workers.¹⁰¹ Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Michaelia Cash said the pilot would help new and existing workers to upskill and reskill.¹⁰²

On 1 December 2020, Australia announced the Career Revive pilot initiative aimed at increasing women's workforce participation by encouraging businesses to attract and retain women workers, particularly in light of COVID-19.¹⁰³ The project is intended to provide businesses guidance on how to improve practices and policies and develop an action plan to address barriers to women's employment.¹⁰⁴

On 7 December 2020, Australia launched the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program.¹⁰⁵ The AUD24.8 million program offers women the opportunity to study a diploma in STEM subjects while providing paid employment.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁹ The President led the opening ceremony of the Youth Week, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presidente-encabezo-el-acto-de-apertura-de-la-semana-de-las-juventudes>

¹⁰⁰ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

¹⁰¹ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

¹⁰² Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

¹⁰³ Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

¹⁰⁴ Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

¹⁰⁵ Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

¹⁰⁶ Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

On 8 December 2020, Australia launched the JobMaker Hiring Credit.¹⁰⁷ The scheme provides eligible employers with payments of up to AUD200 a week for each eligible employee aged 16 to 29 years and up to AUD100 a week for each eligible employee aged 30 to 35 years old.¹⁰⁸

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced AUD11.6 million of assistance to extend the Skills and Training Incentive for eligible mature aged workers until June 2022.¹⁰⁹ The Skills and Training Incentive provides workers aged 45 to 70 years with up to AUD2,200 for job training and is designed to increase the labour force participation of mature workers, particularly those adversely affected by COVID-19.¹¹⁰

On 18 December 2020, Australia provided AUD10 million to establish a panel involving a “wide range of industries” dedicated to improving youth employment as well as assist hundreds of thousands of businesses in supplying jobs.¹¹¹

On 23 December 2020, Australia announced the hiring of 9 new Employment Facilitators in various Employment Regions across Australia tasked with helping job seekers find employment while supporting local employers.¹¹² As part of the Government’s AUD62.8 million Local Jobs Program, Employment Facilitators will “ensure better leverage of existing strategies, as well as [serve as] a valuable source of information on labour market developments.”¹¹³

On 3 March 2021, Australia held an Indigenous Youth Employment roundtable to discuss local solutions to improve employment participation and outcomes for Indigenous youth. Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services Luke Howarth said the government would invest in “programs to improve the employability of both young people and Indigenous Australians” in order to reduce the 13.9 per cent national youth unemployment rate.¹¹⁴

On 8 March 2021, Australia expanded the Women in STEM program from 500 to 600 places due to its popularity.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁷ New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

¹⁰⁸ New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

¹⁰⁹ Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

¹¹⁰ Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

¹¹¹ Panel established to create pathways to get young Australians into jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/panel-established-create-pathways-get-young-australians-jobs>

¹¹² Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

¹¹³ Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

¹¹⁴ Focus on giving young Indigenous Queenslanders more job opportunities, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/wyatt/focus-giving-young-indigenous-queenslanders-more-job-opportunities>

¹¹⁵ More STEM Opportunities for Australian Women, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/more-stem-opportunities-australian-women>

On 9 March 2021, Australia announced the expansion of the targeted wage subsidy program as part of the National Economic Recovery Plan.¹¹⁶ The government is investing around AUD1.2 billion in the program which is expected to generate around 70,000 new apprentice and trainee places in order to address the “economic challenges faced by the COVID-19 recession.”¹¹⁷ As of this date, over 100,000 apprenticeship positions had already been filled.¹¹⁸

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced the Youth Advisory Sessions initiative to help connect up to 15,000 young people with youth employment specialists.¹¹⁹ The assistance will help them stay connected to the labour market.¹²⁰

On 29 March 2021, Australia opened applications for the Future of Work Partnership with BHP, an Australian mining company.¹²¹ The program will give up to 1,000 people in regional Australia the opportunity to study a course or start an Advanced Apprenticeship, with their student contribution covered.¹²² The program is intended to help people in regional Australia improve their skills and employability.¹²³

On 15 May 2021, the Australian Government announced targeted measures to train youth.¹²⁴ As part of its 2021-22 budget, the government plans to invest AUD2.7 billion to support apprenticeships, allowing businesses to claim a 12-month wage subsidy for new apprentices starting between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.¹²⁵

On 7 August 2021, the Australian Government launched a push to promote the School Leavers Information Service, a free service to help Australian high school students understand their future career options, such as further education, upskilling, and going straight into the workforce.¹²⁶

¹¹⁶ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹¹⁷ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹¹⁸ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹¹⁹ Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

¹²⁰ Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

¹²¹ Upskilling Australia’s regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹²² Upskilling Australia’s regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹²³ Upskilling Australia’s regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹²⁴ Morrison Government supporting young Australians, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/morrison-government-supporting-young-australians>

¹²⁵ Morrison Government supporting young Australians, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/morrison-government-supporting-young-australians>

¹²⁶ Morrison Government helps young Australians take the first steps in their careers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/robert/morrison-government-helps-young-australians-take-first-steps-their-careers>

Australia has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through its establishment of numerous training programs designed for workplace inclusion, particularly among youth, strong financial aid for women and businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and greater encouragement of women's participation in the labour market, Australia has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Para Babuwaran

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 11 December 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) invested more than BRL18 million to advance the Qualifica Mulher project.¹²⁷ Noting that over 7 million women left the job market due to COVID-19, the initiative plans to promote “economic autonomy, in addition to stimulating professional qualification, work and entrepreneurship ...[and] the generation of jobs and income.”¹²⁸ The project aims to provide professional guidance, financial education and entrepreneurship workshops to boost the role of women in the Brazilian economy.¹²⁹

On 19 January 2021, the MMFDH allocated BRL1 million “for the qualification 100 young people [with Autistic Spectrum Disorder] between the ages of 18 and 29.”¹³⁰ Representative of the National Youth Secretariat Emilly Coelho noted that “We need to ensure that youth can also occupy their space professionally, with training and opportunities focused on autonomy.”¹³¹

On 2 March 2021, the World Economic Forum and the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness of the Government of Brazil and the Economy Ministry held the first Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative co-chair meeting. The Accelerator aims to close the skills gaps between the current and future workforce and promote the reskilling and upskilling of the Brazilian labour force by matching the more demanded capabilities. It targets to reach about 8 million workers.¹³²

¹²⁷ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹²⁸ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹²⁹ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹³⁰ Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

¹³¹ Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

¹³² World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

On 8 March 2021, the Minister of Women Family and Human Rights Damares Alves and the Minister of Citizenship João Roma signed a technical cooperation agreement “to promote social and productive inclusion actions for the socioeconomic autonomy of women in vulnerable situations.”¹³³ Particular attention is given to women-led businesses and microentrepreneurs and the agreement reaffirmed support for the Qualifica Mulher pilot project, which over 25,000 women have joined.

On 30 March 2021, the MMFDH allocated approximately BRL11 million towards programs for encouraging “professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation, among young people between 18 and 29 years old, especially among those who are in a situation of social vulnerability.” The Programa Horizontes will provide training to youth for better job market integration as well as spurring nano and micro entrepreneurship among them.¹³⁴ The Espaço 4.0 program is aimed at training youth in new technologies and infrastructure, offering courses in programming, robotics, and application development.¹³⁵

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy reported that it is in the process of finalizing the reopening of two programs that could mitigate the effects of the pandemic on employment and preservation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).¹³⁶ Also, it announced that BRL15 billion would be distributed among the BEm and Pronampe programs to support employment and SME survival.¹³⁷

On 19 April 2021, the MMFDH transferred BRL500,000 to Humana Brasil, a non-profit organization.¹³⁸ The funds are to be used towards dispelling entrepreneurship training courses to the young people from Marajó.¹³⁹ It is estimated that around 500 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 from 11 municipalities will benefit from this endeavor.¹⁴⁰ The secretary for the National Youth Secretariat which will carry out the initiative said, “In addition to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, the program aims to increase the qualification of young people to create and

¹³³ Socioeconomic autonomy of women is the subject of an agreement signed by ministries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/autonomia-socioeconomica-das-mulheres-e-tema-de-acordo-assinado-por-ministerios>

¹³⁴ Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasília) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

¹³⁵ Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasília) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

¹³⁶ Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasília) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe

¹³⁷ Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasília) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe

¹³⁸ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹³⁹ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹⁴⁰ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

maintain their own businesses, create job opportunities and generate income, in addition to improving existing initiatives through guidance specialized.¹⁴¹

On 30 June 2021, the Chamber of Deputies launched the National Observatory of Women in Politics (ONMP).¹⁴² The goal of the ONMP is to develop, elaborate and present research related to the participation of women in positions of power. The agency is also responsible for monitoring political violence and expanding the participation of women in politics.¹⁴³

On 1 July 2021, the MMFDH announced a notice to select a civil society organization to lead the Opportunity for All Project.¹⁴⁴ The project aims to increase entrepreneurship among traditional peoples and communities. The National Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality will develop training courses in entrepreneurship and cooperativism to educate a target of 200 people per municipality in Atalaia no Norte, Itamarati, Ipixuna and Santa Isabel do Rio Negro, as well as 200 people in Jordan, Acre.¹⁴⁵

On 7 July 2021, the MMFDH invested BRL19 million in the Qualifica Mulher project for training and entrepreneurship activities.¹⁴⁶ The goal of the project is to create an environment to help women achieve economic independence. The project assists women with professional qualifications, maternity initiatives, protecting against violence and new legislation.¹⁴⁷

On 13 July 2021, the MMFDH commemorated the 31st anniversary of the Statute of Children and Adolescents.¹⁴⁸ The Federal Government introduced 11 new actions to strengthen the legislation. These actions included the launch of the National Registration System for Rights Funds and new National School for the Rights of Children and Adolescents courses, the signing of the Protocol of

¹⁴¹Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹⁴² National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

¹⁴³ National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

¹⁴⁴ Open selection to choose an organization that will develop entrepreneurship courses for traditional peoples and communities, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/aberta-selecao-para-a-escolha-de-organizacao-que-vai-elaborar-cursos-de-empreendedorismo-para-povos-e-comunidades-tradicionais>

¹⁴⁵ Open selection to choose an organization that will develop entrepreneurship courses for traditional peoples and communities, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/aberta-selecao-para-a-escolha-de-organizacao-que-vai-elaborar-cursos-de-empreendedorismo-para-povos-e-comunidades-tradicionais>

¹⁴⁶ Qualifica Mulher project receives investment of R\$19 million, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/projeto-qualifica-mulher-recebe-investimento-de-r-19-milhoes>

¹⁴⁷ Qualifica Mulher project receives investment of R\$19 million, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/projeto-qualifica-mulher-recebe-investimento-de-r-19-milhoes>

¹⁴⁸ Child and Adolescent Statute: Federal Government launches 11 initiatives to protect girls and boys, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/estatuto-da-crianca-e-do-adolescente-governo-federal-lanca-11-iniciativas-para-a-protecao-de-meninas-e-meninos>

Intent with the Brazilian Navy and the Institutional Ordinance for the “Brasil Amigo da Criança” Award and the delivery of vehicles to Guardianship Councils.¹⁴⁹

On 15 July 2021, the MMFDH and the Entrepreneurial Alliance signed a technical cooperation agreement to commit to training 270,000 socially vulnerable women in entrepreneurship.¹⁵⁰ The agreement is part of the Qualifica Mulher project by the MMFDH and will offer 10,000 placements in every state of the country.¹⁵¹

On 21 July 2021, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) concluded the first edition of Conecta Startup Brasil.¹⁵² The initiative helps to connect various business actors in the innovation sector.¹⁵³ The goal of the Conecta Startup Brasil initiative is to encourage entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation, initiate action, and prepare Brazilian startups for the challenges of the market.¹⁵⁴ Plans for the second edition by the MCTI are currently underway.¹⁵⁵

On 29 July 2021, the MMFDH, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), hired five civil society organizations to implement strategies to protect youth by reducing violence against children and adolescents.¹⁵⁶ UNDP invested BRL2.5 million for the institutions to develop a methodology to initiate strategies. In total, the Federal Government will invest BRL9.8 million into the projects to reduce infant-juvenile lethality.¹⁵⁷

On 30 July 2021, the MMFDH and the National Supply Company signed a protocol of intentions to support family farmers and women from traditional communities as part of the Qualifica Mulher

¹⁴⁹ Child and Adolescent Statute: Federal Government launches 11 initiatives to protect girls and boys, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/estatuto-da-crianca-e-do-adolescente-governo-federal-lanca-11-iniciativas-para-a-protecao-de-meninas-e-meninos>

¹⁵⁰ Ministry and Entrepreneurial Alliance sign partnership to train 270,000 women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/ministerio-e-alianca-empreendedora-firmam-parceria-para-capacitar-270-mil-mulheres>

¹⁵¹ Ministry and Entrepreneurial Alliance sign partnership to train 270,000 women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/ministerio-e-alianca-empreendedora-firmam-parceria-para-capacitar-270-mil-mulheres>

¹⁵² Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

¹⁵³ Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

¹⁵⁴ Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

¹⁵⁵ Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

¹⁵⁶ Federal Government invests R\$9.8 million to implement projects that reduce infant-juvenile lethality, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/governo-federal-investe-r-9-8-milhoes-para-implementar-projetos-que-reduzam-a-letalidade-infanto-juvenil>

¹⁵⁷ Federal Government invests R\$9.8 million to implement projects that reduce infant-juvenile lethality, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/governo-federal-investe-r-9-8-milhoes-para-implementar-projetos-que-reduzam-a-letalidade-infanto-juvenil>

project.¹⁵⁸ Noting that nearly 77,000 family farms were headed by women, the project aims to offer free courses and educational materials to empower women through entrepreneurship, marketing and business decision-making.¹⁵⁹

On 4 August 2021,¹⁶⁰ the Federal Government enacted Law 14.192/2021 to protect women from political violence.¹⁶¹ The law aims to guarantee women are free from gender and race-based discrimination by criminalizing political violence that prevents, restricts, or hinders their political rights.¹⁶²

From 9-13 August 2021, the National Youth Secretariat of the MMFDH hosted a series of lectures, promotion actions, training and policy initiatives aimed at young Brazilians as part of the National Youth Week.¹⁶³ The goal of the event is to improve social and productive inclusion by addressing areas such as the labour market, family economy and mental health.¹⁶⁴

On 31 August 2021, the MCTI and the Ministry of the Economy hosted the “Opportunities for Innovative Entrepreneurship in Brazil: What changes with the Legal Framework of Startups” event.¹⁶⁵ The event introduced the new Legal Framework for Startups and Innovative Entrepreneurship which aims to create more security for the development of startups in Brazil.¹⁶⁶ The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations Marcos Pontes stated the new legislation would cultivate more confidence in Brazilian entrepreneurs.¹⁶⁷

¹⁵⁸ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

¹⁵⁹ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

¹⁶⁰ Brazil: New Law Enacted to Combat Political Violence Against Women, Library of Congress (Washington) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-08-13/brazil-new-law-enacted-to-combat-political-violence-against-women/>

¹⁶¹ Federal government publishes law to prevent and combat political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/governo-federal-publica-lei-para-prevenir-e-combater-a-violencia-politica-contra-a-mulher>

¹⁶² Brazil: New Law Enacted to Combat Political Violence Against Women, Library of Congress (Washington) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-08-13/brazil-new-law-enacted-to-combat-political-violence-against-women/>

¹⁶³ National Youth Week will address social and productive inclusion, starting next Monday (9), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/semana-nacional-da-juventude-abordara-a-inclusao-social-e-produtiva-a-partir-da-proxima-segunda-feira-9>

¹⁶⁴ National Youth Week will address social and productive inclusion, starting next Monday (9), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/semana-nacional-da-juventude-abordara-a-inclusao-social-e-produtiva-a-partir-da-proxima-segunda-feira-9>

¹⁶⁵ MCTI and ME highlight opportunities with a legal framework for startups, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/08/mcti-e-me-destacam-opportunidades-com-marco-legal-das-startups>

¹⁶⁶ MCTI and ME highlight opportunities with a legal framework for startups, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/08/mcti-e-me-destacam-opportunidades-com-marco-legal-das-startups>

¹⁶⁷ MCTI and ME highlight opportunities with a legal framework for startups, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/08/mcti-e-me-destacam-opportunidades-com-marco-legal-das-startups>

On 2 September 2021, the MCTI launched the “MCTI Futuro: Future of Work, Work of the Future” program. The goal of the program is to support training in Digital Transformation across various education levels. The program will utilize BRL190 million to achieve its objective.¹⁶⁸

Brazil has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, upskilling and reskilling of workers and increasing opportunities for SMEs. Through its investments in increasing women’s participation in the labour market, subsidization and inclusion of SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Brazilian economy, facilitating training programs involving new technologies and digitalization for youth and labourers, Brazil has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj, Rebecca Jones and Malhaar Moharir

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, Canada participated in a roundtable for the launch of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE).¹⁶⁹ WISE’s mission includes strengthening the measurement of inequalities and inclusion.¹⁷⁰

On 2 December 2020, Canada introduced Bill C-14 to provide support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic.¹⁷¹ The legislation will allow an expense, such as rent, to qualify under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy before the expense is actually paid.¹⁷² Bill C-14 also included measures to eliminate the interest on repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for one year.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁸ MCTI launches technological training program focused on work, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/09/mcti-lanca-programa-de-capitacao-tecnologica-focada-no-trabalho>

¹⁶⁹ Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

¹⁷⁰ Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

¹⁷¹ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹⁷² Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹⁷³ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

On 4 December 2020, Canada expanded loans under the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).¹⁷⁴ Eligible businesses facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for a second CEBA loan of up to CAD20,000 in addition to the initial CAD40,000 that was available to small businesses.¹⁷⁵ Up to CAD10,000 of the additional funding will be forgivable if the loan is repaid by the end of 2022.¹⁷⁶

On 17 February 2021, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced CAD63.5 million over five years for 68 projects as part of the Union Training and Innovation Program.¹⁷⁷ The investment will help certify skilled tradespeople and prepare them for the job market.¹⁷⁸

On 3 March 2021, Canada announced the extension of wage and rent subsidies to 5 June 2021.¹⁷⁹ Active employees will remain subsidized at up to 75 per cent, rent will remain subsidized at up to 65 per cent, and Lockdown Support will remain at 25 per cent.¹⁸⁰

On 8 March 2021, Canada announced the members of a new Task Force on Women in the Economy.¹⁸¹ The group includes experts from different sectors of the economy to advise the government on issues of gender equality in the wake of the pandemic.¹⁸²

On 8 March 2021, Minister Qualtrough announced an investment of over CAD11 million through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program.¹⁸³ The investment will support and train more than 650 young women for the job market.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁴ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹⁷⁵ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹⁷⁶ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹⁷⁷ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

¹⁷⁸ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

¹⁷⁹ Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

¹⁸⁰ Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

¹⁸¹ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

¹⁸² Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

¹⁸³ Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

On 19 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland released the 2021 budget of CAD101.4 billion in spending over three years.¹⁸⁵ The budget will support almost 500,000 new training and work opportunities including 215,000 opportunities for youth.¹⁸⁶ The budget will extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support to 25 September 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸⁷ The budget will assist over 160,000 businesses with the cost of new technology and allow them to fully expense up to CAD1.5 million in capital investments.¹⁸⁸ The budget will invest CAD300 million in initiatives including the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, supporting women entrepreneurs who face barriers to launching and owning businesses.¹⁸⁹ The budget will invest CAD8.9 billion in the Canada Workers Benefit to support about one million additional low-wage workers over six years.¹⁹⁰

On 18 May 2021, the Government of Canada launched Skills for Success, a skills training program that aims to provide training to nearly 90,000 Canadians to learn job-finding and career growth skills.¹⁹¹

On 2 June 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Women's Employment Readiness Pilot Program.¹⁹² Under the program, CAD50 million will be provided to organizations over two years to provide pre-employment and training supports to marginalized women.¹⁹³

On 2 June 2021, the Government of Canada announced that the Canada Recovery Hiring Program would be available retroactively 6 June 2021.¹⁹⁴ The program will provide eligible employers with a subsidy of up to 50 per cent of eligible salary or wages.¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁴ Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

¹⁸⁵ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁸⁶ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁸⁷ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁸⁸ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁸⁹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁹⁰ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁹¹ Government of Canada invests in skills training to help get Canadians back to work, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/05/launch-of-skills-for-success---003368.html>

¹⁹² Government of Canada launches new pilot program aimed at removing barriers to women's employment, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-launches-new-pilot-program-aimed-at-removing-barriers-to-womens-employment.html>

¹⁹³ Government of Canada launches new pilot program aimed at removing barriers to women's employment, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-launches-new-pilot-program-aimed-at-removing-barriers-to-womens-employment.html>

On 7 July 2021, the Government of Canada announced that it will begin enforcing the Pay Equity Act on 31 August 2021.¹⁹⁶ Under the Pay Equity Act, employers with 10 or more employees will have three years to develop and implement plans that establish guidelines and regulations for regulating pay equity.¹⁹⁷

On 29 July 2021, the Government of Canada announced a CAD2.4 million investment in a project funded under the Union Training and Innovation Program.¹⁹⁸ The project will help almost 2,300 apprentices become certified in the skilled trades.¹⁹⁹

Canada has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women and upskilling and reskilling of workers, and partial action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs. Through new budgetary measures that incorporate greater financial opportunities for women and youth, increasing access to the labour market for women and youth, improving vocational skills for new and discouraged workers through new training programs, and somewhat greater facilitation of SMEs and entrepreneurs through innovation funding, Canada has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Para Babubaran

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 3 December 2020, Vice Minister of Education and Chief Inspector of Schools Zheng Fuzhi and Vice Governor of Sichuan Province Luo Qiang attended a conference to launch a national supervision and assessment of early childhood education across China.²⁰⁰ Vice Minister Fuzhi

¹⁹⁴ Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program and Extension of Business Support Programs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-details-of-the-new-canada-recovery-hiring-program-and-extension-of-business-support-programs.html>

¹⁹⁵ Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program and Extension of Business Support Programs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-details-of-the-new-canada-recovery-hiring-program-and-extension-of-business-support-programs.html>

¹⁹⁶ Government of Canada announces that the Pay Equity Act will come into force on August 31, 2021, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-that-the-pay-equity-act-will-come-into-force-on-august-31-2021.html>

¹⁹⁷ Government of Canada announces that the Pay Equity Act will come into force on August 31, 2021, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-that-the-pay-equity-act-will-come-into-force-on-august-31-2021.html>

¹⁹⁸ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

¹⁹⁹ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

²⁰⁰ Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html

presented key goals and its corresponding evaluation criteria, including universal preschool attendance, standardizing school conditions and establishing a sound governance system.²⁰¹

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao reaffirmed the government's commitment to nurturing skilled labour.²⁰² In addition to the existing three-year plan released in May 2019, the department plans to introduce new policies in the 14th Five-Year Plan to foster more skilled talent through enhancing vocational education, enhancing the social status of skilled labourers, and improving their income.²⁰³

On 22 December 2020, the State Council announced plans to unify China's registration system for movable property and rights pledges, effective 1 January 2021.²⁰⁴ This move by the People's Bank of China allows financial institutions to provide loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) using their credit information.²⁰⁵ As a result, SMEs now have better access to financing to help offset the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 3 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that the central government will spend over CNY19 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the growth of 1000 innovative SMEs.²⁰⁶ The additional spending aims to strengthen the industrial supply chain and foster innovative growth in micro, small and medium-sized technology companies.

On 11 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang stated at a press conference that government expenditures for the coming year will focus on compulsory education and basic medical care.²⁰⁷ The "no child left behind" policy will involve improving the pay packages for rural teachers as well as improving access to education for children of migrant workers to achieve educational fairness and equal access to opportunities.

On 17 March 2021, People's Daily released a summary of the Chinese Ministry of Education's progress in promoting access to education among poor children. The government has rolled out student-origin-based loans, state scholarships, work-study programs, tuition exemptions and other types of relief funds to increase access to higher education in poor areas.²⁰⁸ The government is also offering preferential policies for vocational college enrollment in poor areas such that enrollment numbers have grown from 1.16 million in 2019 to 1.57 million in 2020.²⁰⁹

²⁰¹Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html

²⁰² New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html

²⁰³ New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html

²⁰⁴ New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html

²⁰⁵ New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html

²⁰⁶ Innovative SMEs to get policy boost in financing, China Daily (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202102/04/content_WS601b47d2c6d0f72576945164.html

²⁰⁷ Premier stresses compulsory education, basic medical care at news conference, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/13/content_WS604bf85cc6d0719374afac45.html

²⁰⁸ China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html

²⁰⁹ China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html

On 24 March 2021, the State Council announced an additional tax deduction on firms who conduct research and development from 75 per cent to 100 per cent.²¹⁰ Additional preferential tax policies are also in place for innovation firms and business start-ups.²¹¹ These policies will benefit entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and encourage research and development in the private sector.

On 25 April 2021, China's banking and insurance regulator issued a circular encouraging development of financial services offered to SMEs.²¹² According to the circular, efforts will be made to enhance the effective growth of financial support and improve its quality, efficiency and effectiveness.²¹³ In essence the circular promised to increase the number of loans to SMEs and borrowers and urged the major banks to increase inclusive loans by 30 per cent.²¹⁴

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced the launch of four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment.²¹⁵ These measures are in response to the concentration of the job market for young college graduates who are about to enter the workforce.²¹⁶ The first of these measures involves stabilizing jobs, reducing unemployment and work-related injury insurance rates.²¹⁷ The second includes attempts to broaden employment channels, improve support policies such as entrepreneurial secured loans, support and standardize the development of new employment forms.²¹⁸ The third and fourth measures are to focus on employment of key groups such as college graduates and optimizing employment services.²¹⁹

On 27 April 2021, Premier Keqiang announced at the State Council executive meeting that China will take steps to further protect intellectual property to promote entrepreneurial activity and boost innovation in the private sector.²²⁰ China will reduce the review period for electronically submitted

²¹⁰ China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html

²¹¹ China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html

²¹² China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

²¹³ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

²¹⁴ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

²¹⁵ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

²¹⁶ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

²¹⁷ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

²¹⁸ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

²¹⁹ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

²²⁰ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html

applications to alter or expand existing patents and trademarks.²²¹ Premier Keqiang also called for increased financial assistance and incentives during the trademark and patent application process.²²²

On 27 April 2021, the State Council issued a circular to establish a leading group on protection of minors led by Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan.²²³ The purpose of the working group is to oversee the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Minors.²²⁴ It will also work with other departments to continue devising and implementing plans, policies, measures, and standards for protection of minors.²²⁵

On 30 April 2021, the General Office of China's State Council issued a circular urging state departments and agencies to assist in the development of former Central Soviet areas through a pairing program.²²⁶ From 2021 to 2030, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will work together to pair 63 centrally administered State organs with 43 local administrative units to cultivate talent and build industrial and innovation platforms.²²⁷

On 9 May 2021, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology released guidelines to further support small and medium enterprises.²²⁸ Notable measures include special funds to grant small firms cheaper and wider access to financing, higher reward caps and other preferential policy incentives.²²⁹ The new guidelines aim to assist small and medium enterprises in economic recovery from COVID-19 with particular focus on the central and western regions of China.²³⁰

²²¹ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html

²²² China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html

²²³ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html

²²⁴ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html

²²⁵ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html

²²⁶ State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html

²²⁷ State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html

²²⁸ China to continue reward policies to help small firms, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html

²²⁹ China to continue reward policies to help small firms, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html

²³⁰ China to continue reward policies to help small firms, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html

On 21 July 2021, the State Council and the Communist Party of China Central Committee released a set of guidelines to regulate the primary and middle school tutoring industry.²³¹ Some policies introduced include limiting the hours of operation of tutoring centres, the content taught and the number of tutoring advertisements.²³² These rules aim to reduce stress experienced by schoolchildren and the intense competition they face in preparing for high school entrance exams.

On 24 July 2021, the National Health Commission announced the decision to allow couples to have three children.²³³ Accompanying this decision were measures to improve child nursery services, reduce childbearing costs and advance prenatal and postnatal services.²³⁴ These policies not only support children's growth but enable parents—particularly mothers—in retaining and accessing economic opportunities through the childrearing process.

On 30 August 2021, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Development and Reform Commission Gao Gao held a press conference following up on the 14th Five Year Plan's goal of increasing employment and the quality of the job market.²³⁵ Notably, the commission aims to upskill and increase employment of young workers in urban areas by encouraging regional institutions to offer trainings and workshops.²³⁶

On 1 September 2021, the State Council announced a series of policy moves designed to support small and micro businesses.²³⁷ Some of the policy tools include tax exemption and inclusive loans for these businesses. The latter will be achieved by increasing the relending quota for small firms by another RMB300 billion and giving regional banks more incentive to issue loans to SMEs.²³⁸

On 1 September 2021, State Council executives also met to discuss support for poor students.²³⁹ The outcome was an increase in bail out for students in financial distress by increasing the maximum loan that college students are eligible to receive.²⁴⁰ This move is important for facilitating greater access to education for all youth.

China has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through establishing working groups for juvenile protection and via education reforms, anti-women's discrimination laws, preferential tax and loan policies for SMEs and training and development programs for workers in rural regions, China has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

²³¹ Wide-ranging guideline to rein in tutoring sector, China Daily (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/26/content_WS60fdf199c6d0df57f98dd91b.html

²³² Wide-ranging guideline to rein in tutoring sector, China Daily (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/26/content_WS60fdf199c6d0df57f98dd91b.html

²³³ Third-child policy to unleash childbirth potential, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/22/content_WS60f8c05ac6d0df57f98dd5ef.html

²³⁴ Measures to support third-child policy, China Daily (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html

²³⁵ Govt outlines plan to beef up employment, China Daily (Beijing) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html

²³⁶ Govt outlines plan to beef up employment, China Daily (Beijing) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html

²³⁷ Policy support essential for small businesses, China Daily (Beijing) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202109/07/content_WS6136c5c1c6d0df57f98dfcd5.html

²³⁸ Policy support essential for small businesses, China Daily (Beijing) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202109/07/content_WS6136c5c1c6d0df57f98dfcd5.html

²³⁹ China pledges stronger support for small firms, poor students, Xinhua (Beijing) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202109/02/content_WS61300c91c6d0df57f98df808.html

²⁴⁰ China pledges stronger support for small firms, poor students, Xinhua (Beijing) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202109/02/content_WS61300c91c6d0df57f98df808.html

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tammy Cheng

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 14 January 2021, Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire announced the implementation of increased measures to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through a new budgetary initiative valued at EUR4 billion.²⁴¹ Moreover, companies will be able to delay the repayment of loans from this initiative if they do not have sufficient means a year after the loan was given.²⁴²

On 15 January 2021, the members of the French Banking Federation BpiFrance created the State Guaranteed Loan system to relieve the cashflow of enterprises in difficulty because of the COVID19 pandemic.²⁴³

On 25 January 2021, France put into place accessible meals for students for the price of EUR1 as part of the plan to aid with the poverty of youths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁴ Due to the lack of jobs, the government has provided this meal plan to support students who are in difficult situations and seeking employment.²⁴⁵ This measure is a new addition to the larger plan one youth one solution from the previous year, a EUR9 billion initiative, and which is designed to financially support young people in a time of economic instability caused by the global pandemic, thus preventing the growth of financial disparity with youths.²⁴⁶

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of the Economy required that all companies with more than 50 employees submit a professional equality index report to evaluate and reinforce the equality of men and women in the workplace.²⁴⁷ The report allows companies to assess the level of equality between men and women on a scale of 100 points.²⁴⁸ The points system includes recording the pay gap, the difference between men and women's pay raises, the number of pay raises awarded after maternity leave, parity among the 10 highest paid and the promotion rate difference between men and

²⁴¹ Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

²⁴² Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

²⁴³ Public aid for companies, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/cedef/aides-publiques-entreprises>

²⁴⁴ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

²⁴⁵ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

²⁴⁶ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

²⁴⁷ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

²⁴⁸ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

women.²⁴⁹ The index must be posted on the company's website, and is considered in need of progress if it is below 75.²⁵⁰

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex and Minister Le Maire prolonged the 1 Jeune 1 Solution program, which is a part of the grander France Relance mission that focuses on economic inclusion for young people.²⁵¹ Minister Le Maire added a new budget to support the employment of young people by providing between EUR5,000 to EUR8,000 to enterprises who hire young people for apprenticeships and internships.²⁵²

On 15 March 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion launched a training project for economic inclusion through self-employment of people with difficulty accessing employment.²⁵³ The project provides employment opportunities for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 by supporting the creation and restarting of businesses through financial assistance in the form of a bonus of EUR3,000.²⁵⁴ The total budget of the project is EUR25 million over two years.²⁵⁵

On 30 April 2021, Secretary of State Cédric O announced the partnership between the startup ecosystem French Tech and the job searching platform JobTeaser in a press release.²⁵⁶ This announcement outlined the intention to support young people in finding and training for jobs in start-up companies associated with French Tech, which anticipates creating at least 10,000 new jobs.²⁵⁷

²⁴⁹ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

²⁵⁰ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

²⁵¹ Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

²⁵² Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

²⁵³ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

²⁵⁴ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

²⁵⁵ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 Mars 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

²⁵⁶ "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf

²⁵⁷ "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf

On 2 June 2021, the Ministry of the Economy announced the continuation of support for SMEs by extending how long small companies will be able to receive financial aid.²⁵⁸ The extension will last until the end of 2021. Moreover, small and medium enterprises will also be able to apply for loans until the end of the year as well on account of having been significantly weakened by the pandemic.²⁵⁹

On 19 July 2021, the Ministry of Labour announced that the Public Service of Insertion and of Employment announced a plan to fight against poverty by calling for people to seek out support to look for employment.²⁶⁰ The first initiative in December 2020 was a success, so another initiative will take place to fight against poverty and unemployment.²⁶¹

On 2 September 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion announced that the High Commission for Skills would launch another wave of applications for “pre-apprenticeship” programs, aimed at enabling “young people who are insufficiently prepared today to successfully enter apprenticeship thanks to personalized support.”²⁶² Additionally, the program serves to specifically target youth in “priority” neighbourhoods, those in rural revitalization zones and disabled workers.²⁶³

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports announced new investments to open a public market providing “digital educational solutions” for teachers.²⁶⁴ The 4th Future Investments Program is designed to “revitalize and structure the digital-educational sector”, working with parents and teachers to provide digital equipment and pedagogical training through and on digital fora. The program is to be conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.”²⁶⁵

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of Labour announced that over 15,000 job offers had been posted online for the beginning of the school year as part of the “1 jeune, 1 solution” program

²⁵⁸ Emerging from the crisis: aid for companies in fragile situations, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/sortie-crise-aides-entreprises-situation-fragilite#aides>

²⁵⁹ Emerging from the crisis: aid for companies in fragile situations, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/sortie-crise-aides-entreprises-situation-fragilite#aides>

²⁶⁰ Public integration and employment service | Call for expressions of interest, Ministry of Work, Labour and of Integration (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/appel-manifestation-spie>

²⁶¹ Public integration and employment service | Call for expressions of interest, Ministry of Work, Labour and of Integration (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/appel-manifestation-spie>

²⁶² Apprenticeship preparation: launch of a new wave of the call for projects, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/prepa-apprentissage-lancement-d-une-nouvelle-vague-de-l-appel-a-projets>

²⁶³ Apprenticeship preparation: launch of a new wave of the call for projects, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/prepa-apprentissage-lancement-d-une-nouvelle-vague-de-l-appel-a-projets>

²⁶⁴ Investments for the Future: Opening of a Public Market for Digital Educational Solutions for Teachers, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/investissements-d-avenir-ouverture-d-un-marche-public-des-solutions-numeriques-educatives-pour-les-325076>

²⁶⁵ Investments for the Future: Opening of a Public Market for Digital Educational Solutions for Teachers, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/investissements-d-avenir-ouverture-d-un-marche-public-des-solutions-numeriques-educatives-pour-les-325076>

launched in July 2020.²⁶⁶ Noting that over 2.6 million youth had already signed up for the program, the platform seeks to match youth with labour demand in industries such as childcare, domestic help, entertainment, hotels and restaurants, retail and more.

On 22 September 2021, Secretary of State to the Minister of National Education, Youth and Sports Sarah El Haïry attended the Think Forward Festival to raise awareness of entrepreneurship activities for youth, bringing together around 600 policymakers.²⁶⁷ The festival consisted of presentations and discussions with youth about their entrepreneurship potential as well as discussions concerning shifts in global economic prospects and their impacts on adolescents.²⁶⁸

France has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through creating budgets for internships and apprenticeships, a particular focus having been placed on economic inclusivity through the one youth solution plan, budgetary changes to support SMEs and entrepreneurs, and holding companies accountable for gender wage gaps and other disparities along with greater financial support for women and youth, France has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dalia Michaud

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 21 December 2020, the German development bank KfW signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia, Agence Française de Développement and the European Union, providing EUR37.1 million for the Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project, which aims to develop rural infrastructure in the central plain of Cambodia.²⁶⁹ Central to this development plan is the improving infrastructure in the education sector.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁶ “1 young person, 1 solution”: more than 15,000 student job offers posted online for the start of the school year, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/1-jeune-1-solution-plus-de-15-000-offres-de-jobs-etudiants-mises-en-ligne-pour>

²⁶⁷ Developing Entrepreneurship Among Young People: Visit of Sarah El Haïry to the Think Forward Festival, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/developper-l-entrepreneuriat-chez-les-jeunes-deplacement-de-sarah-el-hairy-au-festival-think-forward-325289>

²⁶⁸ Developing Entrepreneurship Among Young People: Visit of Sarah El Haïry to the Think Forward Festival, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/developper-l-entrepreneuriat-chez-les-jeunes-deplacement-de-sarah-el-hairy-au-festival-think-forward-325289>

²⁶⁹ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

²⁷⁰ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

On 6 January 2021, Germany proposed the Second Management Positions Act (FüPoG II) “to force larger listed companies to have at least one woman on their management boards, building on a 30 per cent quota for supervisory boards introduced in 2015 and will apply to listed companies with more than three management board members.”²⁷¹

On 26 January 2021, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Björn Böhning held a workshop with Vice Minister at the Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao to discuss vocational education, highlighting that “it must become more individualized, more inclusive and make more use of digital technologies.”²⁷²

On 2 February 2021, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey announced the “Youth Budgets Project” which aims to increase youth’s participation in policy making and tasks them to develop innovative projects in fields ranging from Diversity and Participation to Education, Work and Freedom. The best projects would receive up to EUR100,000 for their implementation.²⁷³

On 29 March 2021, Germany announced its ratification of the Revised European Social Charter, with amendments made to include “protection against sexual harassment in the workplace and other forms of harassment ... [and] rights of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment.”²⁷⁴

On 30 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) announced the implementation of a “German Equal Pay Award,” to be given to companies that actively seek to reduce the wage gap.²⁷⁵ Minister Giffey noted “Fair pay and equal pay are part of a modern and sustainable personnel policy and are a decisive competitive advantage when it comes to securing skilled workers.”²⁷⁶

On 16 April 2021, Minister Giffey launched the Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments to encourage young people to get involved in politics.²⁷⁷ The program includes a diverse curriculum

²⁷¹ German cabinet agrees quota for women on company boards, Reuters 6 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN29B16U>

²⁷² Virtual exchange of ideas with China about vocational education and training, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/virtual-exchange-of-ideas-with-china-about-vocational-education-and-training.html>

²⁷³ Minister Giffey: One million euros for the best ideas for young people in Germany, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-eine-million-euro-fuer-die-besten-jugendideen-deutschlands-165622>

²⁷⁴ Details of Treaty No. 162, Treaty Office—Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/germany-ratifies-revised-european-social-charter.html>

²⁷⁵ Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

²⁷⁶ Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

²⁷⁷ Minister Giffey launches the “Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments” to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

which offers seminars, workshops and events.²⁷⁸ The academy is funded by a total of EUR4 million from the federal child and youth plan and is part of the Strong Child and Youth Parliaments initiative.²⁷⁹

On 23 April 2021, the Federal Minister of Education Anja Karliczek voiced support for improvements in vocational training infrastructure in the country based on the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report.²⁸⁰ The country report on continuing vocational education and training by the OECD was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to provide expert support for the implementation process of Germany's National Skills Strategy. Minister Karliczek said, "Professional training is a key to maintaining our competitiveness and the innovative strength of our country. Professional training is an absolute necessity for companies and employees. It is part of lifelong learning. Setting the right framework conditions remains a central task of politics, which we gladly accept. External suggestions are certainly helpful for this. We will examine the recommendations of the OECD and take them up where appropriate and sensible."²⁸¹

On 30 April 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research published the Second Funding Guideline of the Secure Apprenticeships program.²⁸² The program enables companies facing economic difficulties with training.²⁸³ It supports trainees to continue and complete their training in midst of the pandemic.²⁸⁴ Minister Karliczek said, "With the revised Second Funding Guideline of the federal program, we have introduced a subsidy for the costs of external exam preparation courses for trainees. In addition, we have also further improved the promotion of contract and joint training so that trainees can continue their training if this is temporarily not possible in their own training company."²⁸⁵

²⁷⁸Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

²⁷⁹Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

²⁸⁰Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

²⁸¹Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

²⁸²Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁸³Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁸⁴Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁸⁵Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

On 4 May 2021, Minister Giffey presented the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” which outlined five fields of action to address in response to the growing trend of digitization in Germany.²⁸⁶ These fields’ key general goals were to introduce digital innovations that would “make people’s everyday lives easier, safer and more social,” noting that “all people should be able to use digital technologies informally” to ensure no citizen is left behind.²⁸⁷

On 28 July 2021, the Federal Equality Foundation entered into force. The Foundation will work towards equality between women and men in Germany by pursuing three goals: firstly, to show where more equality is needed and to find solutions; secondly, network and support those committed to equality, and thirdly, increase knowledge about gender equality issues and discuss them with citizens.²⁸⁸

On 26 August 2021, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Juliane Seifert represented Germany at the first meeting of the G20 equality ministers, called: “The Conference on Women’s Empowerment.”²⁸⁹ It aims to reduce the gender pay gap and increase the participation of women in the labor force. The Minister stated Germany’s commitment to creating “real equality between men and women” and mentioned its goal being “fair division of paid employment and unpaid care work and more qualified women in management positions”.²⁹⁰ Moreover, the Minister also expressed, “gender equality is a task that we can only achieve together and with international cooperation.”²⁹¹

Germany has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through institutions such as the BMFSFJ and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Germany has provided substantial funding towards projects aimed at engaging youth and women in the workforce, promoted several vocational training programs, developed innovation strategies for SMEs and entrepreneurs and ensured adequate representation and protection of women’s economic autonomy in the workplace.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Muhammad Hamza Khan and Malhaar Moharir

²⁸⁶ Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

²⁸⁷ Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

²⁸⁸ Federal Equal Opportunities Foundation starts work, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-nimmt-arbeit-auf-183272>

²⁸⁹ First meeting of the G20 equality ministers with a focus on business and the labor market, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth Press (Berlin) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/erstes-treffen-der-g20-gleichstellungsministerinnen-und-minister-mit-schwerpunkt-wirtschaft-und-arbeitsmarkt-185052>

²⁹⁰ First meeting of the G20 equality ministers with a focus on business and the labor market, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/erstes-treffen-der-g20-gleichstellungsministerinnen-und-minister-mit-schwerpunkt-wirtschaft-und-arbeitsmarkt-185052>

²⁹¹ First meeting of the G20 equality ministers with a focus on business and the labor market, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/erstes-treffen-der-g20-gleichstellungsministerinnen-und-minister-mit-schwerpunkt-wirtschaft-und-arbeitsmarkt-185052>

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the approval of allocation of training, specifically targeting states and districts on the basis of population, industry and labour supply.²⁹² The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21) (PMKVY 3.0) aims to train youth and provide skill avenues, resulting in greater participation in the private sector.²⁹³ It also aims to reskill those in remote villages and towns in India. It is also the first phase in the PMKVY 3.0 initiative, creating a setting for phase two to occur from 2021-2026.²⁹⁴

On 1 January 2021, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) announced the launch of an e-commerce website which catalogues over 50,000 products and aims to serve as a digital marketplace for farmers, artisans, craftsmen and other MSMEs.²⁹⁵ The website was jointly launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and is recognized as “a step towards building an ecosystem that enables MSMEs to help achieve the Prime Minister’s goal of [a self-reliant India].”²⁹⁶

On 5 January 2021, Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textile Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched a joint initiative, Toycathon 2021.²⁹⁷ This initiative is aimed at creating toys and games based on the Indian value and takes a step towards achieving the goal of a self-reliant India in toy manufacturing.²⁹⁸ This initiative is also supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of MSMEs, Ministry of Information and Banking and All India Council for Technical Education.²⁹⁹

On 14 January 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana project, which would focus on improving new-age technologies and COVID-19-related skills.³⁰⁰ The program, funded

²⁹² In-principle approval of allocation of training (STT) target under PMKVY 3.0 (2020-21) -reg., Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-12/OM%20dated%2014.12.2020%20from%20MSDE.pdf>

²⁹³ Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-01/PMKVY%203.0%20Guidelines%202020-21_0.pdf

²⁹⁴ Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-01/PMKVY%203.0%20Guidelines%202020-21_0.pdf

²⁹⁵ The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry’s process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

²⁹⁶ The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry’s process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

²⁹⁷ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²⁹⁸ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²⁹⁹ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

³⁰⁰ Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

under the Skill India Mission plans to utilize over 900 training facilities and institutes to “build a robust pool of skilled professionals.”³⁰¹

On 1 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance has provided a welfare scheme of INR10 million for tea workers in West Assam and West Bengal, particularly for women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁰² Furthermore, the Ministry mentioned measures to increase employability of youth through amendments in the Apprenticeship Act for greater opportunities for youth.³⁰³ These measures include a partnership with the United Arab Emirates for certification and with Japan to transfer vocational skills from Japan through training programs.³⁰⁴

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare announced training centres for farmers in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.³⁰⁵ Farmers will be trained in machinery and technology to increase production and crop yield along with the quality of crop yield.³⁰⁶

On 5 February 2021, the Nai Roshni Scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to be implemented through non-governmental organizations.³⁰⁷ This scheme empowers women to assume leadership roles outside of their homes with a six-day training program in health and hygiene, legal rights of women, financial literacy, digital literacy, life skills and advocacy for social and behavioral change.³⁰⁸

On 11 February 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the India International Skill Centre, allowing youth to mobilize their skills in the international workforce.³⁰⁹ This initiative is supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council, Japan, Russia, South East Asia, North America, Oceania and Europe.³¹⁰

³⁰¹ Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

³⁰² Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

³⁰³ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

³⁰⁴ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

³⁰⁵ Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

³⁰⁶ Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

³⁰⁷ The overall objective of the “NaiRoshni” scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

³⁰⁸ The overall objective of the “NaiRoshni” scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

³⁰⁹ Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

³¹⁰ Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

On 23 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation announced policy initiatives for insured workers and women.³¹¹ These initiatives include sickness benefits, maternity benefits and measures within hospitals.³¹²

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry summit regarding the country's National Education Policy.³¹³ Minister Goyal lauded the efforts of the policy's focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and skills development and expressed hope in making India the "knowledge capital of the world."³¹⁴

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced initiatives to reduce standard testing fees for MSMEs, start-ups and women entrepreneurs to encourage business in these areas.³¹⁵

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana pilot project, which aims to facilitate "entrepreneurship education, training, advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship network."³¹⁶

On 25 March 2021, the National Career Service launched the Mahila Adhikarita Yojana, which would establish funds amounting to INR75,000 for Scavenger women and dependent daughters for projects in small, petty trade and various other low-income categories.³¹⁷

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced schemes for women farmers in rural areas to build their livelihoods.³¹⁸ This includes training in agriculture and relevant sectors at institutions such as the National Training Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.³¹⁹ Further assistance will be provided to women farmers, including "provision of 30 per cent of funds."³²⁰

³¹¹ ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

³¹² ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

³¹³ Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

³¹⁴ Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

³¹⁵ The Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal directs BIS(Bureau of Indian Standards) to reduce testing fees for "MSME, Start Ups and Women Entrepreneurs" to encourage ease of doing business, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (New Delhi) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701683>

³¹⁶ Steps taken by the Government to expand Research-oriented higher education towards building a knowledge-based economy, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/he_pr.pdf

³¹⁷ Mahila Adhikarita Yojana (MAY), National Career Service (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://ncsk.nic.in/sites/default/files/MahilaAdhikaritaYojana%28MAY%29.pdf>

³¹⁸ Schemes for Women Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743360>

³¹⁹ Schemes for Women Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743360>

³²⁰ Schemes for Women Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743360>

On 15 August 2021, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced vocational training programs for women at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust with a grant of INR5 million for skill development training in the Raigad District, Maharashtra.³²¹

On 26 August 2021, NITI Aayog announced their partnership with Cisco to create a platform for entrepreneurship by women through “technology-led experiences.”³²²

India has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for MSMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through initiatives designed with international partners to promote youth and women’s welfare, new training programs for discouraged workers that incorporate technological and digitalization literacy, entrepreneurship training and robust funding to implement these measures, India has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, India receives a score of +1

Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment towards reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

On 9 February 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Arif Rahman Hakim held a meeting to collaborate on policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the national and local levels.³²³ Secretary Hakim noted that IDR4.85 trillion has been allocated in the national budget for the development of MSMEs and noted that next steps involved increasing income and market access for these groups, with a target export contribution of over 15 per cent for MSMEs and cooperatives.³²⁴

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo attended the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting.³²⁵ The meeting discussed two main agendas, the Global Economy and Policy Actions for a Transformative and Equitable Recovery, and Financial Sector Issues, which primarily highlights the G20 goals from the Riyadh presidency.³²⁶

³²¹ Vocational training Program for Women at JNPT, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (New Delhi) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746025>

³²² NITI Aayog partners with Cisco to foster women entrepreneurship in India, NITI Aayog (New Delhi) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749197>

³²³ Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

³²⁴ Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

³²⁵ Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

³²⁶ Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

On 12 March 2021, Minister Indrawati stated that the gender gap between men and women widened during the COVID-19 pandemic and further reiterated Indonesia's commitment toward increasing access to opportunities for women.³²⁷ They further stated, "the government through the 2021 State Budget provides equal access and opportunities to women through various priority programs, one of which is through education reform to improve the quality of human resources."³²⁸

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga emphasised the role of women in improving the national economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁹ During a meeting with grassroots women, she said that "grassroots women in various parts of Indonesia have helped the government in filling spaces that are difficult to reach or have not been touched by the program at all."³³⁰

On 29 April 2021, Minister Puspayoga said that women play an important role in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.³³¹ She said that women can bring voice and create various inclusive policies.³³² Additionally, the Chair of the Indonesian National Hero Family Association Saharto Sahardjo, said, "We see the role of women in developing or driving the economy of Small and Micro Enterprises [SMEs]. Many women have started online and culinary businesses. This moves the Indonesian economy."³³³

On 6 June 2021, the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) President Director Ad interim Andin Hadiyanto stated, "LPDP collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Culture to strengthen the steps for the superior Indonesian human capital formation. Previously existing programs at LPDP will be enriched with several new scholarship programs to strengthen strategic plans in the field of human capital development."³³⁴ Furthermore, Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Mendikbudristek) Nadiem Makarim stated, "the essence of the LPDP funds independence to be more inclusive is not only supporting students, but also teaching lecturers

³²⁷ Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

³²⁸ Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

³²⁹ Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

³³⁰ Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

³³¹ Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

³³² Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

³³³ Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

³³⁴ LPDP and Kemendikbudristek Collaboration to Improve Indonesia's Superior Human Capital, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia 6 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/lpdp-and-kemendikbudristek-collaboration-to-improve-indonesias-superior-human-capital/>

and teaching staff. In addition, it does not only focus on degree programs, but also non-degree programs.”³³⁵

On 30 June 2021, the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs published a press release regarding Indonesia’s vision of “Advanced Indonesia 2045.” The Ministry highlighted the Government’s efforts to improve the quality of human resources, including the Job Loss Guarantee which has been regulated in the Job Creation Law, to provide guarantees for workers affected by layoffs through cash, job training, and access to labor market information, so that they can immediately get back to work after their abilities have increased by participating in training. The Pre-Employment Card Program is intended for job seekers, laid off workers, and workers who need higher competencies than before, so this program focuses on skilling, upskilling, and reskilling. In 2021, the Pre-Employment Card Program passed approximately 2.8 million recipients.³³⁶

On 7 July 2021, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, represented by the Deputy for Macroeconomic and Financial Coordination at the Coordinating Ministry for the Economy, Iskandar Simorangkir, launched the Virtual Strengthening Women Micro-entrepreneurs to Digital Security and Financial Inclusion (SERUNI) Program in Jakarta.³³⁷ The SERUNI program aims to empower the economy to encourage increased welfare, as well as financial and digital literacy for women micro-enterprise owners (including groups with disabilities) in Indonesia. This program reaches 500 women micro-enterprises spread across Sukabumi, Garut, Cirebon, Central Lampung, and Central Lombok, and is a collaboration between the DNKI Secretariat, the British Embassy, and Mercy Corps Indonesia.³³⁸

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) announced the development of a women’s leadership initiative: the Woman Leadership Initiative as an effort to improve access and leadership quality of women in the Ministry of Finance.³³⁹ This program is expected to “increase the leadership capacity of women in carrying out careers as managers of state finances and assets and aims at reducing the gap in the roles of men and women in the context of development.”³⁴⁰

³³⁵ LPDP and Kemendikbudristek Collaboration to Improve Indonesia’s Superior Human Capital, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia 6 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/lpdp-and-kemendikbudristek-collaboration-to-improve-indonesias-superior-human-capital/>

³³⁶ Middle Class Human Resources Quality and Digital Transformation Are The Keys To An Advanced Indonesia 2045, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release: 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/3123/kualitas-sdm-kelas-menengah-dan-transformasi-digital-menjadi-kunci-indonesia-maju-2045>

³³⁷ Economic Empowerment and Financial and Digital Literacy for Women Micro Business Actors, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release: 13 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/3143/pemberdayaan-ekonomi-serta-literasi-keuangan-dan-digital-bagi-perempuan-pelaku-usaha-mikro>

³³⁸Economic Empowerment and Financial and Digital Literacy for Women Micro Business Actors, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release: 13 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/3143/pemberdayaan-ekonomi-serta-literasi-keuangan-dan-digital-bagi-perempuan-pelaku-usaha-mikro>

³³⁹ Improving Women’s Capacity, Ministry of Finance Launches Women’s Leadership Initiative, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tingkatkan-kapasitas-perempuan-kemenkeu-luncurkan-woman-leadership-initiative/>

³⁴⁰ Improving Women’s Capacity, Ministry of Finance Launches Women’s Leadership Initiative, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release (Jakarta) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tingkatkan-kapasitas-perempuan-kemenkeu-luncurkan-woman-leadership-initiative/>

On 30 August 2021, the MoF expressed its commitment to support MSMEs during the pandemic, through the Public Service Agency for the Government Investment Center (BLU PIP), which helps them with fast and easy financing.³⁴¹ The Ministry's press release also stated, "during this pandemic period, BLU PIP has distributed assistance of IDR5.32 trillion for working capital financing. With details, IDR4.23 trillion for relaxation of principal installment payments, and IDR552 billion for interest subsidies, as well as the Banpres for Productive Micro Business which is currently running."³⁴²

Indonesia has taken strong domestic action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs through ministry investments in policies aimed at promoting increased participation in a pandemic-driven economy and using the 2020 G20 summit as a strong guiding framework for these initiatives. However, Indonesia has not taken any action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth and upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Muhammad Hamza Khan

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 8 December 2020, Italy released a draft recovery plan with a total budget of EUR196 billion. The recovery plan allocated EUR74.3 billion to be invested in the green revolution and ecological transition.³⁴³ Aside from heading towards a more sustainable future, the objective of this initiative is also to free up job opportunities for people, which is particularly necessary due to the rising levels of unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁴ This will increase inclusive growth by providing new jobs for people who have struggled with job losses and unemployment.³⁴⁵ Moreover, the plan allocated EUR17.1 billion to implement measures to foster gender equality.³⁴⁶

³⁴¹ The Government's Commitment to Awakening MSMEs Through UMi Financing Continues, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release (Jakarta) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/komitmen-pemerintah-bangkitkan-umkm-melalui-pembiayaan-umiterus-berlanjut/>

³⁴² The Government's Commitment to Awakening MSMEs Through UMi Financing Continues, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release (Jakarta) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/komitmen-pemerintah-bangkitkan-umkm-melalui-pembiayaan-umiterus-berlanjut/>

³⁴³ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility>

³⁴⁴ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

³⁴⁵ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

³⁴⁶ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Labour and of Social Politics released the employment forecasts of the 2021 Budget.³⁴⁷ In this plan, the Ministry announced that they would provide financial support for young people under the age of 36 in need of steady employment.³⁴⁸ In addition, in this budget the Ministry also promoted the support of women's businesses.³⁴⁹ The Ministry announced that "resources of EUR3 million are assigned to the Venture Capital Support Fund for the year 2021 aimed at supporting investments in risk capital for highly innovative female entrepreneurship projects" to promote inclusivity and increase work opportunities for women.³⁵⁰ Further, an additional EUR50 million was pledged to support the return to work of mothers after childbirth.³⁵¹

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of the Economy and Finance launched the Recovery and Resilience Plan which mobilizes over EUR300 billion.³⁵² One of the components of the "Inclusion and Cohesion" mission is to create Employment Policies to improve the employment situation of women, youth and vulnerable people.³⁵³ Additionally, it aims to rework existing employment policies with a focus on promoting new skills through reform of the training system.³⁵⁴

On 24 February 2021, Italy's initiative to support private employers in small or medium sized enterprises by exempting them from compulsory social security contributions was approved by the European Commission. The total budget allocated for this initiative is EUR61.4 million.³⁵⁵ The aim of this initiative is to reduce the financial burden on small and medium enterprises, particularly due to the economic problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing employers to keep their workers employed.³⁵⁶

On 15 March 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando participated in a meeting of the EU Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs focused on employment and wage concerns.³⁵⁷

³⁴⁷ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

³⁴⁸ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

³⁴⁹ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

³⁵⁰ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

³⁵¹ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

³⁵² The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³⁵³ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³⁵⁴ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³⁵⁵ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

³⁵⁶ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

³⁵⁷ Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>

Under the guiding force of the EU Pillar Action Plan on social rights, the minister noted that “in Italy we are working on the reform of social safety nets, on active labour policies, on hiring incentives, on the strengthening of redeployment allowance, on the reduction of the tax wedge,” as well as committing to support the Community Initiative to establish minimum wage standards across Europe.³⁵⁸

On 16 March 2021, Italy allocated EUR63 million through the Italian aid scheme “to support the uncovered fixed costs of companies in the trade fairs sector affected by the coronavirus outbreak.”³⁵⁹ The support will be delivered in the form of direct grants which will be made available to the affected companies, aiming to reverse the financial damage from COVID-19 restrictions such as “the suspension or reduction of their business activity.”³⁶⁰

On 19 March 2021, the Italian Cabinet approved a decree to provide further financial support as part of its COVID-19 recovery plan.³⁶¹ The allocated budget of this decree is approximately EUR32 billion.³⁶² The initiative covers several areas including supporting businesses of the third sector and preventing poverty.³⁶³ The budget covers an allowance of EUR2,400 for seasonal and fixed-term workers and an expansion of the emergency income for citizens for another few months. In addition, the initiative announced the allocation of EUR400 million in social funds for employment and training of workers.³⁶⁴

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that more than EUR50 million worth of loans had been provided for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) over the past year to “support the competitiveness and innovative investments of SMEs” as part of Italy’s revised National Business Plan.³⁶⁵ Over 380 applications had been processed as of this date and the ministry noted that up to EUR100 million would be provided as well.³⁶⁶

³⁵⁸ Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>.

³⁵⁹ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

³⁶⁰ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

³⁶¹ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

³⁶² Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

³⁶³ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

³⁶⁴ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

³⁶⁵ Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

³⁶⁶ Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced the provision of subsidized interest-free loans for youth and women-led startups.³⁶⁷ In particular, the investment is focused on businesses concerning “the production of goods in the sectors of industry, crafts and processing of agricultural products, supply of services to businesses, trade and tourism.”³⁶⁸

On 14 April 2021, Italy chaired a meeting of the Employment Working Group. The discussions primarily focused around “structural changes in the organization of work, the economy of platforms and the growing use of remote working.”³⁶⁹ Noting that artificial intelligence would have a transformative effect on labour relationships, the meeting’s participants stressed the need for “adequate social protection tools” that would adequately respond to green and digital economy changes accelerated by the pandemic.³⁷⁰

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi presented a draft of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament in preparation for presentation to the European Commission.^{371,372} A total of EUR221.5 billion obtained from the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility and national borrowing is to be provided for six target areas including education and research, and social inclusion.³⁷³ Within the education and research mission, a total of EUR31.9 billion is to be allocated to “strengthen the educational system [and] digital and technical-scientific skills.”³⁷⁴ Within the social inclusion mission, EUR22.4 billion are to be provided for facilitating “participation in the labour market” through training and strengthening labour policies, including the development of employment centres and promoting female entrepreneurship, including a new Women’s Enterprise Fund.³⁷⁵ The plan is predicted to increase gross domestic product by three percentage points higher than initially predicted.³⁷⁶

From 23-24 June 2021, Italy hosted the G20 Forum on digital transition of industry, organized by the Ministry for Economic Development.³⁷⁷ The event included plenary working sessions with G20

³⁶⁷ Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-imprese-di-giovani-e-donne>

³⁶⁸ Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-imprese-di-giovani-e-donne>

³⁶⁹ Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

³⁷⁰ Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

³⁷¹ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

³⁷² Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

³⁷³ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

³⁷⁴ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

³⁷⁵ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

³⁷⁶ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

³⁷⁷ G20: 23rd and 24th June Forum on digital transition of industry, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2042409-g20-23rd-and-24th-june-forum-on-digital-transition-of-industry>

members' representatives to discuss both the challenges and opportunities associated with an increasingly digitalized world.³⁷⁸

On 6 August 2021, Minister Orlando discussed proposed changes in labour policy specifically pertaining to the upskilling and reskilling of workers with regional councillors.³⁷⁹ As part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the plans would create a framework that would “allow for the first time to define active policies that constitute real rights payable for workers...ensuring services aimed at improving their employability,” as well as targeting skills deficits in certain industries.³⁸⁰

Italy has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through the allocation of funds to support small and medium enterprises, and private employers, its declaration in the 2021 budget that funds would be allocated to supporting gender equality and women in the workplace, efforts to combat youth poverty, and environmentally friendly job creation initiatives, Italy has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Dalia Michaud and Malhaar Mobarir

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) requested for smoother financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).³⁸¹ It asked several organizations to “improve the facilitation of financing for SMEs and small enterprises at the end of 2020, taking into consideration that some businesses are still facing serious difficulties in funding due to the impacts of COVID-19, and that demand for working capital and other funds is expected to grow during the period from the end of 2020 to the end of fiscal year 2020.”³⁸²

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released highlights of the Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which highlighted the need for “measures for medium- and long-term issues” such as digital and green societies, as well as robust social security systems.³⁸³ In particular, JPY2.2 billion would be allocated for the “digitalization of education,” JPY2.3 billion towards scholarships for youth through the University Fellowship Program, and tax reductions and subsidies for SMEs.³⁸⁴

³⁷⁸ G20: 23rd and 24th June Forum on digital transition of industry, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2042409-g20-23rd-and-24th-june-forum-on-digital-transition-of-industry>

³⁷⁹ This morning Orlando – Regions confrontation on reform of active policies, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Questa-mattina-confronto-Orlando-Regioni-su-Riforma-Politiche-attive.aspx>

³⁸⁰ This morning Orlando – Regions confrontation on reform of active policies, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Questa-mattina-confronto-Orlando-Regioni-su-Riforma-Politiche-attive.aspx>

³⁸¹ Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html

³⁸² Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html

³⁸³ Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

³⁸⁴ Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

On 5 February 2021, a cabinet decision was made on the bill that includes the SMEs Enterprises Business Enhancement Act.³⁸⁵ The Act promotes the expansion of SME businesses and better regulations of the SMEs including funding for middle-ranking businesses working with SMEs.³⁸⁶

On 18 February 2021, METI initiated the “Japan Innovation Bridge” under the Japan External Trade Organization.³⁸⁷ The platform aims “to support Japanese companies in collaborating and advancing mergers and acquisitions with overseas companies based mainly in Asia, including startups, through open innovation.”³⁸⁸

On 2 March 2021, Japan “contributed USD7.8 million to support [the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF’s)] Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria.”³⁸⁹ The contribution provides aid to young people on education, employment opportunities, and strengthened community service.³⁹⁰ Akira Endo, the Special Coordinator for Syria and Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Syria said “Japan stays engaged in supporting children, youth and women wherever they are in Syria to meet their humanitarian needs.”³⁹¹ Since 2017, Japan has contributed USD60 million to Syria through UNICEF programs.³⁹²

On 3 March 2021, virtual training for preparatory Japanese language was held for the 13th batch of Filipino nurse and care worker candidates bound for Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Philippines.³⁹³ Filipino nurses and health workers will be trained

³⁸⁵ Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html

³⁸⁶ Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html

³⁸⁷ Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html

³⁸⁸ Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html

³⁸⁹ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

³⁹⁰ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

³⁹¹ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

³⁹² The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

³⁹³ Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

virtually before they depart for work in Japan; after they arrive, they will receive another six months of language training.³⁹⁴

On 9 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held the 10th meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the 20th meeting of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality.³⁹⁵ At the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening efforts for gender equality.³⁹⁶

On 23 March 2021, Ambassador of Japan to Sierra Leone Himeno Tsutomu and United Nations Industrial Development Organization Country Representative to Sierra Leone Mariatu Abionor Swaray, signed an exchange of notes enacting USD3.88 million of aid from Japan to Sierra Leone.³⁹⁷ The financial aid is to “help Sierra Leone bridge the skills gap in the country’s automotive repair and maintenance sector and to promote decent employment opportunities for youth.”³⁹⁸

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan held a webinar on women’s empowerment. The webinar consisted of three panels: “Panel Discussion 1: Empowered Women as a Driving Force for the Betterment of Society; Panel Discussion 2: Women’s Empowerment in Sports; Panel Discussion 3: What is Women, Peace and Security?”³⁹⁹ The goal of the webinar was to commemorate “the memorial year of gender equality and women’s empowerment.”⁴⁰⁰

On 23 April 2021, METI released the 2021 White Paper on SMEs in Japan, which outlined the key challenges these businesses have faced through COVID-19.⁴⁰¹ The ministry outlined three areas of reform that would need to be addressed in order to overcome their financial difficulties faced: “developing management strategies that are aligned with the changes in the business environment,” “cultivating a proactive organizational culture toward digitalization,” and taking on “new opportunities under new management after business succession.”⁴⁰²

On 28 April 2021, METI announced a subsidy project in conjunction with PwC to support Femtech companies, defined as those that provide support services to “solve working women’s health-related and other issues.” The goal of this project is to prevent high turnover rates among women

³⁹⁴ Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

³⁹⁵ Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html

³⁹⁶ Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html

³⁹⁷ Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

³⁹⁸ Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

³⁹⁹ Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html

⁴⁰⁰ Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html

⁴⁰¹ 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html

⁴⁰² 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html

due to pregnancy, childbirth and menopause, as well as “increase the diversity of human resources at companies.”⁴⁰³

On 11 May 2021, the Young Professionals Japan Program announced the call for applications for the year of 2021.⁴⁰⁴ The program is a set of seminars for participants to learn about international standardization. The program has the “purpose of developing human resources in the ISO/IEC field as an action that embodies the measures.”⁴⁰⁵

From 23 to 29 June 2021, the Gender Equality Cabinet Office hosted the annual Gender Equality Week. The event aims “[to] promote understanding by the general public about the purpose and basic principles of the Basic Act for a Gender-equal Society and to facilitate various initiatives for the creation of a gender-equal society.”⁴⁰⁶ Four main events took place during the week: “National Conference for the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society, Prime Minister's Commendation for Efforts Toward the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society, Women's Challenge Grand Prize, Women's Challenge Support Grand Prize and special prize, and Contest for a slogan of the week.”⁴⁰⁷ The week also included training sessions for government officials to ensure they understand relevant government measures.⁴⁰⁸

On 2 July 2021, the successful applicants for the program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains were selected.⁴⁰⁹ The program aims to ensure stable domestic production in case of emergency due to COVID-19. 151 projects were selected, amounting to about 209.5 billion yen in total.⁴¹⁰ The selected projects include supply chains in products and parts that are largely produced overseas, products and parts that are essential for people’s wellbeing, and SMEs that produce parts and products necessary for the production of parts produced overseas.⁴¹¹

From 28 July 2021 to 10 September 2021, METI and the Japan External Trade Organization held the Net Zero Leaders Summit “to gather the world's wisdom toward achieving net zero, and promote

⁴⁰³ Assistance for Initiatives to Create Femtech-driven Systems to Support the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0428_001.html

⁴⁰⁴ Call for Applicants for the IP Acceleration Program for Startups (IPAS2021) to Open, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0614_002.html

⁴⁰⁵ About the schedule of the 2021 Yanpro course, JSA Group (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

https://webdesk.jsa.or.jp/common/W10K0500/index/dev/std_jinzai/

⁴⁰⁶ Promotion of PR / Awareness-raising Activities through a Variety of Media, Various Training Sessions, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 22 July 2021

https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/pr_act/act/index.html

⁴⁰⁷ Promotion of PR / Awareness-raising Activities through a Variety of Media, Various Training Sessions, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 22 July 2021

https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/pr_act/act/index.html

⁴⁰⁸ Promotion of PR / Awareness-raising Activities through a Variety of Media, Various Training Sessions, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) n.d.. Access Date: 22 July 2021

https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/pr_act/act/index.html

⁴⁰⁹ Successful Applicants Selected for the Program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains (Second Call), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702_003.html

⁴¹⁰ Successful Applicants Selected for the Program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains (Second Call), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702_003.html

⁴¹¹ Successful Applicants Selected for the Program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains (Second Call), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702_003.html

Japan's attractive investment environment.”⁴¹² The summit also has the program: Global Startup Connection: J-Startups for NET ZERO, which aims to promote start-ups in Japan to the world.⁴¹³

On 23 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced it will continue to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity – Pacific to host the US-Japan Educational Exchange.⁴¹⁴ The program allows youths to broaden their views of the world and develop problem-solving skills.⁴¹⁵ The program also consists of several two-day events on US military installations in mainland Japan, designed to engage youth in international exchange opportunities abroad.⁴¹⁶

Japan has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth through policies on subsidizing education, increasing access to opportunities for women by promoting greater financial support in the workplace, and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs through grants and subsidies designed to keep them competitive in the COVID-19 economy. Japan has taken partial action in the area of upskilling and reskilling of workers by generally promoting revamped training programs that take into account greater digitalization of the economy both domestically and internationally and upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jenny Liu

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family hosted the 2020 Korea-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Summit.⁴¹⁷ The summit provides a platform

⁴¹² Global Startup Connection: J-Startups for NET ZERO Will Be Held, An Event to Promote the Attractiveness of Japanese Startups, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0826_001.html

⁴¹³ Global Startup Connection: J-Startups for NET ZERO Will Be Held, An Event to Promote the Attractiveness of Japanese Startups, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0826_001.html

⁴¹⁴ MOFA AND DODEA PARTNER FOR U.S.-JAPAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, U.S. Mission Japan (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/mofa-and-dodea-partner-for-u-s-japan-educational-exchange/>

⁴¹⁵ MOFA AND DODEA PARTNER FOR U.S.-JAPAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, U.S. Mission Japan (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/mofa-and-dodea-partner-for-u-s-japan-educational-exchange/>

⁴¹⁶ MOFA AND DODEA PARTNER FOR U.S.-JAPAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, U.S. Mission Japan (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/mofa-and-dodea-partner-for-u-s-japan-educational-exchange/>

⁴¹⁷ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

for youths to discuss the role of youths for Korea-ASEAN cooperation.⁴¹⁸ The discussions included promotion of a “Korea-ASEAN passport” and “financial support with a focus on sharing.”⁴¹⁹

On 9 December 2020, the National Assembly passed amendments for the Special Act on the Promotion of Youth Employment.⁴²⁰ The amendments for the act increase the commission of Youth work in public organizations.⁴²¹ The renovated act has included new features to promote digitalization, including “commissioning of maintenance of computer network related to global [Human Resources Development] projects to specialist agencies.”⁴²²

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups Park Youngsun announced the COMEUP 2020 Plan.⁴²³ The project plans to help startups and SMEs by providing opportunities to promote selected businesses.⁴²⁴ A total of 1,076 startups worldwide have participated.⁴²⁵

On 25 February 2021, the National Institute for Lifelong Education announced the 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project to “promote pre-employment and post-employment learning through the establishment of a university’s adult learner-friendly academic system.”⁴²⁶ The project will operate from 2021 to 2022 and the budget of the project is approximately KRW24.3 billion.⁴²⁷

⁴¹⁸ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

⁴¹⁹ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

⁴²⁰ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

⁴²¹ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

⁴²² National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

⁴²³ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

⁴²⁴ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

⁴²⁵ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

⁴²⁶ 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<http://eng.nile.or.kr/contents/contents.jsp?bkind=basic&bcode=CABAAAA&bmode=view&idx=BCJDFCECEDHFJ&pageNo=1>

⁴²⁷ 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<http://eng.nile.or.kr/contents/contents.jsp?bkind=basic&bcode=CABAAAA&bmode=view&idx=BCJDFCECEDHFJ&pageNo=1>

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) published the 2021 Work Report. In the report, the MOEL promises to help youth employment by offering more opportunities and vocational training.⁴²⁸ This policy is to “minimize the number of young people ending up in the category of economically inactive population.” In the Work Report, the MOEL also promises to create a training system for non-majors to find jobs in the new technology sector. Furthermore, the MOEL will create a program to build future oriented talent. The program will be training 17,000 persons and will be cooperating with businesses and educational institutions.

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced to concentrate on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment.⁴²⁹ The specific policies include “creation of 780,000-plus women’s jobs to cope with the employment crisis through supplementary budget; strengthening support for the maintenance of employment such as extension of emergency support for family care expense and support for those affected by transfer; strengthening support for female students majoring in science/engineering; enhancement of their digital capability through vocational training; strengthening the expertise of those engaging in childcare and housework; improving working conditions; promotion of status survey for women platform workers; putting an end to the gender stereotyping of jobs through the adoption of absolute evaluation factors in Affirmative Action.”⁴³⁰

On 25 March 2021, Vice Chair Doh Kyu-sang “discussed the progress in the implementation of the COVID-19 financial support for small merchants and SMEs” at the 37th financial risk assessment meeting.⁴³¹ He recognized the progress of the emergency financial support package to small merchants and SMEs and promised to keep close monitoring of the situation and be available to provide aid to the vulnerable.⁴³²

On 6 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of Korea passed amendments to the support for single parents raising children.⁴³³ The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family made amendments to the Enforcement Ordinance of the Single-Parent Family Support Act, whereby the amendment provides “expansion of support for single parents in multicultural households and the procedure for the establishment of an annual execution plan for supporting single-parent families

⁴²⁸ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

⁴²⁹ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁴³⁰ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁴³¹ FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

⁴³² FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March, 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

⁴³³ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

and management of its execution.”⁴³⁴ Non-Korean single parents raising Korean children will receive support under the amendment once it comes into effect in May 2021.⁴³⁵

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family jointly held a panel discussion with the Embassy of Finland in Seoul on the subject of Women in Tech.⁴³⁶ Noting that international cooperation would be needed to achieve all countries’ goals of gender equality, the panel discussion focused on the inclusivity of women in STEM fields and improving company policies for hiring practices.

From 4 to 6 May 2021, Korean representatives, along with representatives from ASEAN Secretariat and International Organizations, attended “Training Workshop on ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All.”⁴³⁷ The three-day workshop discusses international standards and recent works on gender equality and labour and employment policies.⁴³⁸

On 12 May 2021, MOEL held the “Online Job Fair Week 2021” and a youth conference for overseas employment.⁴³⁹ Seventy-five companies from foreign countries offered 200 positions from abroad for Korean youths.⁴⁴⁰ This program helped youths to find career opportunities despite the pandemic.⁴⁴¹

On 21 May 2021, the “Act on the Employment Improvement, Etc. of Domestic Workers” was passed at the National Assembly.⁴⁴² “The enactment of the law laid an institutional foundation for domestic workers who have been in the blind spot of the labor law and social insurance and have not

⁴³⁴ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date:: 30 April 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707713

⁴³⁵ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date:: 30 April 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707713

⁴³⁶ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767

⁴³⁷ Training Workshop on ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All, ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (Seoul), 19 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.aseanrofund.com/news/training-workshop-on-asean-guideline-on-gender-mainstreaming-into-labour-and-employment-policies-towards-decent-work-for-all>

⁴³⁸ Training Workshop on ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All, ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (Seoul), 19 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.aseanrofund.com/news/training-workshop-on-asean-guideline-on-gender-mainstreaming-into-labour-and-employment-policies-towards-decent-work-for-all>

⁴³⁹ MOEL holds the "Online job fair week 2021" and a youth conference for overseas employment, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1598

⁴⁴⁰ MOEL holds the "Online job fair week 2021" and a youth conference for overseas employment, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1598

⁴⁴¹ MOEL holds the "Online job fair week 2021" and a youth conference for overseas employment, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1598

⁴⁴² Laying the institutional foundation in guaranteeing labor rights for domestic workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1599

enjoyed their rights as workers since the enactment of the Labor Standards Act in 1953.”⁴⁴³ The act also prepares the Korean Labour Market with low birth rate and increased female participation.⁴⁴⁴

On 25 May 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family launched the Butter Knife Crew Round 3 (Youths’ corps for the promotion of gender equality culture).⁴⁴⁵ “The Corps aims to create a future vision from a gender equality perspective with 20/30-somethings playing a leading role.”⁴⁴⁶ The Corps allows young adults in their 20s to 30s to engage in activities like film-watching, workshops, and expert-led discussions. The selected members are from various locations across Korea and industries.⁴⁴⁷

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced the improvements of ways of providing support for one-parent family/non-adult child support enforcement. ⁴⁴⁸ The improvements include “Improvement of child support enforcement procedure and reduction of proceeding period,” “Imposing stronger restriction of default on child support obligation,” “Expansion of support for emergency assistance for temporary child support and child support-related assistance,” and “Strengthening the basis for child support enforcement.”⁴⁴⁹ The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family hopes to speed up the rate of enforcement on child support proceeding procedures.⁴⁵⁰

On 18 June 2021, MOEL made an announcement to support employment post COVID-19.⁴⁵¹ MOEL plans to provide recruitment support to companies that are looking for people to recruit. It will also establish a remote system that links job seekers and hiring companies.⁴⁵² The system can ensure the participants’ safety during COVID-19. Finally, it expands the employment safety net for the vulnerable; it will “increase the content and quality of employment support services and expand

⁴⁴³ Laying the institutional foundation in guaranteeing labor rights for domestic workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1599

⁴⁴⁴ Laying the institutional foundation in guaranteeing labor rights for domestic workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1599

⁴⁴⁵ Youths bridge divide in thoughts on gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820

⁴⁴⁶ Youths bridge divide in thoughts on gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820

⁴⁴⁷ Youths bridge divide in thoughts on gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820

⁴⁴⁸ Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869

⁴⁴⁹ Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869

⁴⁵⁰ Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869

⁴⁵¹ MOEL announces “Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services” to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

⁴⁵² MOEL announces “Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services” to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

the connections and collaborations with related organizations for specialized support for the recipient of these services.”⁴⁵³

On 23 June 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family signed the memorandum of understanding with UN Women and the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality is to be established in Korea.⁴⁵⁴ The centre will promote gender equality by providing protection for women’s human rights and education for experts.⁴⁵⁵

On 1 July 2021, the Worker’s Compensation and Welfare Service implemented employment insurance for the dependent self-employed.⁴⁵⁶ “The dependent self-employed who are covered by employment insurance from July 1 are workers in 12 occupations, including insurance agents, parcel delivery workers, and credit card solicitors.”⁴⁵⁷ This is a part of the “National Employment Insurance Roadmap” to ensure all working citizens receive employment insurance. ⁴⁵⁸

On 22 July 2021, Korea announced new measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes.⁴⁵⁹ These measures will address the recent changes due to digitalization and development towards a carbon-neutral economy. The measures include “[developing and promoting] projects supporting internal combustion engine vehicle, coal-fired power generation, [providing] support for company’s business reorganization/transition and worker’s job transition, job change/reemployment, [and establishing] a structured support base such as consulting centers and labor transition analysis centers.”⁴⁶⁰ The government will provide training to ensure workers’ reemployment and adapting to the changes from digitalization.⁴⁶¹ The government will also closely monitor structural changes in employment for some industries. ⁴⁶²

⁴⁵³ MOEL announces “Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services” to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

⁴⁵⁴ UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896

⁴⁵⁵ UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896

⁴⁵⁶ Employment insurance for dependent self-employed to be implemented from July 1, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1606

⁴⁵⁷ Employment insurance for dependent self-employed to be implemented from July 1, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1606

⁴⁵⁸ Employment insurance for dependent self-employed to be implemented from July 1, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1606

⁴⁵⁹ Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607

⁴⁶⁰ Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607

⁴⁶¹ Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607

⁴⁶² Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607

On 23 July 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced measures to promote women's economic activities to cope with population decline. These measures were suggested by the Pan-government 3rd round Population Policy TF - Women Employment/Family Policy Team.⁴⁶³ First, to promote women's participation in economic activities, the Ministry will provide more opportunities for vocational training, increase tax reduction businesses hiring women experiencing career interruptions, and provide support for young women wishing to work in the engineering and natural sciences industries.⁴⁶⁴ Second, to create equal labor conditions, the Ministry will provide customized counseling for women who wish to stay in the workforce but have concerns about childcare, human rights support for houseworkers and nurses, promotion to come up with "an integrated analysis framework concerning the gender equality status of businesses and government institutions."⁴⁶⁵ Third, to mitigate parents' childcare burden, the Ministry will extend community childcare centres' operating hours and operate youths after-school academies on the weekends, expand childcare services during busy seasons in rural areas.⁴⁶⁶ Finally, the Ministry will strengthen policy support to help all families live more stably.⁴⁶⁷

From 30 to 31 August 2021, the 20th Korean Women's International Network was held online.⁴⁶⁸ The event has been a platform to connect Korean women both at home and abroad. "The session [included] keynote lectures, Global Women Leaders' Forum, and small-group discussions on activities carried out in each sector."⁴⁶⁹

Korea has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through promoting inclusive and gender-based hiring practices, providing increased scholarship and funding for higher level education, providing grants and subsidies to improve competitiveness in the COVID economy, and establishing renovated and targeted vocational education programs, Korea has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jenny Liu

⁴⁶³ Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973

⁴⁶⁴ Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973

⁴⁶⁵ Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973

⁴⁶⁶ Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973

⁴⁶⁷ Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973

⁴⁶⁸ 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=708039

⁴⁶⁹ 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.doh?mid=eng001&bbsn=708039

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Welfare announced new social policies aimed at supporting youth and fostering greater inclusivity of women in the workforce.⁴⁷⁰ In particular, the Support Programs for Girls and Boys, Children of Working Mothers programs is targeted towards women in rural areas, with the expectation that they “form a community, exchange knowledge, in addition to promoting their autonomy and access to a well-paid job.”⁴⁷¹

On 27 January 2021, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare Luisa Alcade and Secretary of Tourism Miguel Torruco announced funding of MXN2.5 billion to support scholarships for youth seeking employment in the tourism sector.⁴⁷² Approximately 50,000 youth would be eligible for this program, which would be overseen by the Youth Building the Future Program, working in conjunction with companies to hire and train those between the ages of 18 and 29.⁴⁷³ As of 2020, tourism accounted for nearly 17 per cent of Mexico’s gross domestic product, and has taken a strong hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁷⁴

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Welfare allocated more than MXN143 billion worth of investment towards vulnerable groups, including working mothers.⁴⁷⁵ Over 190,000 women were beneficiaries of social investment totaling MXN2 billion, with approximately MXN3,600 provided on a bimonthly basis for working mothers with children, with a focus on those with disabled children.⁴⁷⁶

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced a grant of MXN1.5 billion to support 60,000 microenterprises.⁴⁷⁷ The support is divided among family micro-businesses, “completed”

⁴⁷⁰ The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

⁴⁷¹ The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

⁴⁷² Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

⁴⁷³ Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

⁴⁷⁴ Coronavirus hits Mexico’s economy where it hurts most: Oil, tourism, remittances and trade, Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/coronavirus-mexico-economy-oil-tourism-remittance-trade-amlo/2020/04/22/ed4b7532-7f68-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911_story.html

⁴⁷⁵ The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/aplica-secretaria-de-bienestar-inversion-social-historica-en-2020-mas-de-143-mil-mdp-para-grupos-vulnerables?idiom=es>

⁴⁷⁶ The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/aplica-secretaria-de-bienestar-inversion-social-historica-en-2020-mas-de-143-mil-mdp-para-grupos-vulnerables?idiom=es>

⁴⁷⁷ The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

microbusinesses and those facilitating women's solidarity, whereby each business would receive a loan of MXN25,000.⁴⁷⁸

On 21 February 2021, the Superior Audit of the Federation concluded that the Ministry of Welfare had fully complied with its social program goals, with its total budget of MXN150 billion having been distributed to all target demographics, including working mothers.⁴⁷⁹

On 2 March 2021, the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents and the General Directorate of Open Institutions of the Decentralized Administrative Body for Prevention and Social Readaptation rolled out a pilot "Needs Identification Card."⁴⁸⁰ This card is an instrument that will allow the government to better monitor and assist children with parents deprived of liberty to "live in a favorable family context, grow and develop free of all discrimination, violence, access education, health and receive timely support for their basic needs from federal and state authorities."⁴⁸¹

On 2 March 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano launched the first meeting of the Gender Links Network.⁴⁸² This three-day symposium aimed to encourage discussion about gender violence to promote "international cooperation on substantive equality, girls' empowerment, and inclusion of a gender perspective" in society.⁴⁸³

On 8 March 2021, the National Migration Institute signed the Labour Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy.⁴⁸⁴ This policy aims to eliminate workplace violence and institutionalize equal opportunities for all public servants, with particular focus on approaching the problem from a gender perspective.⁴⁸⁵

On 9 March 2021, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Arturo Herrera, Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier and President of the National Institute of Women Nadine Gasman co-signed an agreement titled "Women in digital transformation" as part of its program to promote economic

⁴⁷⁸ The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

⁴⁷⁹ ASF concludes that in 2019 the Ministry of Welfare complied with its social programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/concluye-asf-que-en-2019-secretaria-de-bienestar-cumplio-en-sus-programas-sociales?idiom=es>

⁴⁸⁰ Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/avanza-mecanismo-de-atencion-a-necesidades-de-ninez-y-adolescencia-con-madre-o-padre-privados-de-la-libertad?idiom=es>

⁴⁸¹ Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/avanza-mecanismo-de-atencion-a-necesidades-de-ninez-y-adolescencia-con-madre-o-padre-privados-de-la-libertad?idiom=es>

⁴⁸² First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

⁴⁸³ First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

⁴⁸⁴ INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

⁴⁸⁵ INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

growth “with a gender perspective.”⁴⁸⁶ The program focuses on micro-enterprises led by women, and expands upon the “Digital Transformation in Electronic Commerce” business training program, which offers courses on developing “digital and financial skills in entrepreneurs.”⁴⁸⁷ Data from the project demonstrated that women who participated in the program had increased their income by 270 per cent.⁴⁸⁸

On 22 March 2021, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard and Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez co-chaired the second inter-institutional meeting.⁴⁸⁹ Their discussion brought together the Ministries of Finance, Education and Labor, and the heads of the Mexican Social Security Institute, Bank of Wellbeing and Infonavit, who together announced specific actions relating to the migrant population.⁴⁹⁰ In the meeting, Labor Secretary Luisa María Alcalde furthered assistance for migrants. In particular, she stated that the Youths Building the Future program will expand to train 18 to 29 years-old migrants.⁴⁹¹ Furthermore, Education Secretary Delfina Gómez stated that the Education Ministry will expand its commitment to revalidating the studies and certifications of Mexicans returning from abroad.⁴⁹² The Labour Mobility Program and National Employment Service will also assist in ensuring that these migrants can find jobs in the fields and locations in which they wish to work.⁴⁹³

On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of the Interior presented the National Protocol for Inter-institutional Coordination for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence.⁴⁹⁴ This guideline will serve as a reference for territorial governments such as authorities in the state of

⁴⁸⁶ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

⁴⁸⁷ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

⁴⁸⁸ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

⁴⁸⁹ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

⁴⁹⁰ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

⁴⁹¹ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

⁴⁹² The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

⁴⁹³ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

⁴⁹⁴ Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

Campeche to develop their own protocol in protecting the below 17-years-old population from violence.⁴⁹⁵

On 13 April 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador led a press conference on how the Government of Mexico is responding to the rise of unaccompanied minor migrants from Central America.⁴⁹⁶ Secretary Ebrard stated that the government has increased the number of state workers involved with immigration to approximately 12,000 people.⁴⁹⁷ Secretary Ebrard also stated that the National System for Integral Family Development will be expanding its capacity to care for more children since minors cannot stay in immigration stations.⁴⁹⁸

On 28 April 2021, Director of Institutional Coordination of the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Francisco Castellanos García proposed several measures to benefit adolescents in conflict with the law during the Permanent Session of the Commission of Executive Secretaries of Integral Protection of the National Systems and the Federative Entities.⁴⁹⁹ Director García's recommendations included a directory to catalog effective programs for social reintegration between organizations and state authorities and reinforcement of sanitary protection measures for women.⁵⁰⁰

On 28 April 2021, Mexico led a virtual meeting on the "Economic empowerment of women in the Pacific Alliance: Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusive recovery."⁵⁰¹ There were over 200 participants at the meeting, including female leaders and representatives from the public sector, international organizations, civil society organizations and academia.⁵⁰² Senior officials from the Pacific Alliance countries were also in attendance.⁵⁰³ Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Luz María de la Mora Sánchez moderated a discussion on the impact of the coronavirus on women and received recommendations on tools and policies that may help reactivate women-led companies in the Pacific.⁵⁰⁴ Gender Affairs Director Ana Güzmes from the United Nations Economic Commission

⁴⁹⁵ Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

⁴⁹⁶ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

⁴⁹⁷ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

⁴⁹⁸ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

⁴⁹⁹ Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

⁵⁰⁰ Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

⁵⁰¹ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

⁵⁰² Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

⁵⁰³ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

⁵⁰⁴ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

for Latin America and the Caribbean also offered suggestions on how countries can support women's economic autonomy.⁵⁰⁵

On 30 April 2021, Secretary Ebrard spoke with Spain's Minister of Science and Innovation Pedro Duque in Madrid.⁵⁰⁶ During the meeting, the ministers reached a consensus on the importance of promoting cooperation in scientific research and professional training.⁵⁰⁷ They also noted that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular would benefit from training and increased access to technology for production and trade.⁵⁰⁸

On 25 June 2021, the Ministry of the Interior strengthened the Mechanism for Follow-up of Cases of Sexual Torture with new guidelines that expanded the number of authorities involved in criminal cases of sexual torture.⁵⁰⁹ Other changes include the addition of a permanent office to process these matters and related resources as well as the expanding the definition of women victims of sexual torture to include transsexual women.⁵¹⁰

On 2 July 2021, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean Maximiliano Reyes co-chaired the sixth meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Mexico-Argentina Strategic Partnership Agreement with Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentina Pablo Anselmo Tettamanti.⁵¹¹ During the meeting, the two parties agreed to continue and update their cooperation in areas of gender and strengthen training between their diplomatic academies.⁵¹²

On 14 July 2021, the 47th session of the Human Rights Council concluded.⁵¹³ During the session, Mexico participated in debates about gender equality and rights of women and girls.⁵¹⁴ This action

⁵⁰⁵ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

⁵⁰⁶ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

⁵⁰⁷ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

⁵⁰⁸ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

⁵⁰⁹ Follow-up Mechanism for Cases of Sexual Torture committed against Women meets, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/sesion-mecanismo-de-seguimiento-de-casos-de-tortura-sexual-cometida-contramujeres?idiom=es>

⁵¹⁰ Follow-up Mechanism for Cases of Sexual Torture committed against Women meets, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/sesion-mecanismo-de-seguimiento-de-casos-de-tortura-sexual-cometida-contramujeres?idiom=es>

⁵¹¹ 6th Meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Mexico-Argentina Strategic Partnership Agreement, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/6th-meeting-of-the-political-affairs-committee-of-the-mexico-argentina-strategic-partnership-agreement?idiom=en>

⁵¹² 6th Meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Mexico-Argentina Strategic Partnership Agreement, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/6th-meeting-of-the-political-affairs-committee-of-the-mexico-argentina-strategic-partnership-agreement?idiom=en>

⁵¹³ Conclusion of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/conclusion-of-the-47th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council?idiom=en>

⁵¹⁴ Conclusion of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/conclusion-of-the-47th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council?idiom=en>

further affirms Mexico's support for increasing women's access to opportunities. Additionally, Mexico participated in debates about business rights.⁵¹⁵

On 5 August 2021, the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Martha Delgado and the Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Mexico Lorenzo Jiménez de Luis presented the Global Economic Promotion Project.⁵¹⁶ The new initiative aims to encourage economic development in strategic sectors by attracting foreign investment to Mexico while promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusion and human rights.⁵¹⁷

On 9 September 2021, Mexico and the United States relaunched their bilateral High-Level Economic Dialogue.⁵¹⁸ This initiative has the goal of promoting regional economic growth through labour upskilling and reducing inequalities. Four pillars support this vision for economic development. For the pillar "Promoting Sustainable Economic and Social Development in Southern Mexico and Central America," the United States will support the Mexican government's Sowing Life and Youths Building the Future programs to better invest in youths.⁵¹⁹ On reducing inequalities, there will also be a focus on training women, youths, Indigenous people and the LGBTQ+ community through collaboration with local small and medium sized enterprises.⁵²⁰

Mexico has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, and increasing access to opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurs by taking concrete action to prevent violence against youth, rehabilitate youth in detention centres, and increasing assistance for migrant minors, multiple symposiums and conferences on the status of women and youth in the Mexican economy, more inclusive regulations and collaboration on labour policy with international partners such as Spain. Mexico has taken partial action in the area of upskilling and reskilling workers through some regulations designed to enhance vocational training.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tammy Cheng

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

⁵¹⁵ Conclusion of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/conclusion-of-the-47th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council?idiom=en>

⁵¹⁶ Foreign Ministry, UNDP launch a Global Economic Promotion Project, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/foreign-ministry-undp-launch-a-global-economic-promotion-project?idiom=en>

⁵¹⁷ Foreign Ministry, UNDP launch a Global Economic Promotion Project, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/foreign-ministry-undp-launch-a-global-economic-promotion-project?idiom=en>

⁵¹⁸ Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

⁵¹⁹ Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

⁵²⁰ Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Education announced the success of its specialized educational research centre, partnered with various Russian universities, providing students with grants and subsidies for specialized education and research as well as training initiatives.⁵²¹

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Education noted that more than 600,000 youth took part in the XIV International Congress [of] Young Professionals to discuss issues on improving and developing college education further in the country.⁵²² First Deputy Minister of Education Dmitry Glushko “recalled the need to involve business representatives in the secondary vocational educational system so that the enterprises [and] customers [could participate] in assessing the quality of training,” and prepare college students for the workforce.⁵²³ Furthermore, Director of WorldSkills Russia Academy Svetlana Kraichinskaya stressed the need for greater vocational training programs that could adapt to the modern economy.⁵²⁴

On 16 January 2021, the Russian Institute for Development of Vocational Education and Center for Advanced Vocational Training announced a joint agreement with Uzbekistan to facilitate greater interaction and cooperation among vocational institutes in both countries.⁵²⁵ “In particular, the parties discussed convergence of approaches to formation of professional standards and content of vocational education, development of cooperation within ...World Skills International ...[and organizing] early vocational guidance for schoolchildren.”⁵²⁶

On 24 February 2021, the Ministry of Education announced the creation of the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, intended to “become a platform uniting students and alumni, as well as teachers and employers in the system of vocational education and training for persons with disabilities and health limitations.”⁵²⁷

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Education announced that Russian teachers would resume full-time teaching at schools in Kyrgyzstan.⁵²⁸ Around 29 teachers were sent to Kyrgyzstan in 2021 to teach schoolchildren Russian and other general subjects as part of the Russian Teacher Abroad

⁵²¹ Specialized educational research center at SFedU: first successes, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Date Accessed: 1 May 2021. <https://sfedu.ru/www2/web/press-center/news/65503>

⁵²² More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

⁵²³ More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

⁵²⁴ More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

⁵²⁵ Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

⁵²⁶ Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

⁵²⁷ Ministry of Education of Russia created the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2261/ministry-of-education-of-russia-created-the-federal-methodological-center-for-inclusive-education/>

⁵²⁸ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

program.⁵²⁹ The program, which was started in 2019, has seen local children “improve their reading skills, show interest in literature and participate in Russian Olympiads.”⁵³⁰

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Education Sergey Kravtsov announced that more than 60 centres for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021.⁵³¹ He said, “Such centres will inform about the opportunities for advanced training in the region and provide methodological support for supplementary education programs for teachers.”⁵³² The centres are aimed at analyzing the existing system of supplementary education in the country.⁵³³

On 22 March 2021, Deputy Minister Glushko met with Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyzstan Nadira Dzhusupbekova.⁵³⁴ During the meeting, they announced that the two countries will continue their collaborative efforts in the field of education, including the implementation of the joint project “Russian Teacher Abroad.”⁵³⁵ The project requires Russia to share in the organization of hot school meals and creation of educational infrastructure.⁵³⁶ Deputy Minister Glushko reiterated Russia’s commitment by pledging to send more Russian teachers to Kyrgyzstan.⁵³⁷

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin met with the President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades.⁵³⁸ He supported the continued bilateral relations between the two countries and called for a strengthening of ties.⁵³⁹ Further, he reaffirmed expanding cooperation in education and youth exchanges and stressed that many Cypriot students are attending Russian Universities with financial aid granted by the federal government.⁵⁴⁰

⁵²⁹ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

⁵³⁰ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

⁵³¹ More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

⁵³² More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

⁵³³ More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

⁵³⁴ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

⁵³⁵ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

⁵³⁶ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

⁵³⁷ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

⁵³⁸ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

⁵³⁹ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

⁵⁴⁰ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

On 29 March 2021, during a meeting with deputy prime ministers, Prime Minister Mishustin remarked that loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be fast tracked.⁵⁴¹ This initiative comes off the back of last year's reduction in preferential rates for SMEs and the self-employed.⁵⁴² Prime Minister Mishustin concluded, "small businesses will be able to simply apply for preferential leasing support which will make it possible for them to expand or upgrade their production at no extra cost."⁵⁴³

On 20 July 2021, Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko launched an educational course for heads of digital transformation to further digital development in Russia.⁵⁴⁴

On 13 September, First Deputy Minister of Education of the Russian Federation Alexander Bugaev announced the development of the WorldSkills projects to transform Russia's vocational education.⁵⁴⁵

Russia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers through working with regional partners to improve education opportunities, renovating and expanding training programs for discouraged workers, and providing extensive financial support for SMEs and entrepreneurs to promote innovation. Russia has taken no action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for women.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 5 January 2021, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman signed several legal reforms as a part of the Saudi Vision 2030 that are designed to diversify the economy away from oil and achieve justice, especially for women, and accountability in a move towards codified law.⁵⁴⁶ The announcement of the reforms made special mention of women who have long held an inferior status to men.⁵⁴⁷ Prince bin Salman stated, "discrepancies in court rulings have led to a lack of clarity in the rules governing

⁵⁴¹Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

⁵⁴²Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

⁵⁴³Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

⁵⁴⁴ Dmitry Chernyshenko: The task of the regions is to ensure high-quality implementation of digital transformation strategies, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Date Accessed: 23 July 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42817/>

⁵⁴⁵ Alexander Bugaev: Through WorldSkills projects we update the entire system of secondary vocational education in Russia, The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 September 2021. Date Accessed: 13 September 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2343/alexander-bugaev-through-worldskills-projects-we-update-the-entire-system-of-secondary-vocational-education-in-russia/>

⁵⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

⁵⁴⁷ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

the incidents and practices, and has hurt many, mostly women.”⁵⁴⁸ The reforms are expected to bring clarity to the legal system and spur women’s rights in the countries.⁵⁴⁹

On 10 February 2021, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) General Authority announced the launch of the fourth edition of the Intelligence Pioneers Program.⁵⁵⁰ The goal of the program is to help SMEs “reduce operational costs, raise efficiency and find new sources of income.”⁵⁵¹ The SMEs that sign up for the program will be assigned a mentor for each facility to aid in adoption of technology and achievement of the Kingdom’s 2030 vision.⁵⁵²

On 7 March 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) launched the Professional Verification program.⁵⁵³ The program will introduce examinations in specialized fields to assess workers’ skills and improve the quality of labor in the country.⁵⁵⁴ It is expected that the new regulation will create job opportunities in the private sector and in SMEs.⁵⁵⁵ Further, young Saudis have been encouraged to join newly created professional centres to enhance their capabilities.⁵⁵⁶

On 9 March 2021, HRSD held a meeting for the Under Secretary for Empowerment of Women Hind Al Zahid who spoke about efforts to empower women and the role of women in economic development.⁵⁵⁷

On 29 March 2021, SMEs General Authority launched the SME Bank.⁵⁵⁸ The bank focuses on providing for all of SMEs financial needs through the digital platform, ensuring quick and easy access.⁵⁵⁹ The initiative is in line with the national strategy for SMEs and will act as an umbrella for

⁵⁴⁸ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

⁵⁴⁹ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

⁵⁵⁰ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

⁵⁵¹ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

⁵⁵² Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

⁵⁵³ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁵⁴ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁵⁵ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁵⁶ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁵⁷ The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development celebrates the International Women’s Day, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://hrsd.gov.sa/ar/node/810122>

⁵⁵⁸ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

⁵⁵⁹ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

all financing solution including lending.⁵⁶⁰ It is hoped that the bank will increase opportunities for growth and prosperity for SMEs.⁵⁶¹

On 4 April 2021, the King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba) announced the discovery of more than 11,000 students from its National Program for Gifted Students.⁵⁶² The recognized students received access to the specialized services of Mawhiba, facilitating greater exposure of these youth to world-class educational opportunities.⁵⁶³

On 12 April 2021, the Digital Cooperation Organization met for the first time, appointing Saudi national Deemah Alyahya as its first secretary general.⁵⁶⁴ The meeting passed five initiatives regarding women empowerment and the promotion of SMEs, focusing on digital transformation.⁵⁶⁵

On 20 April 2021, the Future Women Society (FWS), which was founded under the HRSD, launched a research, innovation and development unit to further advance the position of women and their inclusion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.⁵⁶⁶ This unit was launched in recognition of the fact that the role of women in technology still remains low, and forms a part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030's goals.⁵⁶⁷ Chairperson of the FWS Gareebah Al-Twaiher noted that "FWS is working on building its own financial model to achieve financial sustainability that relies on inventing knowledge-based products generating a capital for investment."⁵⁶⁸

On 8 July 2021, the Industrial Development Fund Academy announced the completion of 15 training programs for the first half of 2021.⁵⁶⁹ Those programs were attended by 1,400 trainees from 370 entities.⁵⁷⁰ The program included specialized areas in the fields of finance, business, innovation, and digitization. They were also organized in collaboration with training providers from all around the world. The Academy aims to expand the programs for non-specialized candidates.⁵⁷¹

⁵⁶⁰ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

⁵⁶¹ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

⁵⁶² Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁶³ Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

⁵⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

⁵⁶⁶ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁶⁷ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁶⁸ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁶⁹ Government and Private Entities Benefit from SIDF Academy Programs 370, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2252733>

⁵⁷⁰ Government and Private Entities Benefit from SIDF Academy Programs 370, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2252733>

⁵⁷¹ Government and Private Entities Benefit from SIDF Academy Programs 370, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2252733>

On 9 July 2021, the Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones called on women aged over 18 to apply to the Apple Developer Academy.⁵⁷² This program was open to all females regardless of their prior coding background and allowed Tuwaiq to become Apple's first educational training center on the Middle East.⁵⁷³ Selected candidates receive skills and training to find and create jobs.⁵⁷⁴

On 12 July 2021, the SME Bank and the French Public Investment Bank signed an agreement to transfer expertise and best practices for the SME sector.⁵⁷⁵ This agreement aligns with Saudi Vision 2030 because it aims to increase the contribution of SMEs to the GDP by 35 per cent by 2030.⁵⁷⁶

On 13 July 2021, the Social Development Bank (SDB) announced a plan to increase lending to small businesses.⁵⁷⁷ The SDB has already provided SR1.6 billion in the first half of 2021.⁵⁷⁸ The aim of this plan is to support projects without the need for financial guarantees.⁵⁷⁹

On 12 August 2021, the Saudi General Authority for Competition imposed USD9.3 million in fines on companies that violated competition rules. Those nine fined companies were abusing a dominant position without informing the authorities, which negatively impacts SMEs. Therefore, fining companies that breach competition laws provides protection for the operation of SMEs.⁵⁸⁰

On 22 August 2021, Saudi Arabia had achieved unparalleled achievement in entrepreneurship indicators this year, according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report. This achievement was made across different variables including availability of good opportunities to start a business, ease of starting a business, entrepreneurs' response to the pandemic, and the Kingdom's government response to the pandemic. This is in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 to empower entrepreneurship. Despite the obstacles imposed by COVID-19, the Ministry of Commerce was able to contribute greatly to place Saudi Arabia among the top countries in the world.⁵⁸¹

On 22 August 2021, the Ministry of Commerce announced that SMEs will be exempt from commerce fees register for three years to help increase the number of startups in the country. Following this exemption, the Ministry also plans to resume fees in the fourth and fifth year, but at a

⁵⁷² Call for women to apply to Apple academy in Riyadh, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 July 2021. Access Date: July 26 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1891076/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁷³ Call for women to apply to Apple academy in Riyadh, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 July 2021. Access Date: July 26 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1891076/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁷⁴ Call for women to apply to Apple academy in Riyadh, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 July 2021. Access Date: July 26 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1891076/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁷⁵ BPI France and Saudi SME Bank sign best practice agreement, Arab News (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1893096/business-economy>

⁵⁷⁶ BPI France and Saudi SME Bank sign best practice agreement, Arab News (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1893096/business-economy>

⁵⁷⁷ Saudi Social Development Bank plans to boost lending, Zawya (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi_Social_Development_Bank_plans_to_boost_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/

⁵⁷⁸ Saudi Social Development Bank plans to boost lending, Zawya (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi_Social_Development_Bank_plans_to_boost_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/

⁵⁷⁹ Saudi Social Development Bank plans to boost lending, Zawya (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi_Social_Development_Bank_plans_to_boost_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/

⁵⁸⁰ Saudi trade body hands out \$9.3m in anti-competition fines in 2020, Arab News (Riyadh) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1910121/business-economy>

⁵⁸¹ Saudi Arabia ranks first globally in four entrepreneurship indicators, Zawya (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Saudi_Arabia_ranks_first_globally_in_four_entrepreneurship_indicators-ZAWYA20210822081100/

reduced rate of SAR500 for entrepreneurs and SAR200 for entrepreneurs with a capital of less than SAR375,000 and whose employees do not exceed five.⁵⁸²

On 25 August 2021, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology launched a series of initiatives that aim to improve Saudi Arabia's global ranking in digital areas. One of such programs is called Hima, which encourages innovation in enterprises with a value of USD670 million. Therefore, this initiative will be beneficial for the growth of SMEs.⁵⁸³

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, as well as in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth and upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sara Mostafa

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 29 November 2020, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane led the South African youth delegates to the 6th BRICS Summit.⁵⁸⁴ The BRICS Youth Summit aims to increase youth participation in programmes and address policies to empower young people.⁵⁸⁵ The specific goal of South Africa at the summit was to provide youth with skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields.⁵⁸⁶ South Africa's priorities included "creating employment in areas with high absorption capacity such as the fourth industrial revolution, ocean economy, green economy, mineral resources and energy, tourism, manufacturing; supporting young entrepreneurs; promoting market access as well as free and fair trade amongst the BRICS nations; and youth volunteer exchange promotion."⁵⁸⁷

On 18 December 2020, the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs partnered with Standard Bank to announce the launch of the Yes4Youth Programme.⁵⁸⁸ This programme provides unemployed youth with work experience and introduces

⁵⁸² Saudi SMEs get 3-year exemption from commerce fees, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1915356/business-economy>

⁵⁸³ Saudi Arabia launches tech initiatives to boost Kingdom's global ranking and create more start-ups, Arab News (Riyadh) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1917156/business-economy>

⁵⁸⁴ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁵⁸⁵ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁵⁸⁶ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁵⁸⁷ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁵⁸⁸ Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

them to business and entrepreneurship by placing them in micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the province.⁵⁸⁹

On 18 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with the China National Academy of Governance to offer courses to middle and senior managers in public service on governance and emergency management.⁵⁹⁰ This partnership aims to train public servants in governance and emergency response.⁵⁹¹ The course will cover China's governance model for development outcomes, the capacity of the state to deal with emergencies and the Chinese model of disaster management and the management of Covid-19.⁵⁹²

On 19 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France to offer courses on Public Affairs Management in the Digital Era and Leadership in Times of Crisis and Complexity to public servants.⁵⁹³ This partnership aims to train public servants in leadership management and digital transformation in order to reduce the gap between public administration and the changing digital world.⁵⁹⁴

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Small Business Development along with its agency Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) partnered with the Department of Tourism to launch the Tourism Equity Fund.⁵⁹⁵ The SEFA will provide up to ZAR15 million per enterprise. MSMEs will also receive mentorship support, market access, and investment monitoring.⁵⁹⁶ The Tourism Equity Fund seeks to provide both financial and non-financial support for MSMEs in the growing tourism industry.⁵⁹⁷

On 9 February 2021, Minister for Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni and the National Youth Development Agency hosted a webinar to follow up on the MSME and cooperative

⁵⁸⁹ Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

⁵⁹⁰ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁵⁹¹ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁵⁹² School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁵⁹³ School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-high-level-training-public-servants-crisis-leadership-management-and>

⁵⁹⁴ School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-high-level-training-public-servants-crisis-leadership-management-and>

⁵⁹⁵ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

⁵⁹⁶ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

⁵⁹⁷ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

commitments made in the 2020 State of the National Address.⁵⁹⁸ The goal is to update the public on the progress of the 1,000 small, micro and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives that participated in the programme supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa.⁵⁹⁹

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni presented the 2021 budget.⁶⁰⁰ The budget includes a ZAR11 billion increase devoted to public employment programs to fund the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative.⁶⁰¹ The budget also includes an allocation of ZAR4 billion over the medium term to township and rural enterprises.⁶⁰² These budget allocations aim to create jobs for young people, as well as increased funding for MSMEs.⁶⁰³

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the virtual engagement MSMEs and Cooperatives to follow up on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan presented in October 2020.⁶⁰⁴ President Ramaphosa acknowledged the success of the actions taken to aid MSMEs and cooperatives as well as specified further action that will be taken to aid these enterprises.⁶⁰⁵

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa held a virtual discussion with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to discuss commitments to advancing economic inclusion for women in Africa.⁶⁰⁶ The goal was to address the challenges of empowerment for African women and to develop tangible action for economic and digital liberation.⁶⁰⁷

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane hosted a webinar to commemorate International Women Day.⁶⁰⁸ The webinar provided a platform for the Women in Tourism Programme to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and mitigation methods.⁶⁰⁹

⁵⁹⁸ Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

⁵⁹⁹ Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

⁶⁰⁰ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁶⁰¹ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁶⁰² Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁶⁰³ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁶⁰⁴ Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁶⁰⁵ Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁶⁰⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>
⁶⁰⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁶⁰⁸ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza announced the commitment to improving opportunities for youth post-COVID-19.⁶¹⁰ This commitment aims to develop strategies to deal with poverty and inequality and achieve social cohesion by targeting women, youth, and people with disabilities.⁶¹¹

On 25 March 2021, President Ramaphosa chaired the 30th African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).⁶¹² The goal of the APRM is to “promote the African Union’s shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development.”⁶¹³ The APRM has developed workshops and training programmes focused on vocational education in order to meet the goals of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.⁶¹⁴

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande welcomed the partnership of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA), Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun at the PSETA-Microsoft-Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa (GSISA) Launch.⁶¹⁵ The GSISA is a public-private partnership between the PSETA, Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun to provide digital skills to youth in South Africa.⁶¹⁶

On 7 May 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza visited Nkomazi Local Municipality in Ehlanzeni District of the Mpumalanga Province for the Digital Skills Outreach Programme through the invitation by Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.⁶¹⁷ The programme is part of Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams’s effort to maximize investment in the

⁶⁰⁹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

⁶¹⁰ Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

⁶¹¹ Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

⁶¹² Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁶¹³ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁶¹⁴ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁶¹⁵ Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁶¹⁶ Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁶¹⁷ Deputy President David Mabuza visits the Mpumalanga Province for digital skills outreach programme, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/deputy-president-david-mabuza-visits-mpumalanga-province-digital-skills-outreach-programme>

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in order to create competitive business opportunities and stimulate growth of the ICT industry.⁶¹⁸

On 21 May 2021, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma partnered with Chief Executive Officer of the National Youth Development Agency Waseem Carrim to host a Youth Hackathon Consultative Session.⁶¹⁹ The goal of the hackathon is to involve youth in the building of new democratic cities.⁶²⁰ Minister Dlamini Zuma acknowledged the important role that youth have on the future of development of democratic cities.⁶²¹

On 1 June 2021, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and the National Youth Development Agency partnered with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to launch Youth Month 2021.⁶²² This year's Youth Month was themed "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society" to commemorate the 150 year birth anniversary of human rights campaigner Charlotte Mannya Maxeke.⁶²³ The goal of Youth Month is to promote inclusive growth and constitutional rights for all youth.⁶²⁴

On 1 June 2021 the Department of Water and Sanitation made available bursaries for students interested in the water and sanitation industry.⁶²⁵ The bursaries are available to students that have been accepted into mainstream South African Institutions of Higher Learning and cover "full tuition fees, accommodation and food as per university guidance, books and stationery allowance and a

⁶¹⁸ Deputy President David Mabuza visits the Mpumalanga Province for digital skills outreach programme, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/deputy-president-david-mabuza-visits-mpumalanga-province-digital-skills-outreach-programme>

⁶¹⁹ Minister Dlamini Zuma in Partnership with the NYDA will Host a Consultative Session (Hackathon) with the Youth on Building New Democratic Cities, Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2021/05/20/minister-dlamini-zuma-in-partnership-with-the-nyda-will-host-a-consultative-session-hackathon-with-the-youth-on-building-new-democratic-cities/>

⁶²⁰ Minister Dlamini Zuma in Partnership with the NYDA will Host a Consultative Session (Hackathon) with the Youth on Building New Democratic Cities, Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2021/05/20/minister-dlamini-zuma-in-partnership-with-the-nyda-will-host-a-consultative-session-hackathon-with-the-youth-on-building-new-democratic-cities/>

⁶²¹ Minister Dlamini Zuma in Partnership with the NYDA will Host a Consultative Session (Hackathon) with the Youth on Building New Democratic Cities, Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2021/05/20/minister-dlamini-zuma-in-partnership-with-the-nyda-will-host-a-consultative-session-hackathon-with-the-youth-on-building-new-democratic-cities/>

⁶²² Government launches Youth Month 2021 under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-launches-youth-month-2021-under-theme-year-charlotte-mannya-maxeke-growing-youth>

⁶²³ Government launches Youth Month 2021 under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-launches-youth-month-2021-under-theme-year-charlotte-mannya-maxeke-growing-youth>

⁶²⁴ Government launches Youth Month 2021 under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-launches-youth-month-2021-under-theme-year-charlotte-mannya-maxeke-growing-youth>

⁶²⁵ Water and Sanitation on bursaries available for youth interested in the sector, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-department-makes-bursaries-available-youth-interested-sector-8-jun>

monthly stipend.”⁶²⁶ The bursaries are available for the first and second year of study and aim to target disadvantaged and impoverished students.⁶²⁷

On 5 June 2021, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu opened the Lulwazi Lwethu Youth Skills Centre in Nyanga Township, Cape Town.⁶²⁸ Minister Zulu launched the centre in response to rising youth unemployment rates. The centre will offer youth training programmes to enhance skills and prepare youth for the future of work.⁶²⁹

On 11 June 2021, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela hosted a Mining Skills Workshop with the Mining Qualification Authority at the Waterberg Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Campus in Limpopo.⁶³⁰ The goal was to introduce TVET students, high school students and unemployed youth to opportunities in the local mining sector, as well as build a relationship between mining companies and the college to increase future employment opportunities.⁶³¹

On 13 June 2021, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosted a webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day.⁶³² The goal of the webinar was to bring awareness to the daily challenges faced by people with albinism, including human rights violations

⁶²⁶ Water and Sanitation on bursaries available for youth interested in the sector, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-department-makes-bursaries-available-youth-interested-sector-8-jun>

⁶²⁷ Water and Sanitation on bursaries available for youth interested in the sector, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-department-makes-bursaries-available-youth-interested-sector-8-jun>

⁶²⁸ Minister Zulu To Officially Open Lulwazi Lethu Youth Skills Centre In Nyanga, Department of Social Development (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php/21-latest-news/364-03-june-2021-cape-town-the-latest-quarterly-labour-force-survey-recently-released-by-statistics-south-africa-stats-sa-paints-a-grim-picture-on-youth-unemployment-it-shows-that-unemployment-increased-by-0-1-to-32-6-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021-from-32-5-in-the-last-quarter-of-2020?highlight=WyJsdWx3YXppliwbGV0aHUilLCJ5b3V0aCIsInNraWxscylInNraWxscyciLCJjZW50cmUiLCJjZW50cmUncylslmx1bHdhemkGbGV0aHUilLCJsdWx3YXppIGxldGh1IHlvdXRoliwbGV0aHUgeW91dGgiLCJsZXRodSB5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMgY2VudHJliiwic2tpbGxzIGNlbnRyZSjd>

⁶²⁹ Minister Zulu To Officially Open Lulwazi Lethu Youth Skills Centre In Nyanga, Department of Social Development (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php/21-latest-news/364-03-june-2021-cape-town-the-latest-quarterly-labour-force-survey-recently-released-by-statistics-south-africa-stats-sa-paints-a-grim-picture-on-youth-unemployment-it-shows-that-unemployment-increased-by-0-1-to-32-6-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021-from-32-5-in-the-last-quarter-of-2020?highlight=WyJsdWx3YXppliwbGV0aHUilLCJ5b3V0aCIsInNraWxscylInNraWxscyciLCJjZW50cmUiLCJjZW50cmUncylslmx1bHdhemkGbGV0aHUilLCJsdWx3YXppIGxldGh1IHlvdXRoliwbGV0aHUgeW91dGgiLCJsZXRodSB5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMgY2VudHJliiwic2tpbGxzIGNlbnRyZSjd>

⁶³⁰ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts Mining Skills Workshop, 11 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-mining-skills-workshop-11-jun-10-jun-2021-0000>

⁶³¹ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts Mining Skills Workshop, 11 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-mining-skills-workshop-11-jun-10-jun-2021-0000>

⁶³² Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosts webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, 13 Jun, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-hosts-webinar-commemorate-international-albinism>

and violent crimes.⁶³³ The department acknowledges that children with albinism are especially in need of protection due to risks of being kidnapped and murdered as part of “barbaric practises.”⁶³⁴

On 15 June 2021, the Government Communications and Information System partnered with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Technologies to host a Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities.⁶³⁵ The goal of the class is to give youth the digital skills for the changing technological landscape.⁶³⁶

On 16 June 2021, President Ramaphosa delivered a speech celebrating Youth Day.⁶³⁷ President Ramaphosa acknowledged the high youth employment rate and stated that youth are at the centre of national recovery.⁶³⁸ President Ramaphosa announced the launch of mPowa, a platform that aims to provide unemployed youth and entrepreneurs information about services and support in their area.⁶³⁹ President Ramaphosa stated the commitment of the administration to ensuring youth have access to opportunities in order to better themselves, their communities, and the economy.⁶⁴⁰

On 24 June 2021, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela hosted the “backchat” session which focuses on youth and entrepreneurship.⁶⁴¹ The backchat sessions allow for unmediated discussions between Deputy Minister Manamela and youth including

⁶³³ Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosts webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, 13 Jun, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-hosts-webinar-commemorate-international-albinism>

⁶³⁴ Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosts webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, 13 Jun, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-hosts-webinar-commemorate-international-albinism>

⁶³⁵ Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities: 15 Jun, Government Communications and Information System (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-15-jun>

⁶³⁶ Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities: 15 Jun, Government Communications and Information System (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-15-jun>

⁶³⁷ Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

⁶³⁸ Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

⁶³⁹ Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

⁶⁴⁰ Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

⁶⁴¹ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts virtual "backchat" session in celebration of Youth Month, 24 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-virtual-backchat-session-celebration-youth-month-23-jun>

young writers, activists, and students.⁶⁴² The goal of the session was to help South African youth realize and reach their potential.⁶⁴³

On 12 July 2021, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renewed the call to end gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).⁶⁴⁴ Cases of GBVF remain high in the country and evidence suggests that COVID-19 lockdowns in the country impacted the ability of women to report incidents or seek help through typical channels.⁶⁴⁵ Minister Nkoana-Mashabane urged citizens to be part of the fight against GBVF.⁶⁴⁶

On 20 July 2021, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Nomalungelo Gina acknowledged the virtual launch of the Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry Policy report.⁶⁴⁷ The report is part of the Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry” programme, a joint collaboration between the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, United Nations Women and the German government.⁶⁴⁸ The goal of the report is to assist policymakers in adopting and implementing a framework to integrate gender into the green industry policies and encourage women into the green industry.⁶⁴⁹

On 20 July 2021, President Ramaphosa convened a virtual meeting of government and business leaders to discuss priorities for economic recovery.⁶⁵⁰ The business leaders in attendance included

⁶⁴² Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts virtual "backchat" session in celebration of Youth Month, 24 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-virtual-backchat-session-celebration-youth-month-23-jun>

⁶⁴³ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts virtual "backchat" session in celebration of Youth Month, 24 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-virtual-backchat-session-celebration-youth-month-23-jun>

⁶⁴⁴ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renews calls to end gender-based violence and femicide, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-renews-calls-end-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-12-jul>

⁶⁴⁵ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renews calls to end gender-based violence and femicide, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-renews-calls-end-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-12-jul>

⁶⁴⁶ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renews calls to end gender-based violence and femicide, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-renews-calls-end-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-12-jul>

⁶⁴⁷ Deputy Minister Gina welcomes report on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/deputy-minister-gina-welcomes-report-on-empowerment-of-women-in-the-green-industry/?hilitte=%27empowerment%27%2C%27women%27>

⁶⁴⁸ Deputy Minister Gina welcomes report on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/deputy-minister-gina-welcomes-report-on-empowerment-of-women-in-the-green-industry/?hilitte=%27empowerment%27%2C%27women%27>

⁶⁴⁹How can more women power the transition to green industry?, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/how-can-more-women-power-transition-green-industry>

⁶⁵⁰ Government and business leaders agree on priorities for economic recovery, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/government-and-business-leaders-agree-priorities-economic-recovery>

those that were affected by the civil unrest that occurred in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.⁶⁵¹ Discussions in the meeting included steps to help small businesses claim insurance and access support, as well as suggestions for long term inclusive economic growth.⁶⁵²

On 29 July 2021, Deputy Minister Manamela held a Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment.⁶⁵³ The session included a diverse panel including ministers, CEOs, and project managers.⁶⁵⁴ The session aimed to develop practical solutions to youth unemployment and to improve youth skills.⁶⁵⁵

On 30 July 2021, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane virtually launched Women's Month 2021.⁶⁵⁶ This year's Women's Month was themed "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Realizing Women's Rights" to further commemorate the 150 year birth anniversary of Charlotte Manna Maxeke.⁶⁵⁷ The goal of observing Women's Month is to end gender discrimination, confront the challenges faced by women, improve rights for women, acknowledge the achievements made by women role models, and guide women away from poverty and toward generational wealth.⁶⁵⁸

On 9 August 2021, President Ramaphosa celebrated National Women's Day.⁶⁵⁹ President Ramaphosa announced the release of the one-year progress report of the National Strategic Plan which aims to end gender-based violence and femicide.⁶⁶⁰ Since its implementation, the plan has

⁶⁵¹ Government and business leaders agree on priorities for economic recovery, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/government-and-business-leaders-agree-priorities-economic-recovery>

⁶⁵² Government and business leaders agree on priorities for economic recovery, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/government-and-business-leaders-agree-priorities-economic-recovery>

⁶⁵³ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela holds Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-holds-backchat-session-youth-skills-and-unemployment-29-jul>

⁶⁵⁴ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela holds Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-holds-backchat-session-youth-skills-and-unemployment-29-jul>

⁶⁵⁵ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela holds Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-holds-backchat-session-youth-skills-and-unemployment-29-jul>

⁶⁵⁶ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁶⁵⁷ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁶⁵⁸ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane launches Women's Month, 30 Jul, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launches-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-29-jul-2021-0000>

⁶⁵⁹ Message from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of women's day, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/message-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-women%E2%80%99s-day%2C-9-august-2021>

⁶⁶⁰ Message from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of women's day, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/message-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-women%E2%80%99s-day%2C-9-august-2021>

helped to train approximately 3500 Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences investigating officers and improve legislation to protect victims of domestic violence.⁶⁶¹

On 17 August 2021, the Department of Trade Industry and Competition and J.P. Morgan announced a new fund to assist small and medium South African business in the manufacturing and green sectors.⁶⁶² The program launched by Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel and Senior Country Officer of J.P. Morgan South Africa Kevin Latter offers ZAR340 million in financing support to qualifying businesses over an eight-year period.⁶⁶³

On 25 August 2021, Minister for the Public Service and Administration Ayanda Dlodlo invited public servants to enrol in a four-week, online course offered by the National School of Government to improve their policy drafting skills.⁶⁶⁴ The course focuses on the Socio Economic Impact Assessment System which aims to improve the quality of legislation.⁶⁶⁵ The course targets government officials and public office bearers at the national, provincial, and local level.⁶⁶⁶

On 30 August 2021, the Government Communication and Information System's International Media Engagement hosted a webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality.⁶⁶⁷ The event focused on providing a platform for women across sectors to speak under the banner of "What Women Want."⁶⁶⁸ The goal of the event was to allow the media and various stakeholders to have a conversation on empowering women and gender equality in order to achieve inclusive growth.⁶⁶⁹

⁶⁶¹ Message from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of women's day, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/message-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-women%E2%80%99s-day%2C-9-august-2021>

⁶⁶² The dtic and J.P. Morgan Announce First Equity Equivalent Investment Programme, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/the-dtic-and-j-p-morgan-announce-first-equity-equivalent-investment-programme/?hilite=%27morgan%27>

⁶⁶³ The dtic and J.P. Morgan Announce First Equity Equivalent Investment Programme, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/the-dtic-and-j-p-morgan-announce-first-equity-equivalent-investment-programme/?hilite=%27morgan%27>

⁶⁶⁴ Minister Dlodlo invites public servants to sharpen their policy making skills through NSG Course, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ayanda-dlodlo-invites-public-servants-sharpen-their-policy-making-skills-through>

⁶⁶⁵ Minister Dlodlo invites public servants to sharpen their policy making skills through NSG Course, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ayanda-dlodlo-invites-public-servants-sharpen-their-policy-making-skills-through>

⁶⁶⁶ Minister Dlodlo invites public servants to sharpen their policy making skills through NSG Course, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ayanda-dlodlo-invites-public-servants-sharpen-their-policy-making-skills-through>

⁶⁶⁷ Government hosts Africa's Webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-hosts-africa%E2%80%99s-webinar-informing-empowering-women-and-enhancing>

⁶⁶⁸ Government hosts Africa's Webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-hosts-africa%E2%80%99s-webinar-informing-empowering-women-and-enhancing>

⁶⁶⁹ Government hosts Africa's Webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-hosts-africa%E2%80%99s-webinar-informing-empowering-women-and-enhancing>

On 31 August 2021, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe launched the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy.⁶⁷⁰ The strategy is built on four pillars that prioritize creating an environment for policy-making, equal opportunity, gender mainstreaming, and ensuring a barrier-free workplace.⁶⁷¹ The goal of this strategy is to encourage women participants in the energy sector through equal rights, opportunities, and economic empowerment.⁶⁷² The strategy is planned to be implemented over a five year period.⁶⁷³

On 31 August 2021, the Department of Basic Education briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the progress of the Matric Second Chance Programme and on the training of science and mathematics teachers in targeted low performing districts.⁶⁷⁴ The Matric Second Chance Programme, which was first piloted in January 2016, aims to increase participation and performance in the National Senior Certificate or Senior Certificate examinations and improve the access to resources for subjects with high enrolment.⁶⁷⁵ This year, the programme was responsible for the establishment of 105 face-to-face support centres for high enrolment subjects.⁶⁷⁶

On 31 August 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that the Department of Higher Education and Training began creating the Scarce, Critical Skills and the Occupations in High Demand lists to facilitate programme offerings and student enrolments in Post-school Education and Training institutions.⁶⁷⁷ The Skills Strategy is being finalized by the Department of Higher Education and Training, and the Innovation Strategy is being finalized by the Department of Science and

⁶⁷⁰ Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

⁶⁷¹ Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

⁶⁷² Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

⁶⁷³ Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

⁶⁷⁴ Basic Education briefs portfolio committees on Matric Second Chance Programme and training of Mathematics and Science teachers in targeted districts, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-briefs-portfolio-committees-matric-second-chance-programme-and-training>

⁶⁷⁵ Basic Education briefs portfolio committees on Matric Second Chance Programme and training of Mathematics and Science teachers in targeted districts, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-briefs-portfolio-committees-matric-second-chance-programme-and-training>

⁶⁷⁶ Basic Education briefs portfolio committees on Matric Second Chance Programme and training of Mathematics and Science teachers in targeted districts, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-briefs-portfolio-committees-matric-second-chance-programme-and-training>

⁶⁷⁷ Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation statement on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Advisory%20and%20Statements%202021/STATEMENT%20ON%20SCARCE,%20CRITICAL%20SKILLS%20AND%20ALIGNMENT%20ON%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

Innovation.⁶⁷⁸ Placements for graduates are being planned for an easy transition into the workforce and assist with the work experience required for permanent employment.⁶⁷⁹

South Africa has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the 16 Days Campaign of No-Violence Against Women and Children, the domestic and international partnerships to upskill youth and workers as well as the development of the tourism industry for SMEs, South Africa has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rebecca Jones

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On October 8, 2020, Turkey introduced the “My Digital Job Project,” to be run from January 2020 to June 2021 by the Turkish Vodafone Foundation and Turkish Occupation Institution.⁶⁸⁰ The aim of the project is to increase the literacy and digital vocational competencies of women to increase their employability through training in digital and technology education as well as boosting social media and marketing literacy skills.⁶⁸¹

On 28 January 2021, Youth and Sports Minister Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoglu met with Sivas Mayor Hilmi Bilgin, Sivas Governor Salih Ayhan and others to discuss protocols regarding youth and sports investment.⁶⁸² Kasapoglu said, “Our youth investments show a serious development all over our country. We have to move higher within the framework of the cooperation I have just mentioned. We strengthen this with investments. so far, there is a youth and sports investment of over TRY1 billion.”⁶⁸³

⁶⁷⁸ Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation statement on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Advisory%20and%20Statements%202021/STATEMENT%20ON%20SCARCE,%20CRITICAL%20SKILLS%20AND%20ALIGNMENT%20ON%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

⁶⁷⁹ Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation statement on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Advisory%20and%20Statements%202021/STATEMENT%20ON%20SCARCE,%20CRITICAL%20SKILLS%20AND%20ALIGNMENT%20ON%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

⁶⁸⁰ National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en

⁶⁸¹ National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en

⁶⁸² Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

⁶⁸³ Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a memorandum with secondary education institutions to provide 100 per cent scholarship opportunities to national athletes.⁶⁸⁴ Minister Kasapoglu remarked that this agreement paves the way for free education of and offers youth both a sporting and an academic career.⁶⁸⁵ He added that the goal going forward is to implement this practice in all levels of education.⁶⁸⁶

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology announced it would support 30,000 entrepreneurs and 132 SMEs “to improve their knowledge and skills in starting and running a business” by assisting them in opening up to international markets and facilitating production and manufacturing.⁶⁸⁷

On 3 April 2021, Minister of Family, Labor and Social Services Zehra Selçuk announced that the “Turkey’s Daughters Engineer Project” has reached 22,500 high school students.⁶⁸⁸ She said, “we launched in support of girls who want to be engineers’ Turkey’s Project Engineer in the form of two daughters are continuing program, including high school and college.” According to the program, 150 volunteer teachers will introduce Engineering activities to female students through training, games, virtual reality and role model meetings.

On 4 April 2021, Minister Kasapoğlu delivered remarks at the 7th International Young Businessmen Congress, noting that “Today, young entrepreneurs are the locomotive of the world economy.”⁶⁸⁹ Minister Kasapoğlu outlined several initiatives Turkey has implemented, including providing “comprehensive services to young people in all fields, with workshops [for] coding, robotics, software studies and support for initiative project,” through “youth centers, youth camps, academies and youth clubs.”⁶⁹⁰

On 6 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced that the Female Entrepreneurship Rate had increased to 19.3 per cent upwards from 15 per cent as of the last count.⁶⁹¹ Through the establishment of “women’s cooperatives” that take into account Turkey’s cultural and religious values, approximately 216 thousand women were involved, with plans to expand the number of cooperatives across the

⁶⁸⁴ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁶⁸⁵ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁶⁸⁶ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁶⁸⁷ KOSGEB Will Support 30 Thousand Entrepreneurs This Year, KOSGEB (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.kosgeb.gov.tr/site/tr/genel/detay/7745/kosgeb-bu-yil-30-bin-girisimciyi-destekleyecek>

⁶⁸⁸ Selçuk Minister: “Turkey’s Daughters Project Engineer 22,500 75 high school students Reaching”, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 3 April 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/tr-tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-turkiye-nin-muhendis-kizlari-projesi-ile-75-lisede-22-500-ogrenciye-ulastik/>

⁶⁸⁹ Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

⁶⁹⁰ Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

⁶⁹¹ Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

country over the coming year through the novel “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives.”⁶⁹²

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced the implementation of the “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives,” aiming “to provide awareness training to eight thousand people in order to increase women’s employment and strengthen women’s cooperatives.” Approximately 3,500 cooperatives are expected to be established in conjunction with non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, unions and universities, along with new provisions for consultant groups for women’s entrepreneurship.⁶⁹³

On 15 June 2021, Minister of Family and Social Services Derya Yanık announced the appointment of 890 young people trained under the state to public institutions and organizations.⁶⁹⁴ The selection process which began in May added to the approximately 55 thousand young people already appointed so far.⁶⁹⁵ He said, “The future of Turkey is entrusted to our youth. Our young people are ready for duty and responsibility to ensure that our services are delivered to all of Turkey.”⁶⁹⁶ During the appointment ceremony he added, “You are unique for us in two respects. First, because you are our beacon of hope that will carry the country into the future and build its future, and secondly, because you are an example to your brothers in institutions and organizations, and to all young people of Turkey.”⁶⁹⁷

On 21 June 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security announced that it will provide occupational health and safety training to 10,000 mining workers within the scope of the Project for the Improvement of Occupational Health and Safety in Mining.⁶⁹⁸ In accordance to the project, financial resources are provided to underground coal and metal mines and to other dangerous classes.⁶⁹⁹ These training seminars will be held in places where mining enterprises are present or where workers usually reside.⁷⁰⁰

⁶⁹² Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

⁶⁹³ Minister Selçuk: “We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People to Increase Female Employment,” Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmasi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁶⁹⁴ Minister Yanık: “We will employ 890 children who were brought up under state protection in the public sector,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-yanik-devlet-korumasinda-yetismis-890-evladimizi-kamuda-istihdam-edecegiz/>

⁶⁹⁵ Minister Yanık: “We will employ 890 children who were brought up under state protection in the public sector,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-yanik-devlet-korumasinda-yetismis-890-evladimizi-kamuda-istihdam-edecegiz/>

⁶⁹⁶ Minister Yanık: “We will employ 890 children who were brought up under state protection in the public sector,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-yanik-devlet-korumasinda-yetismis-890-evladimizi-kamuda-istihdam-edecegiz/>

⁶⁹⁷ 890 Young People under State Protection were Appointed to Public Institutions and Organizations, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/devlet-korumasindaki-890-gencin-kamu-kurum-ve-kuruluslarina-atamasi-yapildi/>

⁶⁹⁸ Our Ministry Will Provide OHS Training to Mining Workers, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ankara) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/haberler/bakanligimiz-maden-calisanlarina-isg-egitimi-verecek/>

⁶⁹⁹ Our Ministry Will Provide OHS Training to Mining Workers, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ankara) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/haberler/bakanligimiz-maden-calisanlarina-isg-egitimi-verecek/>

⁷⁰⁰ Our Ministry Will Provide OHS Training to Mining Workers, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ankara) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/haberler/bakanligimiz-maden-calisanlarina-isg-egitimi-verecek/>

On 25 June 2021, the Ministry of Family and Social Services issued a press release to show continued support for young people and women to participate in business life.⁷⁰¹ The ministry stressed that it would continue to aid women who receive services in shelters so that they can gain knowledge and skills to take on more qualified jobs.⁷⁰² The ministry reiterated that with the help of ISKUR, online job club trainings have been provisioned. As of May 2021, 860 women attended these training sessions.⁷⁰³

Turkey has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers through highly interconnected initiatives that involve training and facilitating women's entrepreneurship, ensuring effective representation of women in SMEs and improving their competitiveness in the international economy and strong investments in reinforcing the knowledge economy. Turkey has taken partial action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for youth through increased funding of scholarships and offering specialized camps for youth. Through these initiatives, Turkey has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj, Malhaar Moharir and Srijan Sabu

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 8 February 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions increased the number of “retraining places on the Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) to 80,000 for the next financial year – building on the 40,000 already successfully delivered over the last eight months.”⁷⁰⁴ The program is a six-week program which enables participants to “learn new skills, gain hands-on work experience and build their contacts in a new line of work.”⁷⁰⁵ At the end of the program, “every SWAP participant is guaranteed an interview at the end of their course for a live job vacancy.”⁷⁰⁶

On 10 February 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced the Assistive Technology Impact Fund funded through UK Aid and led by the Global Disability

⁷⁰¹ Women Stand on Their Feet with Job Club Trainings in Women's Shelter, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kadin-konukevlerinde-is-kulubu-egitimleri-ile-kadinlar-kendi-ayaklari-uzerinde-duruyor/>

⁷⁰² Women Stand on Their Feet with Job Club Trainings in Women's Shelter, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kadin-konukevlerinde-is-kulubu-egitimleri-ile-kadinlar-kendi-ayaklari-uzerinde-duruyor/>

⁷⁰³ Women Stand on Their Feet with Job Club Trainings in Women's Shelter, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kadin-konukevlerinde-is-kulubu-egitimleri-ile-kadinlar-kendi-ayaklari-uzerinde-duruyor/>

⁷⁰⁴ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁷⁰⁵ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁷⁰⁶ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

Innovation Hub.⁷⁰⁷ Over five years, the fund will Assistive Technology ventures in Africa with up to GBP200,000 in grant capital, enabling “innovative technology solutions to better reach people with disabilities in Africa.”⁷⁰⁸

On 10 February 2021, UK Aid provided 14 charities based in the UK with Small Charities Challenge Fund grants of up to GBP50,000.⁷⁰⁹ These grants will support projects that support disability inclusion, education, health, and prosperity in 10 developing countries across Africa and Asia.⁷¹⁰

On 11 February 2021, the UK and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove announced GBP20 million in funding for the SME Brexit Support Fund.⁷¹¹ The new fund will “support businesses prepare for the new import controls coming into force from April and July.”⁷¹² Chancellor Gove stated that the “new targeted funding will see small businesses get more of the practical support they need to adjust to the new processes and prepare for future changes.”⁷¹³

On 3 March 2021, the United Kingdom announced as part of its 2021 budget a new UK-wide program to upskill over 30,000 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) over 3 years and will be 90 per cent subsidized by the government.⁷¹⁴ Furthermore, the government announced it will launch a new initiative to help 100,000 SMEs save time and money by adopting productivity-enhancing software, featuring a combined voucher of GBP5,000 that covers up to half the costs of software.⁷¹⁵

On 3 March 2021, the UK published the 2021 budget which expands and increases “the intensive support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain to young jobseekers, providing a guaranteed foundation of support to all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit.”⁷¹⁶

On 11 March 2021, Deputy Head of the UK Delegation to the Organization for Safety and Cooperation in Europe Nicola Murray stated that empowering “women and girls, and preventing violence against them, is a UK priority.”⁷¹⁷ She reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to “to ensuring

⁷⁰⁷ Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

⁷⁰⁸ Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

⁷⁰⁹ 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

⁷¹⁰ 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

⁷¹¹ Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁷¹² Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁷¹³ Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁷¹⁴ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁷¹⁵ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁷¹⁶ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁷¹⁷ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

every girl receives at least 12 years of quality education, and to ending the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030.”⁷¹⁸ She stated that, during the UK’s COP26 presidency, they would “champion diversity,” encouraging other countries in “stepping up their commitments to center gender equality in climate action and finance.”⁷¹⁹

On 19 March 2021, the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Support launched a GBP5 billion government infrastructure project to build Gigabit broadband that will support high growth tech sectors, creative industries, and job creation across rural areas.⁷²⁰ Additionally, the government launched GBP210 million in speed increasing vouchers and GBP110m to connect up to 7,000 rural public buildings such as GP surgeries, libraries and schools.⁷²¹

On 19 March 2021, the Department of Education announced the awarding of over GBP500,000 “to expand successful work programs to help more people gain in demand sector-specific skills.”⁷²² The money will be directed towards two regions to “expand the delivery of the successful construction skills bootcamps,” which “offer free, flexible courses lasting up to 16 weeks covering areas including construction, digital and technical.”⁷²³ Minister for Apprenticeships Gillian Keegan said “Skills bootcamps are unique, giving people the chance to upskill or retrain for free over a short period of time, with a clear line of sight to a job at the end.”⁷²⁴

On 25 March 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women, Elizabeth Rose Berridge spoke of the appointment of Helen Grant to the role of Special Envoy on Girl’s Education, in which she will “champion the UK’s global expertise on education and secure backing for ambitious initiatives to achieve our global objectives.”⁷²⁵ Furthermore, she announced that in the capacity of the 2021 UN climate change conference (COP26) host, the UK will host a conference that “advances gender-responsive climate action and finance” and “will amplify the voices of women, girls and marginalized people and empower them to act as decision-makers, advocates and leaders.”⁷²⁶

On 26 March 2021, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick and Minister for Housing and Rough Sleeping Eddie Hughes announced the next phase of a GBP165 million program for vulnerable families, now

⁷¹⁸ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

⁷¹⁹ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

⁷²⁰ Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

⁷²¹ Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

⁷²² Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁷²³ Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁷²⁴ Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁷²⁵ Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

⁷²⁶ Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

known as the Supporting Families program.⁷²⁷ The program has supported over 400,000 vulnerable families in the United Kingdom, including supporting people leaving abusive relationships, ensuring people with mental health issues get the support they need and helping people find employment through a “whole family” approach.⁷²⁸ The new phase will provide more funding to tackle the UK’s “moral mission to tackle intergenerational unemployment, crime, domestic abuse and family breakdown.”⁷²⁹

On 8 April 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Mims Davies announced that the Department would recruit “an extra 150 specialist Youth Employability Coaches across the UK,” enabling thousands of more young people to “benefit from six-month intensive employment support packages.”⁷³⁰ Youth Employability Coaches “are specially trained to support young jobseekers facing significant barriers to get on the first rung of the jobs ladder.”⁷³¹

On 9 April 2021, Minister for the School System Vicky Berridge announced that children “with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or requiring alternative provision in England will benefit from” a GBP280 million investment.⁷³² She stated that “Every child or young person with SEND should go to school feeling confident that they will get the tailored support they need at school, and every teacher should be equipped with the right facilities to teach those pupils.”⁷³³

On 29 April 2021, the Trade Act was granted Royal Assent and officially became law, which “bestows powers necessary to bring new trade deals into being” and “allows the UK to put the agreements it strikes as a newly independent 21-century trading nation on to the statute books.”⁷³⁴ The new law allows for “British householders’ and businesses’ interests to be put first in future agreements” and “will provide a platform for UK businesses to access new fast-growing markets, which in turn will help create jobs, encourage investment and aid the recovery from COVID-19.”⁷³⁵

On 11 May 2021, the UK unveiled its new legislative programme in the Queen’s Speech, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighting reforms that will support the nation’s recovery from the

⁷²⁷ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁷²⁸ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁷²⁹ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁷³⁰ Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

⁷³¹ Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

⁷³² £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

⁷³³ £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

⁷³⁴ Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

⁷³⁵ Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

pandemic, building on the progress made so far to level up the country and ensure equal opportunities for all.⁷³⁶ The Prime Minister’s Lifetime Skills Guarantee will create a post-16 and adult education and training system that will provide the skills that people need for well-paid jobs and opportunities to train throughout their lifetime.⁷³⁷ The legislative measures include the creation of a new student finance system that will give every adult access to a flexible loan for higher-level education and training, useable at any point in their lives.⁷³⁸ They also include the creation of a statutory role for employers in planning publicly-funded training programmes with education providers, through a “Skills Accelerator” programme.⁷³⁹ Furthermore, the Secretary of State for Education will be given more powers to intervene in colleges that fail to meet local needs, and to direct structural change where needed to ensure the provider improves.⁷⁴⁰

On 18 June 2021, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Gillian Keegan announced more support for further professional development for further education teaching staff. This support is worth GBP9.5 million in total and will allow further education teachers to continue to deliver top class education and training to young people and adults. Minister Keegan stated that the United Kingdom is “transforming further and technical education so everyone has the opportunity to gain the skills they need to succeed.”⁷⁴¹

On 15 July 2021, the Defence and Security Accelerator, Ministry of Defense, and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory awarded contracts worth GBP2 million to three small and medium-sized businesses.⁷⁴²

On 15 July 2021, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced further measures to boost the nation’s skills, level up opportunities, and get more people into better paid jobs.⁷⁴³ The United Kingdom’s Skills Bootcamp training programs will be expanded across the country, offering an extra

⁷³⁶ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

⁷³⁷ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

⁷³⁸ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

⁷³⁹ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

⁷⁴⁰ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

⁷⁴¹ More support for further education teachers to develop, Department for Education and Gillian Keegan MP (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-further-education-teachers-to-develop>

⁷⁴² £2 million in contracts awarded to enhance Army Engineers with autonomous wet gap survey systems, Defense and Security Accelerator, Ministry of Defence, and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-million-in-contracts-awarded-to-enhance-army-engineers-with-autonomous-wet-gap-survey-systems>

⁷⁴³ Skills training boosted across the country, Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

16,000 fully funded places for adults to upskill or retrain.⁷⁴⁴ The expansion covers a range of digital and technical training including in green skills along with coding and software development.⁷⁴⁵

On 1 September 2021, the Prime Minister's Office announced that "Operation Warm Welcome" is well underway to ensure that the Afghan refugees have the resources to rebuild their lives.⁷⁴⁶ As part of the initiative, approximately GBP12 million has been made available to ensure school places for the refugee children.⁷⁴⁷ Additionally, funding is promised for about 300 post-secondary scholarships for Afghan youths at UK universities.⁷⁴⁸

On 6 September 2021, the Department of Education announced the introduction of a new program that would train up to 2000 early years practitioners and teachers in improving their abilities to transfer language, numeracy, social, emotional and personal skills to pre-school children.⁷⁴⁹ The department has pledged a further GBP10 million to the previously assigned GBP20 million program.⁷⁵⁰ Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said, "This programme will play a central role in equipping our important early years staff with the high-quality training they deserve, so that they can support children at the very beginning of their education."⁷⁵¹

The United Kingdom has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through new domestic job and upskilling opportunities for youth, extensive financial support and initiatives to increase the competitiveness of UK SMEs in the global economy, and its promotion of gender equality policies in the workforce domestically and internationally, the UK has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

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

Analyst: Derek Thiele

⁷⁴⁴ Skills training boosted across the country, Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

⁷⁴⁵ Skills training boosted across the country, Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

⁷⁴⁶ Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, Home Office (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

⁷⁴⁷ Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, Home Office (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

⁷⁴⁸ Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, Home Office (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

⁷⁴⁹ Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Department for Education (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

⁷⁵⁰ Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Department for Education (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

⁷⁵¹ Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Department for Education (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden announced the American Rescue Plan.⁷⁵² Part of this plan allocates USD10 billion to state and tribal governments which will be used to fund small business credit expansion initiatives.⁷⁵³ The plan also includes support for businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people, as well as support for businesses with fewer than 10 employees.⁷⁵⁴ In addition, the American Rescue Plan outlines an expansion of the Child Tax Credit aimed at reducing child poverty.⁷⁵⁵

On 9 February 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced the second extension of a rule to allow certain bank directors and shareholders to apply to their banks for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for their small businesses.⁷⁵⁶ This extension aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.⁷⁵⁷

On 17 February 2021, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with a group of labor leaders to discuss the American Rescue Plan and President Biden's plan for infrastructure. At this meeting, President Biden endorsed Congressman Bobby Scott's bipartisan National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 to expand registered apprenticeships which is estimated to create nearly one million apprenticeship opportunities.⁷⁵⁸ President Biden also planned to reinstate the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships which appoints diverse stakeholders to develop registered apprenticeships in all communities.⁷⁵⁹ Finally, President Biden rescinded Executive Order 13801 to

⁷⁵² President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, The White House (Washington) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>

⁷⁵³ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁷⁵⁴ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁷⁵⁵ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁷⁵⁶ Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

⁷⁵⁷ Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

⁷⁵⁸ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

⁷⁵⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

reverse industry-recognized apprenticeship programs, which is claimed to have fewer quality standards than registered apprenticeship programs.⁷⁶⁰

On 18 February 2021, Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice and White House Public Engagement Director and Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond hosted a virtual meeting with various youth advocates to discuss community violence prevention.⁷⁶¹ The discussion prioritized having youth present for violence prevention policy making in their communities.⁷⁶²

On 22 February 2021, President Biden announced further changes to the PPP.⁷⁶³ Among these changes were a 14-day PPP loan application period exclusively for small business and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees, removal of barriers to apply for these loans and ease of access to forgivable loans for one person businesses.⁷⁶⁴

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau outlined the Roadmap for a renewed partnership between the United States and Canada.⁷⁶⁵ The Roadmap outlined the general joint efforts of the United States and Canada including action to combat COVID-19 and accelerate economic recovery for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), develop sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and underrepresented groups, and advance diversity and inclusion to promote gender equality and women empowerment.⁷⁶⁶

On 17 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD25 million for grants to “provide education and employment training to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who left high school before graduation, or are currently or have been involved previously with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system.”⁷⁶⁷ The Young Adult Reentry Partnership Grants would “support partnerships with community colleges, the criminal justice system and employers, employer associations, unions providing training, or labor-management partnerships and focus on occupations”

⁷⁶⁰ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

⁷⁶¹ Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

⁷⁶² Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

⁷⁶³ Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

⁷⁶⁴ Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

⁷⁶⁵ Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington, DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

⁷⁶⁶ Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

⁷⁶⁷ US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

to offer apprenticeships, accelerated learning and work-specific skills training.”⁷⁶⁸ Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Suzi LeVine highlighted that business partners associated with these programs “will create the best possible pathways for participants to succeed.”⁷⁶⁹

On 18 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD87.5 million for grants to expand apprenticeship programs across the state, “with up to [USD40] million of those funds in grants awarded to states that implement required diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.”⁷⁷⁰

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD31 million in funding to “support the expansion and modernization of technical assistance” for apprenticeships programs.⁷⁷¹ Specifically, the funding would go towards establishing Registered Apprenticeship Technical Centers of Excellence” and focus on diversity and inclusion as well as forging strategic partnerships with local and national stakeholders.⁷⁷²

On 24 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 24 March 2021 as National Equal Pay Day.⁷⁷³ National Equal Pay Day aims to acknowledge the value of women’s skills and their contributions to the labor force.⁷⁷⁴ President Biden stated that he and Vice President Harris are committed to building back the economy better for everyone and recognizes the role that equal pay plays in this goal.⁷⁷⁵

On 31 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 31 March 2021 as Transgender Day of Visibility.⁷⁷⁶ Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the importance of full equality for all transgender people.⁷⁷⁷

⁷⁶⁸ US Department of Labor announces \$25M in funding to support education, employment training for workforce entry by justice-involved young adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

⁷⁶⁹ US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

⁷⁷⁰ US Department of Labor announces availability of \$87.5M in Funding to states to expand, diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210318-0>

⁷⁷¹ US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>

⁷⁷² US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>

⁷⁷³ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁷⁷⁴ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁷⁷⁵ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁷⁷⁶ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

⁷⁷⁷ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

President Joe Biden urged for the passing of the Equality Act and that Federal civil rights protections be provided on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.⁷⁷⁸

On 31 March 2021, President Biden released the American Jobs Plan.⁷⁷⁹ The American Jobs Plan aims to create jobs and improve the country's infrastructure by investing in transportation infrastructure, rebuilding drinking water infrastructure, modernizing schools, residential, commercial and federal buildings, raising wages and benefits for homecare workers, investing in innovation to stimulate American manufacturing, creating union jobs and upskilling workers.⁷⁸⁰ The plan also aims to help small businesses by improving access to federal contracts and investing over USD110 billion in financing and technical assistance programs.⁷⁸¹ Part of the plan also includes an investment of USD5 billion in evidence-based community violence intervention programs over eight years to train at-risk individuals for jobs.⁷⁸²

On 15 April 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act.⁷⁸³ The goals of the Paycheck Fairness Act are to “[address] wage gaps by closing loopholes that have allowed employers to justify gender pay disparities, [strengthen] provisions for holding employers accountable for systemic pay discrimination [and help] level the playing field for women and people of color by making it easier for workers to challenge pay disparities as a group.”⁷⁸⁴ President Biden urged the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to meet these goals.⁷⁸⁵

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in funding to increase the number of women in its apprenticeships programs and better facilitate their inclusion in “nontraditional” occupations including “manufacturing, infrastructure, cybersecurity and healthcare industries.”⁷⁸⁶

On 28 April 2021, President Biden announced the American Families Plan.⁷⁸⁷ The American Families Plan aims to make education more affordable, provide economic security for families and expand tax

⁷⁷⁸ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

⁷⁷⁹ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

⁷⁸⁰ American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-jobs-plan/>

⁷⁸¹ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Supports Small Businesses, The White House (Washington) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/13/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-supports-small-businesses/>

⁷⁸² FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Will Support Women's Employment, The White House (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/21/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-will-support-womens-employment/>

⁷⁸³ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁷⁸⁴ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁷⁸⁵ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁷⁸⁶ US Department of Labor announces \$3.5M funding opportunity to place more women in Registered Apprenticeships, nontraditional occupations, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>.

⁷⁸⁷ Fact Sheet: The American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan/>

credits to help families and workers.⁷⁸⁸ The plan includes free universal preschool to three-year-old and four-year-old children, two free years of community college and over USD80 billion invested in the Pell Grant award for students.⁷⁸⁹

On 7 May 2021, President Biden proclaimed the week of 9 to 15 May 2021 as National Women's Health Week.⁷⁹⁰ The theme of the week was "Ending the Pandemic and Elevating Women's Health" to encourage vaccinations in order to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden announced increased access to COVID-19 vaccines and an expansion of the vaccine eligibility.⁷⁹¹ President Biden also addressed the disparities in maternal health outcomes for women of color, and committed to building an equitable healthcare system for all women.⁷⁹²

On 13 May 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a plan to invest USD7 billion from the American Rescue Plan which will be used to hire and train healthcare workers in response to COVID-19.⁷⁹³ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will use USD3 billion from the American Rescue Plan to modernize, expand and train the public health workforce.⁷⁹⁴ The plan also includes an USD80 million investment by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to train public health professionals in order to improve public health data infrastructure.⁷⁹⁵

On 27 May 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris announced a Call to Action for businesses and social enterprises to promote economic activity in the Northern Triangle which consists of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in order to address the root cause of migration from this region.⁷⁹⁶ As part of this call, Pro Mujer one of 12 businesses and organizations committed to supporting inclusive

⁷⁸⁸American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-families-plan/>

⁷⁸⁹ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Will Support Children, Teachers, and Working Families in Rural America, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-will-support-children-teachers-and-working-families-in-rural-america/>

⁷⁹⁰ A Proclamation on National Women's Health Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/a-proclamation-on-national-womens-health-week-2021/>

⁷⁹¹ A Proclamation on National Women's Health Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/a-proclamation-on-national-womens-health-week-2021/>

⁷⁹² A Proclamation on National Women's Health Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/a-proclamation-on-national-womens-health-week-2021/>

⁷⁹³ FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

⁷⁹⁴ FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

⁷⁹⁵ FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

⁷⁹⁶ FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

economic development in the Northern Triangle.⁷⁹⁷ Part of Pro Mujer's efforts include providing capital, technical support and capacity building support to micro, small and medium Enterprises in the Northern Triangle.⁷⁹⁸

On 10 June 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD89 million through the YouthBuild program to provide pre-apprenticeship opportunities for youth where they will receive in-class education as well as on the job training in in-demand industries.⁷⁹⁹ The program offers support to youth including mentoring, trauma-informed care, and personal counseling services.⁸⁰⁰

On 10 June 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD20 million to four grantee organizations through its Workforce Pathways for Youth program.⁸⁰¹ The funding will expand youth workforce development activities during non-school hours in various cities across the country.⁸⁰² The grantee organizations will provide support to youth including career exploration services, career counseling and work experience.⁸⁰³

On 15 June 2021, the US-EU Summit statement outlined the renewed transatlantic partnership between the US and EU.⁸⁰⁴ One of the goals of the partnership is to strengthen trade, investment, and technological cooperation. To facilitate this goal, a high-level US-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was established.⁸⁰⁵ The TTC will initially include working groups committed to promoting the access and use of digital technologies to SMEs.⁸⁰⁶

⁷⁹⁷ FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

⁷⁹⁸ FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

⁷⁹⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰⁰ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰¹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰² Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰³ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰⁴ U.S.-EU Summit Statement, The White House (Washington) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/>

⁸⁰⁵ U.S.-EU Summit Statement, The White House (Washington) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/>

⁸⁰⁶ U.S.-EU Summit Statement, The White House (Washington) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/>

On 23 June 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a comprehensive strategy to prevent gun violence and other violent crime.⁸⁰⁷ One of the goals of the strategy is to expand summer programs, employment opportunities and support for youth to reduce their involvement in violent crime.⁸⁰⁸

On 29 June 2021, President Biden addressed the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Congressional Report.⁸⁰⁹ The goal of the report is to empower women globally to ensure they are involved in decision-making processes and hold positions of leadership.⁸¹⁰ The report evaluates both the domestic and international progress made by the United States Government in promoting the WPS's four lines of effort which are participation in decision-making processes related to conflict and crises, protection, internal capabilities and partnership.⁸¹¹ The Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Agency for International Development each submitted agency-specific Implementation Plans to assess the progress.⁸¹²

On 3 September 2021, Gender Policy Council Co-Chairs Jennifer Klein and Julissa Reynoso, White House Counsel Dana Remus and Deputy White House Counsel Danielle Conley, Director of the Office of Political Strategy and Outreach Emmy Ruiz and Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council Christen Linke Young hosted a roundtable readout with women's rights and reproductive health leaders.⁸¹³ These leaders included President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America Alexis McGill Johnson, President of Catholics for Choice Jamie Mason and President and CEO of National Women's Law Center Fatima Goss Graves.⁸¹⁴ The goal of this roundtable was to discuss the ruling the Supreme Court's ruling of Texas' SB8 abortion law.⁸¹⁵ The discussion

⁸⁰⁷ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰⁸ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

⁸⁰⁹ Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

⁸¹⁰ Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

⁸¹¹ Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

⁸¹² Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

⁸¹³ Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

⁸¹⁴ Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

⁸¹⁵ Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

highlighted the potential impacts the law could have on racial equity, gender-based violence, and public health.⁸¹⁶

On 10 September 2021, President Biden proclaimed the week of 12 to 18 September 2021 as National Small Business Week.⁸¹⁷ The week celebrates the importance of small business to the American economy and encourages continued support for them.⁸¹⁸ President Biden acknowledged the contributions that the American Rescue Plan, Paycheck Protection Program, and the Paycheck Protection Program have had on the success of small businesses during the pandemic.⁸¹⁹

The United States has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the Memorandum on Protecting Women's Health at Home and Abroad, proposal of the American Rescue Plan, the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, the proclamation of numerous days of awareness and acknowledgement for women and youth and adjustments to the PPP, the United States has fully complied with its commitment to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

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

Analysts: Rebecca Jones and Malhaar Mobarir

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament announced its blueprint for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the post-pandemic recovery.⁸²⁰ The blueprint advocates for measures to help SMEs deal with the “twin challenges of digitalization and decarbonization.”⁸²¹ Furthermore, the report “highlights the need to update the European Commission's SME strategy in the light of the COVID crisis while keeping the focus on advancing the transition toward a socially, economically, and environmentally resilient society and a competitive economy.”⁸²² Among the recommendations

⁸¹⁶ Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

⁸¹⁷ A Proclamation on Small Business Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/10/a-proclamation-on-small-business-week-2021/>

⁸¹⁸ A Proclamation on Small Business Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/10/a-proclamation-on-small-business-week-2021/>

⁸¹⁹ A Proclamation on Small Business Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/10/a-proclamation-on-small-business-week-2021/>

⁸²⁰ MEP's blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁸²¹ MEP's blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁸²² MEP's blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

included ensuring liquidity and funding for SMEs and developing initiatives to support SMEs in adopting new digital and e-commerce solutions.⁸²³

On 30 December 2020, the European Union's Delegation to Cambodia announced a joint investment with Germany and France to finance the development of rural infrastructure in Cambodia.⁸²⁴ Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project received USD115 million to improve the road network in the country's central plains and construct complementary infrastructure in the drinking water and sanitation, agriculture, health and education sectors.⁸²⁵ The EU Ambassador to Cambodia Carmen Moreno stated that a "better connectivity to access markets and services is key to reduce poverty and economic disparities as well as to create new job opportunities," particularly in the pandemic recovery process.⁸²⁶

On 18 February 2021, High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell convened the Global Tech Panel for the first time, bringing together diplomatic, technology, and civil society leaders together to "reflect on how to join forces to deal with the opportunities and risks that the world faces as it emerges from the pandemic."⁸²⁷ The Panel will work together to "explore potential areas of engagement ranging from pandemic recovery to education and security to working with partners in Africa on digital transformation, among others."⁸²⁸

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis.⁸²⁹ The recommendation outlined a strategic action plan to transition from emergency economic measures to new measures to support a "job-rich recovery."⁸³⁰ The Commission provided guidance to Member States on labour market policies, which includes three components: hiring incentives and entrepreneurial support, upskilling and reskilling opportunities and enhanced support by employment services, especially for youth and sectors most

⁸²³ MEP's blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁸²⁴ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁸²⁵ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁸²⁶ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁸²⁷ Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en

⁸²⁸ Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en

⁸²⁹ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁸³⁰ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

impacted.⁸³¹ The Commission calls on Member States “to make full use of support available at EU level.”⁸³²

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission affirmed their commitment to ensuring gender equality will “be at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery.”⁸³³ The Commission announced that later in 2021, they will “present a new proposal to combat gender-based violence in the EU.”⁸³⁴ Furthermore, the Commission published its 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, which reaffirmed the European Union’s commitment to its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and its new Gender Action Plan for 2021-2025.⁸³⁵

On 8 March 2021, the European Commission called on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce through the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition.⁸³⁶ Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel stated “digitisation is transforming the way we work and leave. It leads to the creation of new jobs, requiring new digital skills. Most of the time, however, it makes traditional jobs more digital, requiring all workers to develop or improve their digital skills. We have to be active and to prepare ourselves for the requirements of the work of the future.”⁸³⁷ The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition has opened a call for pledges specifically addressing re-skilling and upskilling workers.⁸³⁸

On 8 March 2021, the European Commission published the Interim Report of the Pilot Project on digital skills: New Professions, New Educational Methods, New Jobs which will design training solution in digital skills to upskill SMEs’ labour force.⁸³⁹ The project will develop a structured programme for training of SME employees and the unemployed in digital skills required in the modern workplace.⁸⁴⁰

On 18 March 2021, the European Commission announced the launch of the European Innovation Council. The Council will have a budget of EUR10 billion for 2021-2027 to “develop and expand

⁸³¹ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁸³² Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁸³³ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁸³⁴ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁸³⁵ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁸³⁶ The European Commission calls on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁸³⁷ The European Commission calls on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁸³⁸ The European Commission calls on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁸³⁹ Upskilling Europe’s small businesses for the digital age, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/upskilling-europes-small-businesses-digital-age>

⁸⁴⁰ Upskilling Europe’s small businesses for the digital age, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/upskilling-europes-small-businesses-digital-age>

breakthrough innovations.”⁸⁴¹ Executive Vice President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager stated that the European Union now has a fund “to support small and medium sized companies that do breakthrough innovation, access equity and scale up innovative start-ups.”⁸⁴² This is a way to convert research results into business and to develop visions for technological and innovation breakthroughs.”⁸⁴³ European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said the Council is “Europe’s most ambitious initiative to support the breakthroughs Europe needs to recover from the economic crisis and accelerate the transition to a green and digital economy.”⁸⁴⁴

On 22 March 2021, the European Investment Bank announced that it will provide support for COVID-19 impacted SMEs in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná, in Brazil.⁸⁴⁵ The new agreement will widen the eligibility criteria of the current EUR80 million Regional Development Bank of the Far South Climate Action Framework Loan to support and accelerate lending to private sector business.⁸⁴⁶

On 25 March 2021, the European Investment Bank announced that it has joined forces with Pravex Bank of Ukraine to enhance access to finance for SMEs affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the Ukraine.⁸⁴⁷ The two organizations signed an EUR30 million credit line to support Ukrainian private sector businesses, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.⁸⁴⁸

On 25 March 2021, the European Commission adopted the first annual work program of Erasmus+ 2021-2027, which provides EUR26.2 billion to “fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million Europeans of all ages and backgrounds,” will “seek to be even more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions,” and will “support the resilience of education and

⁸⁴¹ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁴² Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁴³ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁴⁴ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁴⁵ Brazil: EIB and BRDE support SMEs impacted by COVID-19, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 22 March 2021.

Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-099-eib-and-brde-support-smes-impacted-by-covid-19-in-brazil>

⁸⁴⁶ Brazil: EIB and BRDE support SMEs impacted by COVID-19, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 22 March 2021.

Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-099-eib-and-brde-support-smes-impacted-by-covid-19-in-brazil>

⁸⁴⁷ Ukraine: EIB and PRAVEX BANK join forces to enhance access to finance for SMEs affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-107-eib-and-pravex-bank-join-forces-to-enhance-access-to-finance-for-ukrainian-smes-affected-by-the-economic-impact-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

⁸⁴⁸ Ukraine: EIB and PRAVEX BANK join forces to enhance access to finance for SMEs affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-107-eib-and-pravex-bank-join-forces-to-enhance-access-to-finance-for-ukrainian-smes-affected-by-the-economic-impact-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

training systems in the face of the pandemic.”⁸⁴⁹ The new program “provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport.”⁸⁵⁰

On 9 April 2021, the European Commission opened its first European Innovation Council (EIC) calls worth over EUR1 billion in funding.⁸⁵¹ The program includes EIC Accelerator funding which “aims to help scale up start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses that have the potential to achieve high impact,” with EUR495 million “earmarked for innovations that support the European Green Deal as well as digital and health technologies.”⁸⁵² Through the EIC Pathfinder, researchers can apply for “research and innovation grants” which range from EUR3 to 4 million.⁸⁵³

On 15 April 2021, the European Commission launched its first call for proposals under its new European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027, which “supports young people wishing to engage in volunteering activities in a variety of areas.”⁸⁵⁴ The program has a dedicated budget of over EUR1 billion for 2021-2027 and will offer “opportunities to some 275,000 young people to help address societal and humanitarian challenges through volunteering or by setting up their own solidarity projects.”⁸⁵⁵ One of the main political priorities the European Solidarity Corps supports is supporting “the digital transition through projects and activities that boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and develop understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.”⁸⁵⁶

On 28 April 2021, the European Union announced that the European Investment Fund and European Institute of Innovation of Technology (EIT) Digital will be teaming up to support the European Union’s digital transformation by offering “deferred payment schemes for students and learners participating in its courses, thus improving access to education.”⁸⁵⁷ The new scheme is expected to benefit around 500 future EIT Digital students.⁸⁵⁸ Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas said “The digital transition profoundly changes the way we

⁸⁴⁹ Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326

⁸⁵⁰ Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326

⁸⁵¹ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁸⁵² Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁸⁵³ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁸⁵⁴ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁵⁵ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁵⁶ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁸⁵⁷ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁸⁵⁸ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

live, study and work. We must equip people with the right skills to master this transition and make the most out of the opportunities the future brings.”⁸⁵⁹

On 7 July 2021, Commissioner Gabriel held a dialogue on European education technology (EdTech).⁸⁶⁰ The discussions were held to foster the growing the cooperation between the government and the EdTech sector.⁸⁶¹ An issue that was covered in these discussions as the need to boost teacher training in innovative methods.⁸⁶² It is understood that by working together, educational innovation will thrive.⁸⁶³

The European Union has taken strong action in all four areas of promoting increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for SMEs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. They have developed plans to support SMEs and create opportunities for youth and skills development, particularly in the areas of post-pandemic recovery, digital transformation, and tackling environmental challenges. They have developed plans to support gender equality and promote the role of women in the economy. They have given additional foreign aid to foster inclusive growth in other countries.

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

Analysts: Derek Thiele and Srijan Sabu

⁸⁵⁹ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁸⁶⁰ A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/commissioner-mariya-gabriel-european-education-technology_en
⁸⁶¹ A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/commissioner-mariya-gabriel-european-education-technology_en
⁸⁶² A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/commissioner-mariya-gabriel-european-education-technology_en
⁸⁶³ A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/commissioner-mariya-gabriel-european-education-technology_en

2. Macroeconomics: Capital Markets

“We will strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth, including through promoting sustainable capital flows and developing domestic capital markets.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | | +1 |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.90 (95%) | |

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 2018.⁸⁶⁴

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.”⁸⁶⁵ The theme of using “all policy tools” to work towards bolstering inclusive growth has remained a theme since the Antalya Summit.

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.⁸⁶⁶ The actions and policies outlined followed four

⁸⁶⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), RANEPa (Moscow) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

⁸⁶⁵ G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya Summit 15-16 November 2015, RANEPa (Moscow) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>

⁸⁶⁶ G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

main themes: vision, integration, openness and inclusiveness.⁸⁶⁷ 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.⁸⁶⁸

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.”⁸⁶⁹ Once again, leaders committed to using “all policy tools” in advancing inclusive growth.⁸⁷⁰ 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.⁸⁷¹ The G20 Africa Partnership was also discussed as a vehicle to advance and promote inclusive growth amongst African economies.⁸⁷²

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.”⁸⁷³ One of the summit’s priority areas, infrastructure, was also promoted as a significant factor in advancing inclusive growth.⁸⁷⁴ 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.⁸⁷⁵

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.”⁸⁷⁶ G20 members identified that “carefully calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies tailored to country-specific circumstances” are imperative in order to achieve this commitment.⁸⁷⁷ In addition, central banks were included as vital actors 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.⁸⁷⁸

⁸⁶⁷ G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

⁸⁶⁸ G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

⁸⁶⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁷⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁷¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁷² G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁷³ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁷⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁷⁵ Buenos Aires Action Plan, RANEPa (Moscow) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_plan.pdf

⁸⁷⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf

⁸⁷⁷ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf

⁸⁷⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf

In 2020, amid economic constraints put by the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 leaders highlighted the necessity to provide sustainable capital flows and foster domestic capital markets development to ensure economic recovery and growth after the pandemic is over.⁸⁷⁹

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to take actions to provide sustainable capital flows and foster domestic capital markets. To achieve full compliance, the G20 member shall take steps that match both aspects of the commitment.

Sustainable Capital Flows

According to the International Monetary Fund, the term “capital flow” refers to “cross-border financial transactions recorded in economies’ external financial accounts.”⁸⁸⁰ “Sustainable’ implies “able to continue at the same level for a period of time.”⁸⁸¹ Combined, “sustainable capital flows” is defined as the movement of money for investment in and out of countries that remains at the same level for a period of time.

The list of actions that might be possibly taken by the G20 members, includes but not limited to:

- Strengthen financial supervision and regulation;
- Maintaining sound monetary policy to avoid overheating;
- Counter-cyclical fiscal measures (increase in government spending, cutting taxes, etc.);
- Accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, etc.

Domestic Capital Market Development

The “capital market” generally refers to “an organized market that provides facilities for dealing in stocks and shares and through which (along with special financial institutions dealing therein) new capital could be raised by the offer of securities to the public.”⁸⁸² “Domestic” in this context refers to something that is limited to a particular jurisdiction. Finally, “development” refers to “process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced.”⁸⁸³

The G20 members are required to take actions that makes their domestic capital markets stronger against the current economic constrains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As it is proposed by the Bank for International Settlements,⁸⁸⁴ possible actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Strengthening legal and judicial systems for investor protection. For example, easing access to legal recourse; lowering litigation costs; promoting well defined property and contracting rights; giving minority shareholders more information and access to information, etc.;

⁸⁷⁹ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁸⁰ Balance of Payment and International Investment Position Manual Sixth Edition (BPM6), IMF (Washington, DC) 2009. Access Date: 18 January 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/pdf/bpm6.pdf>

⁸⁸¹ Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sustainable>

⁸⁸² The Developments of Capital Markets in Africa, with Particular Reference to Kenya and Nigeria, IMF. Access Date: 18 January 2021. https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF024/14861-9781451947335/14861-9781451947335/14861-9781451947335_A006.xml?language=env

⁸⁸³ Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/development>

⁸⁸⁴ Establishing viable capital markets, January 2019, BIS. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/development>

- Enhancing regulatory independence and effectiveness, that implies strengthening legal foundations to raise operational independence; ensuring adequate staffing and resources; raising disclosure and accounting standards, etc.;
- Deepening the domestic institutional investor base. This aspect refers to provision of tax benefits for institutional investors; increasing transparency and investors education to facilitate effective choices among investment options, etc.;
- Pursuing bi-directional opening to international participation while preparing for spillovers that implies lifting barriers to foreign participation; implementation of policies aimed at reduction of spillover risks, etc.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | The G20 member does not take actions to provide sustainable capital flows and develop its domestic capital market |
| 0 | The G20 member takes actions either to provide the sustainable capital flows or facilitate domestic capital market development |
| +1 | The G20 member takes actions to provide sustainable capital flows AND facilitate domestic capital market development |

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 3 December 2020, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research entered into a cooperation agreement. “The agreement aims to promote research and interaction for the design of coordinated public policies that may boost economic development in line with both the constraints and potential aspects of the monetary and foreign exchange regime adopted by the Central Bank.”⁸⁸⁵

On 31 March 2021, “the Board of the Central Bank has approved a policy that seeks to encourage credit, financial inclusion, electronic payment, and a better functioning and geographical distribution of ATMs. The policy focuses on four major concerns: to grant loans to individuals and [small and medium sized enterprises] (SMEs) who have not been recorded in the Debtors’ Database of the Financial System; to foster the use of e-checks and electronic credit invoices; to encourage the use of electronic means of payment and automatic bill payments from savings accounts; to improve the efficiency of ATMs in order to reduce downtime and to extend the network to reach cities and towns where there is no such service today.”⁸⁸⁶

On 22 April 2021, the National Securities Commission “approved a special regime for the placement of funds for environmental and social projects or activities, in accordance with its sustainable investment guidelines and the standards of the United Nations Development Program. The new regime is also part of the regulatory body’s Sustainable Finance Program with the principles of raising

⁸⁸⁵ Agreement between the BCRA, the Ministry of Science and the CONICET, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/acuerdo-bcra-ministerio-ciencia-y%20conicet-i.asp>

⁸⁸⁶ The BCRA Promotes Greater Financial Inclusion, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/bcra-impulso-mayor-inclusion-financiera-i.asp>

awareness among capital market players about integrating environmental, social and governance factors in investments, in addition to generating structures that advance sustainable financing.”⁸⁸⁷

On 3 May 2021, President of the National Securities Commission Adrián Cosentino said that “it is a priority” of the organization “to develop the capital market to promote productive and federal financing.” By highlighting the role of the capital market in the current situation, and despite the difficulties, Mr. Cosentino urged to continue working side by side between the public and the private sector to “delve into financing products and arrive in a timely manner to address this need across the country.”⁸⁸⁸

On 7 May 2021, the National Securities Commission “approved order RG888/21 that enables public consultation aimed at innovating the regulations for the negotiation of deferred payment checks and promissory notes, as part of the agency’s strategic agenda to promote products that enhance the growth of SMEs and generate a contribution from the capital market to the real economy.”⁸⁸⁹

On 27 May 2021, Board of the Central Bank adopted resolution in line with international practices, which seeks to create a liquid and deep market for sovereign bonds, thus ensuring the smooth functioning of the capital market. Central Bank created a mechanism whereby banks may sell to it, if required, the bonds they have already bought to satisfy their minimum reserve requirements. This measure is intended to make minimum reserve requirements liquid at all times.⁸⁹⁰

On 17 June 2021, Board of the Central Bank approved the Operating Regulation for implementing the Agreement for Local Currency Payment System (SML) with the Central Bank of Paraguay, effective from 22 June 2021. The SML will channel payments for transactions made among natural or legal persons residing or headquartered in Argentina or Paraguay.⁸⁹¹

On 9 August 2021, President of the Central Bank Miguel Pesce and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Sola signed a master agreement to encourage cooperation and exchange of information for improving foreign direct investment in Argentina and promoting exports of goods and services.⁸⁹²

On 12 August 2021, Board of the Central Bank authorized financial institutions to purchase open-end mutual funds units approved by the National Securities Commission subject to the “Special

⁸⁸⁷ The CNV approved a new regime for sustainable investment products a new milestone in the strategic agenda, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-cnv-aprobo-nuevo-regimen-para-productos-de-inversion-sostenible-un-nuevo-hito-en-la>

⁸⁸⁸ “It is a priority of the CNV to develop the capital market to promote productive and federal financing,” Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/es-una-prioridad-de-la-cnv-desarrollar-el-mercado-de-capitales-para-potenciar-el>

⁸⁸⁹ The CNV calls for a public consultation to improve the rules for negotiating deferred payment checks and promissory notes, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-cnv-llama-consulta-publica-para-mejorar-las-normas-de-negociacion-de-cheques-de-pago>

⁸⁹⁰ The BCRA Creates Mechanisms to Promote Capital Market Development, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.bkra.gob.ar/Noticias/mecanismos-que-promueven-mercado-capitales-i.asp>

⁸⁹¹ Agreement for Local Currency Payment System with Paraguay, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.bkra.gob.ar/Noticias/Acuerdo-SML-BCRA-BCP-i.asp>

⁸⁹² Agreement between the BCRA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Boost Foreign Investments and Exports, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.bkra.gob.ar/Noticias/Acuerdo-entre-el-BCRA-y-el-Ministerio-de-Relaciones-Exteriores-i.asp>

Regime for the Creation of Open-End Mutual Funds for Financing Infrastructure and the Real Economy.”⁸⁹³

On 19 August 2021, Board of the Central Bank adopted a resolution instructing financial institutions and payment service providers to generate a quick response code within 60 days to identify their commercial clients’ accounts. This will ensure that money transfers and virtual payments among natural or legal persons are made instantaneously.⁸⁹⁴

Argentina has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 15 December 2020, the Prudential Regulation Authority announced that banks and insurers will no longer require to have a minimum level of earnings retention from 1 January 2021.⁸⁹⁵

On 2 February 2021, Australia purchased an additional AUD100 billion of bonds when the current bond purchase program is completed in April.⁸⁹⁶

On 21 February 2021, the Prudential Regulation Authority released its policy and supervision priorities for 2021. The priorities include “strengthening crisis preparedness,” “updating prudential standards on operational risk, governance and risk management,” “completing the ongoing review of the capital framework for authorised deposit-taking institutions” and “continuing work on strengthening the capital framework for private health insurers.”⁸⁹⁷

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government introduced the 2021-2022 Budget to the public. The Budget included AUD7.8 billion tax cuts for low- and middle-income households, AUD20.7 billion tax relief for businesses, as well as AUD15.2 billion government spending on infrastructure development over 10 years.⁸⁹⁸

Australia has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrei Sakharov

⁸⁹³ Banks will be able to invest in mutual funds for financing infrastructure and in the real economy, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 August 2021. Access date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.bcra.gob.ar/Noticias/Bancos-inversion-FCI-infraestructura-economia-real-i.asp>

⁸⁹⁴ New QR Code to Simplify Payments by Transfer, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 August 2021. Access date: 22 September 2021. <http://www.bcra.gob.ar/Noticias/codigo-qr-para-simplificar-transferencias-i.asp>

⁸⁹⁵ Capital management, APRA (Sydney) 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.apra.gov.au/capital-management-1>

⁸⁹⁶ Statement by Philip Lowe, Governor: Monetary Policy Decision, Reserve Bank of Australia, 2 February 2021. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.rba.gov.au/media-releases/2021/mr-21-01.html>

⁸⁹⁷ APRA releases its policy and supervision priorities for 2021, APRA (Sydney) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.apra.gov.au/news-and-publications/apra-releases-its-policy-and-supervision-priorities-for-2021>

⁸⁹⁸ Securing Australia’s recovery, Budget overview, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://budget.gov.au/2021-22/content/overview.htm>

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 25 February 2021, “President Jair Bolsonaro signed the complementary law that defines the objectives of the Central Bank of Brazil, it provides for its autonomy and the appointment and dismissal of its president and its directors. According to the text, the mandates of the president and directors of the Central Bank do not coincide with the mandate of president of the Republic.”⁸⁹⁹ “The Central Bank of Brazil, which before the change was linked to the Ministry of Economy, will become an autarchy of a special nature, characterized by the absence of ties to the Ministry, tutelage or hierarchical subordination, by technical, operational, administrative and financial autonomy.”⁹⁰⁰

On 8 April 2021, the Central Bank “proposed the improvement of the rules of risk management and social, environmental and climate responsibility applicable to the institutions of the system, in order to incorporate the most recent international debates on the subject and the national experience.”⁹⁰¹

On 7 May 2021, the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) published “guidelines for independent auditors in line with the best practices in the capital market. The new version of the document is a direct result of the regulators’ supervision and inspection action.”⁹⁰²

On 11 May 2021, the CVM “issued two resolutions: the CVM Resolution 29, on rules for establishment and operation of experimental regulatory environment (regulatory sandbox). The CVM Resolution 30, on the verification task of adapting products, services and operations to the customer profile (suitability). The measures are part of reviewing and consolidating normative acts below the decree, determined by Decree 10.139/19. The main focus of this initiative is to increase the efficiency of regulation, without disregarding the risks that such actions may represent for the protection of investors.”⁹⁰³

On 2 July 2021, the Central Bank of Brazil launched the new Liquidity Finance Lines in local currency, which are resources permanently available to financial institutions. The two lines created are instituted in the form of a loan against a basket of collateral. Initially, debentures and commercial notes will be eligible as collateral. This is an action from the BC# Agenda, Competitiveness dimension, which seeks to increase market efficiency.⁹⁰⁴

On 12 August 2021, CVM launched public consultation on new rules applicable to independent investment agents. Two draft resolutions introduce substantial updates to the regulatory framework for autonomous investment and intermediation agents in securities transactions. Main innovations

⁸⁹⁹ President signs law that gives autonomy to the Central Bank, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/fevereiro/presidente-bolsonaro-sanciona-lei-que-da-autonomia-ao-banco-central>

⁹⁰⁰ President signs law that gives autonomy to the Central Bank, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/fevereiro/presidente-bolsonaro-sanciona-lei-que-da-autonomia-ao-banco-central>

⁹⁰¹ BC proposes new rules for risk management and social, environmental and climate responsibility, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/530/noticia>

⁹⁰² CVM publishes new guidelines for independent auditors, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-publica-novas-orientacoes-para-audidores-independentes>

⁹⁰³ CVM publishes new guidelines for independent auditors, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-publica-novas-orientacoes-para-audidores-independentes>

⁹⁰⁴ New Financial Lines of Liquidity will increase the efficiency of the National Financial System, Brazilian Central Bank (Brasilia) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/562/noticia>

are: elimination of the obligation to act on an exclusive basis with intermediaries; elimination of the requirement to adopt the form of simple companies; need to adopt internal policies, rules and controls for autonomous agents who wish to take advantage of the new possibilities allowed by the regulations; qualitative information on remuneration and conflicts of interest of agents involved in the intermediation of operations; periodic statements with quantitative information on the remuneration paid by the investor in these operations.⁹⁰⁵

On 15 September 2021, CVM proposed to change the non-resident investor rule. The objective is to reduce bureaucracy and streamline the access of this type of investor (natural person) to the Brazilian market. CVM proposes that non-resident natural person investors operate in the Brazilian market without having to undergo a registration procedure with CVM. In return, its representative in Brazil must, before starting its operations, send standardized information about the investor, through an electronic system provided by the CVM or by an organized market management entity.⁹⁰⁶

Brazil has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 1 January 2021, Canada announced the amendments to the Investment Canada Act with new thresholds for foreign direct investment. The threshold for direct acquisitions of control by investors that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has been reduced from CAD1.075 billion to CAD1.043 billion; for investors from countries with preferential trade agreements with Canada – from CAD1.613 billion to CAD1.565 billion, and for WTO members’ state-owned investors – from CAD428 million to CAD415 million.⁹⁰⁷

On 24 March 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry issued the Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments. The updates focus on identifying certain sensitive technology areas, critical minerals, sensitive personal data, and investments by state-owned or state-influenced investors as factors considered in national security reviews.⁹⁰⁸

On 31 March 2021, the Bank of Canada released the results of open consultations on inflation and monetary policy. The outreach, according to the Bank of Canada, demonstrated steady public trust in the Bank and in the stability of Canada’s financial system during the COVID-19 pandemic, public confidence in the bank’s ability to keep inflation on target, as well as the support for “the current inflation-targeting framework over other options” and the Bank’s current quantitative easing

⁹⁰⁵ CVM launches public consultation on new rules applicable to independent investment agents, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 12 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-lanca-consulta-publica-sobre-novas-regras-aplicaveis-a-agentes-autonomos-de-investimento>

⁹⁰⁶ CVM proposes to change the non-resident investor rule, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 15 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-propoe-alteracao-da-norma-de-investidor-nao-residente>

⁹⁰⁷ Investment Canada Act, Thresholds, Government of Canada 1 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/h_lk00050.html

⁹⁰⁸ Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81190.html>

program. The consultations are to form the basis for an agreement between the Bank and the Federal government on the next framework to guide monetary policy until 2026.⁹⁰⁹

On 19 April 2020, Canada presented the Budget 2021. The budget allocated CAD560 million to support around 2900 small businesses.⁹¹⁰ The budget also introduced tax measures to help businesses and other organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and the Lockdown Support.⁹¹¹

On 21 April 2021, the Bank of Canada held its target for the overnight rate at the effective lower bound of 0.25 per cent, with the Bank Rate at 0.5 per cent and the deposit rate at 0.25 per cent. The Bank continues to provide extraordinary forward guidance on the path for the overnight rate, reinforced and supplemented by the Bank's quantitative easing program. Effective the week of April 26, weekly net purchases of Government of Canada bonds will be adjusted to a target of CAD3 billion. This adjustment to the amount of incremental stimulus being added each week reflects the progress made in the economic recovery.⁹¹²

In May 2021, official international reserves of the country have decreased from USD91.74 billion in December 2020,⁹¹³ to USD84.23 billion in May 2021.⁹¹⁴

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Canada launched consultations with stakeholders on the proposed Luxury Tax, which would apply to the sales of luxury cars and aircraft costing over CAD100 thousand and watercraft costing over CAD250,000. The participants were invited to provide their views on the design and properties of this arrangement by 30 September 2021.⁹¹⁵

Canada has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

⁹⁰⁹ Bank of Canada releases results from consultations on inflation and monetary policy, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2021/03/results-consultations-inflation-monetary-policy/>

⁹¹⁰ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

⁹¹¹ Tax Measures – Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx6-en.html#business-income-tax-measures>

⁹¹² Bank of Canada will hold current level of policy rate until inflation objective is sustainably achieved, adjusts quantitative easing program, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2021/04/fad-press-release-2021-04-21/>.

⁹¹³ Official International Reserves – December 3, 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/services/publications/monthly-official-international-reserves/2020/12.html>

⁹¹⁴ Official International Reserves – May 5, 2021, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/services/publications/monthly-official-international-reserves/2021/05.html>.

⁹¹⁵ Government of Canada launches consultations on proposed Luxury Tax, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-launches-consultations-on-proposed-luxury-tax.html>

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will further shorten the negative lists for foreign investment access, strengthen the overall planning of financial resources, promote the standardization of financial expenditures, and strengthen budget constraints and performance management, improve the fiscal transfer payment system, optimize the transfer payment structure, and standardize transfer payment projects. Also, China will improve the financial system and make it is highly adaptable, competitive, and inclusive, and build a financial system to effectively support the economy etc.⁹¹⁶

On 12 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang announced that one of the main goals for China in 2021 is maintaining the continuity, stability and sustainability of macroeconomic policies. The policies should also be able maintain the necessary support, should not change suddenly and sharply but adjust and improve in time according to changes. Moreover, China should continue to reform of the registration system, improve the current delisting mechanism, strengthen the bond market while expanding the financing channels for market entities.⁹¹⁷

On 6 September 2021, China Securities Regulatory Commission Chairman (CSRC) Yi Huiman announced that the country will further open its capital markets to foreign investors. Chairman Yi also mentioned that CSRC is studying relevant measures, including expanding the scope of the stock connect scheme linking China and Hong Kong and improving the Shanghai-London Stock Connect program.⁹¹⁸

China has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, China receives a score of +1

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 19 January 2021, France launched the comprehensive fiscal plans for 2020–22, totaling about 26 per cent of gross domestic products in emergency and recovery measures. The emergency response was flexibly adjusted as the crisis unfolded, providing additional resources to the health sector and supporting households and firms by preserving jobs and providing liquidity.⁹¹⁹

On 3 February 2021, the Development Bank of Southern Africa launched its first green bond. The EUR200 million bond was issued through a private placement with French development finance institution Agence Française de Développement.⁹²⁰

⁹¹⁶ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

⁹¹⁷ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

⁹¹⁸ Openness and Cooperation: the Role of Capital Markets in Post-Pandemic Recovery, China Securities Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/PressConference/202109/t20210906_404909.html

⁹¹⁹ Five Charts on France's Policy Priorities to Navigate the COVID-19 Crisis, IMF (Washington, DC) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/01/15/na011921-five-charts-on-frances-policy-priorities-to-navigate-the-covid19-crisis>

⁹²⁰ DBSA Launches Green Bond, DBSA (Johannesburg) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.dbsa.org/press-releases/dbsa-launches-green-bond>

On 3 March 2021, Development Bank of Southern Africa launched its first green bond. The EUR200 million bond was issued through a private placement with the French development finance institution, the Agence Française de Développement.⁹²¹

On 13 July 2021, the European Council approved France's national recovery and resilience plan which outlines the recovery investments for which France is seeking European funding.⁹²²

On August 21, 2021, The European Commission has disbursed EUR5.1 billion to France in pre-financing, equivalent to 13 per cent of the country's financial allocation under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The pre-financing payment will help to kick-start the implementation of the crucial investment and reform measures outlined in France's recovery and resilience plan. The country is set to receive EUR39,4 billion in total, fully consisting of grants, over the lifetime of its plan. This disbursement follows the recent successful implementation of the first borrowing operations under NextGenerationEU. The French plan is part of the unprecedented EU response to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 crisis, fostering the green and digital transitions and strengthening resilience and cohesion.⁹²³

France has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 3 February 2021, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz announced plans to reform the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) fundamentally to make it more flexible and effective. In particular, BaFin will be given the authority to focus more heavily on preventive action and investigate suspicious cases more swiftly and efficiently as part of financial reporting enforcement.⁹²⁴

On 25 March 2021, Minister Scholz and Minister for Economic Affairs Peter Altmaier tasked the state-owned KfW Development Bank with the execution and administration of the Zukunftsfonds (Future Fund), an equity fund for technologies of the future. The federal government will invest EUR10 billion in the Zukunftsfonds. Together with further private and public partners, at least EUR30 billion will thus be mobilized in venture capital for start-ups in Germany. Combined with the existing financial instruments, German financial authorities will be able to provide over EUR50 billion in venture capital for start-ups in the next few years, together with private investors.⁹²⁵

⁹²¹ DBSA Launches Green Bond, DBSA (Johannesburg) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://www.dbsa.org/press-releases/dbsa-launches-green-bond>

⁹²² France's national recovery and resilience plan, Lexology (London) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8159936a-7be7-4d7b-ad6a-d6a2f05ba8ab>

⁹²³ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €5.1 billion in pre-financing to France, European Commission (Brussels) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_4225

⁹²⁴ More "bite" for the Financial Supervisory Authority, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 3 February 2021.

Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-02-03-more-bite-for-the-financial-supervisory-authority.html

⁹²⁵ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

On 20 April 2021, Germany published the first allocation report for its Green Federal securities issued in 2020. The Green Bond Allocation Report 2020 provides investors with transparent and binding information on expenditures from the federal government's environmental and climate protection programs. It listed expenditures recognized as "green" in the 2019 federal budget and allocated them to the EUR11.5 billion proceeds from Green German Federal securities issued in 2020. According to State Secretary Jörg Kukies, by issuing green bonds the federal government "made a significant contribution to the growth of the sustainable bond market and thus firmly established Germany as a sustainable finance centre."⁹²⁶

On 27 April 2021, Germany adopted the German Recovery and Resilience Plan. 90 per cent of the spending in the plan is targeted towards climate action and the digital transformation.⁹²⁷

Germany has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 2 March 2021, India published comprehensive amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules 2017, with a view to improve the working of the Insurance Ombudsman mechanism to facilitate resolution of complaints regarding deficiencies in insurance services in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner. The amended rules have enlarged the scope of complaints to Ombudsmen from only disputes earlier to deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries. Further, insurance brokers have been brought within the ambit of the Ombudsman mechanism, by empowering the Ombudsmen to pass awards against insurance brokers as well.⁹²⁸

On 24 July 2021, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs abolished the requirement of periodic renewals of Licence/Registration issued to Customs Brokers and Authorised Carriers. This would greatly help reduce the compliance burden cast on the trade, which had to otherwise make application and submit numerous documents to renew their licenses/registrations.⁹²⁹

India has taken actions to facilitate domestic capital market development, but no actions to provide sustainable capital flows were registered during the compliance period.

⁹²⁶ Federal government publishes first allocation report for Green Federal securities, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-04-20-federal-government-publishes-first-allocation-report.html>

⁹²⁷ Scholz: Clear signal for climate action and digitalisation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-04-27-german-recovery-and-resilience-plan-adopted.html>

⁹²⁸ Government amends Insurance Ombudsman Rules for better resolution of policyholders' complaints regarding insurance service deficiencies, Public Information Bureau of Government of India (Delhi) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1702099>

⁹²⁹ CBIC reduces compliance burden by abolishing renewals of licenses/registrations, Public Information Bureau of Government of India (Delhi) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1738684>

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Irina Popova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

In February 2021, Bank Indonesia cut its policy rate and implemented quantitative easing as well as macro-prudential measures to increase liquidity. Furthermore, “Inflation is projected to remain low and accommodative monetary policy, accompanied by forward guidance, should continue.”⁹³⁰

On 2 February 2021, Indonesia enacted a new regulation on investment as one of the implementing regulations of “Omnibus Law,” which includes the removal of some restrictions on foreign investment in order to boost investments flow into pandemic-hit economy. The new regulation became effective on 4 March 2021.

On 4 March 2021, Indonesia’s Omnibus Law entered into force. The Omnibus Law transformed the negative investment list into a positive list, which covers businesses that are open or restricted to foreign investors. “The positive investment list marks a fundamental change in approach from a negative, restricted stance to a positive, permitted one,” which will open Indonesia’s economy up to foreign direct investment and “transform the country into one of the world’s top five economies.”⁹³¹

On 4 May 2021, Indonesia issued Regulation No. 40 of 2021 (GR-40) on the Organization of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). According to the Regulation, a business entity and/or business actor, which carries-out its business activities in a SEZ, is provided with facilities and relief in the form of taxation, customs and excise; fast-tracked flow of goods; employment; immigration; land affairs and spatial planning support; ease of business licensing; and other facilities and relief.⁹³²

On 10 June 2021, the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved a loan of USD400 million to support reforms that will help Indonesia increase the depth, improve the efficiency, and strengthen the resilience of the financial sector. The new development policy loan will support Indonesia’s financial sector reforms through three key approaches. First, it aims to increase the depth of the financial sector by expanding the access to financial services - including by youth and women - broadening the range of financial products and incentivizing long-term savings. These efforts would reduce Indonesia’s vulnerability to foreign portfolio outflows. Second, it aims to improve the efficiency and lower the cost of the financial sector by strengthening the insolvency and creditor rights framework, protect consumers and personal data, and make payment systems more efficient and faster by utilizing digital technology. The latter will help large-scale social assistance payments to vulnerable people during the crisis. Third, it aims to boost the capacity of the financial sector to withstand shocks by strengthening the resolution framework to avoid financial activities disruptions

⁹³⁰ OECD Economic Surveys: Indonesia, OECD (Paris) March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/economy/surveys/indonesia-2021-OECD-economic-survey-overview.pdf>

⁹³¹ Indonesia’s omnibus law: A foreign investors’ guide to the positive investment list, Vistra (Causeway Bay) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.vistra.com/insights/indonesias-omnibus-law-foreign-investors-guide-positive-investment-list>

⁹³² Indonesia: New business activities and facilities provided in special economic zones, Lexology (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=c91d80de-6d9a-44bf-a016-7bb844248b7b>

in the event of a bank failure, advancing the effectiveness of financial sector oversight and implementing sustainable finance practices.⁹³³

From 21 to 22 July 2021, Bank Indonesia decided to leave the seven-day reverse repo rate at the all-time low of 3.50 per cent, where it has been since February 2021. The Bank's decision was underpinned by its commitment to help the recovery amid spiking new COVID-19 infections, which led the government to impose new restrictions which could weigh on activity in the third quarter. Against this backdrop, Bank Indonesia revised down its 2021 GDP growth projections from 4.1 per cent – 5.1 per cent to 3.5 per cent – 4.3 per cent. Meanwhile, price pressures are fairly low, with inflation easing markedly in June, providing the space to maintain a dovish stance. That said, the Bank expects the headline reading to return to and remain within the 2.0 per cent – 4.0 per cent target range going forward.⁹³⁴

On 24 August 2021, Indonesia announced the drafting of more progressive emissions reduction scheme under a draft Presidential Regulation on Instruments of Carbon Economic Value for Nationally Determined Contributions (Carbon Economic Value Bill). The proposed scheme would regulate the carbon trade, provide payments based on performance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and impose a levy on carbon emissions. The Carbon Economic Value Bill is in the process of being finalized and is expected to be enacted by the end of 2021. The proposed carbon tax would be imposed on individuals or entities purchasing goods containing carbon and/or conducting activities that generate carbon emissions. The Tax Bill contains general carbon tax provisions, which include catch-all provisions to tax any goods or activities that cause environmental externalities, such as depletion of natural resources, environmental pollution, or environmental damage.⁹³⁵

Indonesia has taken a number of actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development answering commitments within the G20.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 23 March 2021, “the Bank of Italy and the Dubai Financial Services Authority signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the performance of their respective duties in ensuring the safe and sound functioning of their supervised entities.”⁹³⁶ The agreement was intended as “a framework for effective cooperation and information exchange between the two authorities including,

⁹³³ New Financing to Help Indonesia Achieve a Deeper, More Efficient, and More Resilient Financial Sector, The World Bank (Washington DC) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/06/10/new-financing-to-help-indonesia-achieve-a-deeper-more-efficient-and-more-resilient-financial-sector>

⁹³⁴ Indonesia: Central Bank holds its ground in July, Focus Economics (Barcelona) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/indonesia/news/monetary-policy/central-bank-holds-its-ground-in-july>

⁹³⁵ Putting a Price on Emissions: Indonesian Government Plans to Impose Carbon Tax, Lexology (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=22b5a4df-3d56-4ae2-8151-d7a634687416>

⁹³⁶ The Bank of Italy and the Dubai Financial Services Authority sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Bank of Italy (Rome) 14 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/the-bank-of-italy-and-the-dubai-financial-services-authority-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding-mou/>

among other things, procedures for conducting on-site inspections on the premises of supervised entities physically located in the jurisdiction of the other authority.”⁹³⁷

On 25 April 2021, the Government of Italy presented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament. The Plan is a part of the European Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic-induced crisis. The Plan, inter alia, provides for structural reforms in public administration, with the intention to streamline government services and improve quality of regulation.⁹³⁸ According to Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the Plan, totaling EUR222.1 billion in government investment, represents a new quality of fiscal policy, spurring government spending and structural reforms without the need to raise interest rates.⁹³⁹

Italy took actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 5 March 2021, Japan “submitted an omnibus bill with the National Diet (the Proposed Bill), which included amendments to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (FIEA) (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended) to provide the licensing exemptions for the benefit of foreign asset managers that intend to open offices in Japan.”⁹⁴⁰

On 1 April 2021, a tax reform became effective. The tax reform includes “favorable changes...to corporate tax, income tax and inheritance tax for asset management firms and their employees.”⁹⁴¹

As of 22 April 2021, Japan was considering two licensing exemptions. “The Proposed Bill provides: An exemption from Type II broker-dealer and investment management registration for fund operators of certain partnership-type funds (which have “primarily” foreign investors) when offering certain eligible partnership-type funds and managing assets invested in those funds (the Foreign Investor Fund Exemption); and an up to five-year registration moratorium for foreign managers registered with a foreign authority who have foreign investors only and who satisfy certain eligibility requirements (the Registration Moratorium). The Proposed Bill is expected to pass during the current 204th Diet Session, currently scheduled to conclude on 16 June 2021. The Proposed Bill provides that, if adopted by the National Diet, the amendments to the FIEA be implemented at a date

⁹³⁷ The Bank of Italy and the Dubai Financial Services Authority sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Bank of Italy (Rome) 14 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/the-bank-of-italy-and-the-dubai-financial-services-authority-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding-mou/>

⁹³⁸ Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza, Government of Italy (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

⁹³⁹ PNRR, the reply in the Senate, Government of Italy (Rome) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr-la-replica-al-senato/16736>

⁹⁴⁰ Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, JD Supra (Marshall) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/japan-puts-forth-bold-legislation-to-8112361/>

⁹⁴¹ Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, JD Supra (Marshall) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/japan-puts-forth-bold-legislation-to-8112361/>

designated by the [Financial Services Agency of Japan], but no later than six months from the date of promulgation. In other words, this new preferential treatment could become available as early as the end of 2021.”⁹⁴² The Proposed Bill passed the Diet and was enacted on 19 May 2021.⁹⁴³ The Proposed Bill provides that the amendments to the FIEA be implemented at a date designated by the Financial Services Agency, but no later than six months from the date of promulgation. In other words, this new preferential treatment could become available as early as the end of 2021.⁹⁴⁴

On 6 August 2021, the Competition Commission of India concluded a memorandum of cooperation with the Japan Fair Trade Commission to further enhance collaboration and cooperation between the two regulators to effectively enforce competition laws in each country.⁹⁴⁵

Japan has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 7 December 2020, the Financial Services Commission unveiled its plans to introduce a routine inspection of personal data protection at financial institutions to ensure consistency in data protection and improve accountability. The plans include establishing specific inspection standards according to the data lifecycle, providing feedbacks on a regular basis through Financial Security Institute and setting up self-inspection guidelines for financial institutions.⁹⁴⁶

On 12 January 2021, Korea announced its decision to make in-kind contribution of KRW650 billion in the Korea Asset Management Corporation to facilitate its operation of the corporate asset purchase program. With this capital increase, the government expects that the Korean Asset Management corporation will be able to provide more steady support for companies in need of asset sell-offs.⁹⁴⁷

On 2 February 2021, Korea approved the revisions to the Enforcement Decree of the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act. The approved revisions are intended to bolster investor protection by “(a) specifying the criteria for determining ‘highly complex’ investment products; (b) strengthening requirements on the recording and cooling-off period during the sales

⁹⁴² Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, JD Supra (Marshall) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/japan-puts-forth-bold-legislation-to-8112361/>

⁹⁴³ Amendment of Investment Management Business Regulations for Foreign Fund Managers Doing Business in Japan, Lexology (London) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=977324d3-730e-4c1a-af6e-45cf5fc0f9c5>

⁹⁴⁴ Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, Lexology (London) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=0d360594-9b0b-4290-bb06-9141156bccc9>

⁹⁴⁵ Memorandum of Cooperation between Competition Commission of India and Japan Fair Trade Commission, Lexology (London) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=455a07a2-d58f-49e2-a27f-17ba19966831>

⁹⁴⁶ FSC to Introduce Routine Inspection of Personal Data Protection at Financial Institutions, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/22547>

⁹⁴⁷ Government Announces KRW650 Billion Investment in KAMCO to Support Corporate Asset Sell-offs, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75133>

process of ‘highly complex’ investment products; (c) newly establishing a legal ground to regulate sellers of OEM [Original Equipment Manufacturer] funds; (d) tightening regulations to close loopholes of publicly offered funds being sold in the form of a private fund; and (e) raising the retail investors’ minimum investment threshold in hedge funds from KRW100 million to KRW300 million.”⁹⁴⁸

On 24 March 2021, Korea “passed the amendments to the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act during a plenary session...with aims to improve the rules on private equity funds. The amendments will go through an approval process at a cabinet meeting prior to the pronouncement and will take effect in six months. The amendments introduce stronger protection measures for retail investors in the [private equity funds] market.”⁹⁴⁹

On 13 April 2021, Korea “approved the revision to the Special Act on Support for Financial Innovation during a cabinet meeting held on April 13 to make improvements to the financial regulatory sandbox program and support “innovative financial service” providers. The revised Act allows “innovative financial service” providers to file requests for regulatory improvements while extending the period of regulatory exemption for an additional year and six months if the authorities decide to accept the request and make relevant changes to the regulation.”⁹⁵⁰

On 22 April 2021, the Financial Services Commission “announced that the authorities decided to extend the period of financial support made available through the key industry stabilization fund for eight months until 31 December 2021 from the initial expiration date of 30 April” 2021.”⁹⁵¹

On 6 May 2021, the Financial Services Commission “introduced the measures to improve rules on the suspension of licensing review process for financial institutions. The measures are intended to increase predictability and minimize legal uncertainties for businesses.”⁹⁵² “First, the authorities will newly establish a guideline that provides a specific and detailed list of grounds and reasons for suspending a licensing review process. Second, for business entities whose licensing review process has been suspended, the authorities will reconsider every six months the possibility of resuming the licensing review process and whether to extend the suspension period. Third, the suspension of licensing review process, which is currently not applicable to insurance businesses, specialized credit finance companies and financial holding companies, will be applied across all financial sectors to enhance consistency.”⁹⁵³

On 10 May 2021, the Financial Services Commission “announced that financial institutions will be required to record the sales process when selling “highly complex investment products” and making sales to elderly investors starting from 10 May. In addition, a cooling-off period of two business days or more will be guaranteed for investors on “highly complex investment products” to allow them to make more prudent investment decisions.”⁹⁵⁴

⁹⁴⁸ Government Approves Stronger Investor Protection on High-risk Investment Products, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75282>

⁹⁴⁹ FSCMA Revisions for Improving Rules on PEFs Passed by the National Assembly, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75609>

⁹⁵⁰ Government Approves Revised Law to Support Innovative Financial Services, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75742>

⁹⁵¹ Financial Support through Key Industry Stabilization Fund Extended until the End of 2021, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75790>

⁹⁵² Financial Authorities to Improve Rules on the Suspension of Licensing Review Process, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75857>

⁹⁵³ Financial Authorities to Improve Rules on the Suspension of Licensing Review Process, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75857>

⁹⁵⁴ Enhanced Investor Protection Measures to Be Applied on Highly Complex Investment Products, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75878>

On 13 May 2021, Korea announced its intention “to provide massive tax incentives and state subsidies to chipmakers to encourage” spending and attract investment. Korea “aims to more than double its annual outbound shipments of chips to reach a whopping USD200 billion in 2030 from USD99.2 billion tallied in 2020.”⁹⁵⁵

On 26 July 2021, Korea presented a revision to the tax bill to support industries, employment and facilitate economic growth. The amendments include tax incentives for technology-driven companies, up to 100 per cent tax reduction for startups to promote employment and boost consumption.⁹⁵⁶

Korea has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 25 February 2021, the Institutional Stock Exchange (Biva) launched a financial tool called Biva-iCloud which, will facilitate access to financing and stock market information for companies in the country. In a conference, the director of the second brokerage firm in the country pointed out that it is a new platform for the distribution of financial and stock information, which will allow companies to approach the sector thanks to technology and innovation.⁹⁵⁷

On 31 March 2021, the Financial System Stability Council held its 43rd ordinary session. At that session the council updated the risk balance and reviewed and approved its annual report. In this report, it evaluated the risks to the stability of the financial system and analyzed the challenges that the Mexican financial system continues to face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also informed about the progress of the Sustainable Finance Committee’s work.⁹⁵⁸

On 4 May 2021, the Regional Consultative Group for the Americas of the Financial Stability Board held a conference call to examine macroeconomic-financial vulnerabilities at the global and regional levels and their possible impact on the region. Members also considered the potential financial stability implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the potential impact of an asynchronous economic recovery across regions and the dynamics of capital flows in market and developing economies. The Regional Consultative Group for the Americas of the Financial Stability Board is co-

⁹⁵⁵ S. Korea to emerge as No. 1 chip powerhouse with 510 tln-won investment by 2030, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210513002351320>

⁹⁵⁶ 2021 Revision to Support New Industries and Employment, as well as Inclusive Growth, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-si) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5177>

⁹⁵⁷ Biva facilitates access for companies to the stock market, La Jornada (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.jornada.com.mx/notas/2021/02/25/economia/facilita-biva-acceso-de-empresas-al-mercado-bursatil>

⁹⁵⁸ The Financial System Stability Council Updates its Balance Sheet, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/shcp/prensa/el-consejo-de-estabilidad-del-sistema-financiero-actualiza-su-balance-de-riesgos-268309>

chaired by Alejandro Díaz de León Carrillo, Governor of the Bank of Mexico and Cindy Scotland, Managing Director of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority.⁹⁵⁹

Mexico taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 24 December 2020, the Government of Russia made a decision to provide extra RUB2.5 billion (approximately USD33.8 million) to stabilize regional budgets. Three regions of Russia – Buryat Republic, Mordovia and Ingushetia would receive governmental subsidies to cover the deficit arose due to the pandemic.⁹⁶⁰

On 26 February 2021, the Government of Russia approved allocation of extra RUB100 billion (approximately USD1.3 billion) for infrastructure development in a two-years period. The funds would be granted for construction of toll roads in 69 regions along with renovation of existing roads.⁹⁶¹

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation presented the key objectives of the Strategy of Finance Market Development to 2030. The Ministry aims to attract investments by providing transparent and adequate information concerning long-term development priorities. Also, the Ministry plans to introduce new mechanisms to guard individual low-qualified investors amid market uncertainty along with introduction of Russia's own digital currency.⁹⁶²

On 27 March 2021, the Government of Russia approved allocation of extra subsidies for agriculture machinery producers. Each applicant could be granted a sum up to RUB5 million (approximately USD67 ths). The Government plans to grant up to RUB1.5 billion (approximately USD20 million) in 2021 – 2023 in subsidies.⁹⁶³

On 3 April 2021, the Government of Russian decided to allocate extra RUB1 billion (approximately USD13.5 million) to modernize industrial facilities. Among the recipients – 25 regions of Russia including Kuzbas, Novosibirsk and Pskov. The Government would subsidize share of expenses needed to purchase new equipment, provide access to infrastructure and settle lease payments.⁹⁶⁴

⁹⁵⁹ El Grupo Consultivo Regional para las Américas del Consejo de Estabilidad Financiera (FSB) discutió sobre las vulnerabilidades globales y regionales, y las medidas de apoyo ante la pandemia por COVID-19, Banxico 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.banxico.org.mx/publicaciones-y-prensa/miscelaneos/%7B4FBC9F8D-DF0C-84E8-E14D-DB22D17409A4%7D.pdf>

⁹⁶⁰ Government to Allocate Another RUB2.5 billion to Stabilize Regional Budgets, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 27 December 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41227/>

⁹⁶¹ Government to Allocate RUB100 billion for Infrastructure Development, the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 01 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41635/>

⁹⁶² Strategy – 2030: Ministry to Define the Key Objective, Vesti.RU (Moscow) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.vesti.ru/finance/article/2539309>

⁹⁶³ Government to Extend Measures to Support Agriculture Machinery Producers, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41830/>

⁹⁶⁴ Regions to Receive RUB1 billion for Industrial Modernization, the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 05 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41887/>

On 5 April 2021, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation unveiled its intention to spend extra funding received from trade in oil on foreign reserves accumulation. From 7 April to 7 May 2021, the Ministry would allocate extra RUB185.7 billion (approximately USD2.5 billion) for foreign currency purchase.⁹⁶⁵

On 15 April 2021, the Government of Russia approved extra measures to support touristic enterprises offering outbound tourist trips. The Government extended moratorium on mandatory payments to specially designated state funds and extended notification period for tourist refund operations from two weeks to one month.⁹⁶⁶

On 16 April 2021, the Government of Russia allocated extra RUB1 billion (approximately USD13.5 million) to promote poultry farming and fisheries.⁹⁶⁷

On 15 April 2021, the Government of Russia presented a national program to support local economic activities among ethnic minorities of Russia's Arctic region. The program is based on six pillars, namely infrastructure, market access improvement measures, establishment of the Traditional Industries Center, promotion of tourism, educational and skills development.⁹⁶⁸

On 5 May 2021, the Government of Russia announced its intention to allocate extra funds to complete the 4th stage of construction of the Bolshoi' Stavropol'sky channel. The decision implies allocation of extra RUB220 million (approximately USD2.9 million) in 2022.⁹⁶⁹

On 13 May 2021, the Government of Russia approved an amendment to the state Strategy to Promote Services Export till 2025. Six new projects were incorporated into the Strategy. Extra funding for key spheres such as healthcare services would be granted in 2022.⁹⁷⁰

On 14 May 2021, the Government of Russia made a decision to ease preconditions for local governments to obtain federal loans. New short-term loans (up to 240 days) would be available regardless of loans granted in 2020. Also, the Government prolonged maturity period for loans granted in 2020 to finance COVID-19 countermeasures till 2029.⁹⁷¹

On 11 June 2021, Russia supported the proposed by the Ministry of Economic Development draft law amending the state tax code in matters concerning operation of residents of the special economic

⁹⁶⁵ Concerning Oil and Gas Income and Buy/Sell Operation in Foreign Currencies on Local Market, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. https://minfin.gov.ru/ru/press-center/?id_4=37434-o_neftegazovykh_dokhodakh_i_provedenii_operatsii_po_pokupkeprodazhe_inostranoi_valyuty_na_vnutrennem_valyutno_m_rynke

⁹⁶⁶ Government to Approve Extra Measures to Support Outbound Tourist Operators, Government of the Russian Federation 15 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41973/>

⁹⁶⁷ Government to Allocate Extra Funds to Promote Poultry and Fisheries, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41997/>

⁹⁶⁸ Government to Approve Government Support Program to Promote Traditional Industries in Russia's Arctic, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42009/>

⁹⁶⁹ Government to Allocate Extra Funds for the 4th Stage of Bolshoi' Stavropol'sky Channel, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42131/>

⁹⁷⁰ Government to Extend the Strategy of Service Export Promotion, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42185/>

⁹⁷¹ Government to Ease Requirements for Short-Term Budget Loans, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42172/>

zone in the Kaliningrad oblast. The new regulations would give more tax incentives to operating businesses and thus attract investments and boost economic growth.⁹⁷²

On 22 July 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that it would provide non-repayable grants to the local businesses as a support measure amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The allocated sums could be spent on salaries and maintaining stable level of employment.⁹⁷³

On 14 September 2021, Russia announced that the state-run Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Corporation would provide extra budgeting for small and medium-size enterprises. A new financing instrument would benefit no less than 35,000 targeted companies that would be provided with RUB600 billion (approximately USD8.2 billion) of the state-sponsored loans at a discount rate till 2024.⁹⁷⁴

On 20 September 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that more than 3,000 companies would be allowed to take a loan on a discount rate under the new government-sponsored program for small and medium-size enterprises. Borrowers would be allowed to apply for a loan up to RUB10 million (approximately USD137,000) at 11.5 per cent interest rate.⁹⁷⁵

Russia has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 5 April 2021, the General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT) issued regulations to implement an initial special economic zone in Saudi Arabia, the integrated logistic bonded zone (ILBZ). “The ILBZ was announced in October 2018, as part of a goal to make Riyadh one of the 10 largest city economies in the world and is in line with efforts to make Saudi Arabia a globally competitive transportation and logistics hub for the movement of goods and services. The ILBZ will, among other things, provide direct and indirect tax benefits and exemptions to Saudi companies and foreign

⁹⁷² The government supported the bill on the expansion of benefits for residents of the SEZ in the Kaliningrad region, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 11 June 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

https://www.economy.gov.ru/material/news/pravitelstvom_podderzhan_zakonoproekt_o_rasshirenii_lgot_dlya_rezidentov_oez_v_kaliningradskoy_oblasti.html

⁹⁷³ The government will allocate grants to support business in the regions, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 22 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. https://www.economy.gov.ru/material/news/pravitelstvo_vydelit_bezvozmezdneye_granty_na_podderzhku_biznesa_v_regionah.html

⁹⁷⁴ 35 thousand small and medium-sized businesses will be able to get access to bank loans, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

https://www.economy.gov.ru/material/news/dostup_k_bankovskim_kreditam_smogut_poluchit_35_tysyach_kompaniy_malogo_i_srednego_biznesa.html

⁹⁷⁵ More than 3,000 companies will be able to get a loan at a reduced rate by the end of 2021 as part of the new SME support program, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

https://www.economy.gov.ru/material/news/bolee_3000_kompaniy_smogut_poluchit_kredit_po_snizhennoy_stavke_dokonca_2021_goda_v_ramkah_novoy_programmy_podderzhki_msp.html

investors. A company (or branch of a company) that is licensed to conduct activities in the ILBZ – an established entity – will be eligible for tax benefits and exemptions in relation to the following activities: Maintenance, repair, processing, modification, development, assembly, and storage of goods; Sorting, packing, repacking, trading in, distributing, dealing with, and using goods in any form (including simple manufacturing operations); Import, export, and re-export; Value-added services, logistics services, and after sales services; Recycle waste and e-waste.”⁹⁷⁶ “The tax benefits and exemptions that are available to established entities include: Income tax at a zero per cent (0 per cent) rate for income derived from the prescribed activities; Permanent establishments of non-resident entities conducting activities related to goods in Saudi Arabia are disregarded, provided the non-resident has no physical presence in Saudi Arabia; Suspended customs duty for goods imported into or transported within the ILBZ (no customs duty is applicable until goods enter the Saudi mainland for domestic consumption; No value added tax (VAT) on supplies or transactions occurring with respect to goods in the ILBZ (such supplies would be outside the scope of VAT because the supplies occur under customs duty suspension).”⁹⁷⁷

On 15 March 2021, the GAZT and the General Customs Authority “launched an initiative to defer the payment of customs duties and taxes on goods imported into Saudi Arabia.”⁹⁷⁸ The program “allows the postponement of import taxes for a period of up to 21 days following the date of the clearance of the goods for home consumption in the Saudi market.”⁹⁷⁹

On 2 March 2021, the Saudi Central Bank announced it would launch a new initiative, Open Banking, to stimulate growth and innovation in Saudi Arabia’s financial services industry in the first half of 2022. “Open Banking will be a key component in the development of financial services in Saudi Arabia. It dovetails with the strategic priorities set out in both the Saudi Vision 2030 and the Financial Sector Development Program, namely: developing the digital economy and supporting private sector growth in financial services.”⁹⁸⁰ Open Banking aims at “stimulating innovation by enhancing opportunities to develop new products and services that will increase value proposition and create additional revenue streams; increasing competition, reducing barriers to entry for new participants and providing them with a better understanding of customer needs; creating greater efficiency in the banking system. Additionally, new technologies may reduce the cost of innovation providing an easy way to collaborating with third-party providers.”⁹⁸¹

On 2 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced a new law (to be effective since 1 January 2024) which will prevent international businesses without regional headquarters in Saudi Arabia from contracting with institutions, agencies and funds owned by the Saudi government. “The Saudi Minister of

⁹⁷⁶ Saudi Arabia: Regulations to implement tax benefits in special economic zone, KPMG (Amstelveen) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-saudi-arabia-regulations-implement-tax-benefits-special-economic-zone.html>

⁹⁷⁷ Saudi Arabia: Regulations to implement tax benefits in special economic zone, KPMG (Amstelveen) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-saudi-arabia-regulations-implement-tax-benefits-special-economic-zone.html>

⁹⁷⁸ Saudi Arabia: Deferral of customs duty for 21-day period after importation, KPMG (Amstelveen) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-saudi-arabia-deferral-of-customs-duty-for-21-day-period-after-importation.html>

⁹⁷⁹ Saudi Arabia: Deferral of customs duty for 21-day period after importation, KPMG (Amstelveen) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-saudi-arabia-deferral-of-customs-duty-for-21-day-period-after-importation.html>

⁹⁸⁰ Saudi Arabia: Saudi Central Bank Launches Open Banking Initiative, Mondaq (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudiarabia/financial-services/1041936/saudi-central-bank-launches-open-banking-initiative->

⁹⁸¹ Saudi Arabia: Saudi Central Bank Launches Open Banking Initiative, Mondaq (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudiarabia/financial-services/1041936/saudi-central-bank-launches-open-banking-initiative->

Investment defines “regional headquarters” as having all executive staff operations and supporting functions in Saudi Arabia. Headquarters must be located in Riyadh or Dammam and Jeddah with prior government authorization.”⁹⁸²

On 7 April 2021, Saudi Arabia announced details of the an investment program, which encompasses three main initiatives, with a SAR10 trillion target (excluding SAR2 trillion Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) over the next ten years. “The three main initiatives include the “Shareek” program, the Public Investment Fund (PIF) investment program, and the to-be-announced National Investment Strategy (NIS). The Shareek program seeks to partner with the private sector. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched the program in late March 2021, as part of the broader investment program. Shareek is meant as a partnership of the government with the private sector to increase domestic investments and support economic growth. The goal of the Shareek program is to unleash domestic investments of SAR5 trillion (166 per cent of 2021 GDP) over the period to 2030. The PIF investment program contribute SAR3 trillion in investments over the same period. The PIF domestic investments averaged SAR62 billion over the period 2016-20 with targeted annual investments of SAR 150 billion over the period 2021-2025. Extending this pace of annual investments to 2030 would bring cumulative investments by the PIF to SAR1.5 trillion over the 2021-2030 period. The to-be-announced NIS will also generate SAR4 trillion in investments over the same period, which is estimated to include an ambitious target of SAR2 trillion in Foreign Direct Investments.”⁹⁸³

On 29 July 2021, the Capital Markets Authority announced it launched a consultation on proposed amendments to the Resolution of Securities Disputes Proceedings Regulation. The amendments will regulate the procedures for considering the lawsuit through the electronic system, including submitting and filing the claim with the Committee, holding remote hearings, exchanging memorandums, issuing decisions, and objecting to them. They aim to improve the proceedings of securities disputes before the Committees for Resolution of Securities Disputes and develop procedures that boost the speed and efficiency of hearings and decisions on lawsuits.⁹⁸⁴

On 17 September 2021, Saudi Arabia announced the formation of a committee tasked with regulating foreign investment levels. The initiative is designed to protect certain critical sectors in the face of increased investment from overseas. One of its first tasks is to draw up a criterion for foreign investors, outlining what sectors are excluded, according to a report from Saudi financial news service Agraam. In addition, the committee, which will be chaired by the government’s investment minister, will also set a limit for foreign ownership in local companies.⁹⁸⁵

Saudi Arabia has taken a number of important actions to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

⁹⁸² Saudi Arabia: New Law In Saudi Arabia To Require Regional Headquarters For International Companies, Mondaq (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudiarabia/government-contracts-procurement-ppp/1041884/new-law-in-saudi-arabia-to-require-regional-headquarters-for-international-companies>

⁹⁸³ Saudi Arabia's new investment program could be a big leap for the economy, Gulf News (Dubai) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/business/analysis/saudi-arabias-new-investment-programme-could-be-a-big-leap-for-the-economy-1.1617772442564>

⁹⁸⁴ Capital market authority launches consultation on Proposed Amendments to resolution of securities disputes proceedings regulation, Lexology (London) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=08db40a4-30bb-4495-8d75-ce659bec09ae>

⁹⁸⁵ Saudi Arabia forms committee to regulate foreign investment, Funds Global MENA (London) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.fundsglobalmena.com/news/saudi-arabia-forms-committee-to-regulate-foreign-investment>

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 11 December 2020, the National Development Agency has allocated ZAR32 million (approximately USD2.2 million) for 200 civil society organizations to stimulate local economic development.⁹⁸⁶

On 5 February 2021, the Government of South Africa announced its intention to allocate ZAR 400 million (approximately USD28.3 million) to assist the early childhood development sector that had been badly hit with COVID-19–related restrictions. “The department said the budget allocation, known as the Early Childhood Development Stimulus Relief Fund, is part of sustaining and creating employment opportunities in the sector, in light of the high unemployment rate and job losses occasioned by the pandemic.”⁹⁸⁷

On 24 February 2021, the National Treasury announced that “a total ZAR217 billion (approximately USD15 billion) would be spent over the next three-years on ambitious economic development programs aimed at promoting faster and sustained inclusive economic growth...According to the document, an allocation of ZAR81.6 billion (approximately USD5.7 billion) over the medium term will support the expansion of public employment programs while a further R1 billion is set aside to enhance accountability for waste management.”⁹⁸⁸

On 22 April 2021, the Cabinet approved the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan. The objective of the Plan is to preserve jobs and livelihoods along with creation of new job opportunities especially among women, youth and people with disabilities in the sector.⁹⁸⁹ Interventions and enablers outlined in the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan will facilitate the preservation of ZAR189 billion (approximately USD13.4 billion) of value and help the sector to recover.⁹⁹⁰

On 28 April 2021, “the South African Reserve Bank, as part of the modernization of the national payment system, embarked on the Authenticated Collections (AC)/DebiCheck project. This project is a first of its kind that seeks to address the increasing levels of abuse in the debit order payment system, known commercially as the early debit order (EDO) payment system. From 1 May 2021, all new and renegotiated EDO mandates will be originated in the AC/DebiCheck payment system and not in the current EDO payment system. Early debit orders will only be processed through the AC/DebiCheck payment system, while normal debit orders will still be processed later in the day as per current arrangements.”⁹⁹¹

On 25 May 2021, Minister for Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni presented the budget proposal for the government-run Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA). In 2022-

⁹⁸⁶ R32 million allocated to stimulate local economic development, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r32-million-allocated-stimulate-local-economic-development>

⁹⁸⁷ Over R400m to assist struggling ECDs, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-r400m-assist-struggling-ecds>

⁹⁸⁸ R217 billion allocated for economic growth programmes, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r217-billion-allocated-economic-growth-programmes>

⁹⁸⁹ Recovery plan for COVID-19 hit tourism sector, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/recovery-plan-covid-19-hit-tourism-sector>

⁹⁹⁰ Tourism Recovery Plan to facilitate preservation of R189 billion, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/tourism-recovery-plan-facilitate-preservation-r189-billion>

⁹⁹¹ The South African Reserve Bank modernizes the national payment system with the DebiCheck project, South African Reserve Bank (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/media-releases/2021/The-SARB-modernises-NPS-with-Debicheck-Project>

2023, the SEDA would receive ZAR2.5 billion (approximately USD170.4 million) to facilitate export growth in construction, mid-skill manufacturing, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism and business services; reduce cost of regulatory compliance; support for small businesses through better coordination of relevant agencies, etc.⁹⁹²

On 5 August 2021, Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu announced that a state-run Rand Water had arranged the auction of over ZAR1.7 billion (approximately USD113 million) in sustainability-linked notes. The raised sum would be allocated to assist the government in its efforts to revive the economy by securing sustainable access to water.⁹⁹³

On 11 August 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel has announced that the Government would spend ZAR3.75 billion (approximately USD250 million) to support businesses affected during the recent outbreaks of violence across the country.⁹⁹⁴

South Africa takes steps to ensure sustainable capital flows, but no action aimed at domestic capital market development has been founded.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignator

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 19 February 2021, Turkey reported “monetary policy has been significantly tightened, international reserves have stabilized and the Turkish lira has appreciated by 18 percent against the US dollar since early November” 2020. Under its new leadership, the central bank has simplified monetary policy by reverting to a single policy interest rate (one-week repo rate) to improve transparency and predictability, strengthened its communication strategy and stepped-up its tightening cycle by increasing policy rate rates by 675 basic points in November-December 2020. The real policy rate (adjusted for 12-month inflation expectations) increased to 6.8 per cent in February 2021 compared with -1.55 per cent in August 2020. Authorities have also reversed previous regulatory measures to rein in rapid credit growth. The central bank current policy settings are aimed at achieving sustained disinflation (reaching its inflation target of 5 per cent in 2023), a reversal in dollarization and rebuilding FX reserves. In line with its intention to strengthen inflation targeting credentials, the central bank has renewed its previous long-standing commitment to a floating exchange rate, after large scale interventions in 2020. The change in investor sentiment and domestic actors has led to significant lira appreciation, lower risk premium and some net capital inflows.”⁹⁹⁵

On 12 March 2021, “President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan unveiled Turkey’s latest Economic Reform Package. Macroeconomic policies of the Economic Reform Package encompass significant steps

⁹⁹² Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Small Business Development Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-small-business-development-dept-budget-vote-202122-25-may>

⁹⁹³ Minister Lindiwe Sisulu commends Rand Water for raising over R1.7 billion in the capital markets, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-commends-rand-water-raising-over-r17-billion-capital-markets-5-aug>

⁹⁹⁴ Trade, Industry and Competition announces economic recovery support interventions for affected businesses, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-announces-economic-recovery-support-interventions-affected>

⁹⁹⁵ Fitch Revises Turkey's Outlook to Stable; Affirms at 'BB-', Fitch Ratings (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/sovereigns/fitch-revises-turkey-outlook-to-stable-affirms-at-bb-19-02-2021>

such as ensuring price stability, increasing investments and employment, supporting financial sector and reducing the current deficit. Meanwhile, structural policies include strengthening institutional structure, encouraging investments, facilitating domestic trade, enhancing competition policies and performing market surveillance and inspection. Regarding investments, the package includes a series of regulations to further enhance the investment environment in Turkey, some of are being introducing special incentives, reducing the impact of bureaucracy and land allocation for investments. President Erdoğan added that instruments in interest-free finance will also be diversified to position Turkey as an alternative location for such investments and Tech-driven Industry Initiative and Project-based Incentives System will be bolstered up to reduce the current deficit. As part of the regulations to fight against inflation, the Turkish government has decided to establish the Price Stability Committee with representation of key sectors such as agriculture, industry and services. President Erdoğan, also heralded a new law to be introduced regarding the Istanbul Finance Center project. Once the center gets fully operational, the government will make efforts to make it a center of attraction for international finance organizations. Within the scope of a legal regulation, a new incentives mechanism will be launched specifically for the Istanbul Finance Center.”⁹⁹⁶

On 18 March 2021, “Turkey’s central bank raised its policy rate again in attempt to control rising inflation. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey’s seven-member monetary policy committee (MPC) raised its one-week repo rate by 200 basis points, from 17 per cent to 19 per cent. The MPC has raised the policy rate by 875 basis points in the four months.”⁹⁹⁷

On 15 July 2021, the World Bank announced extended financing worth USD1.5 billion for five critical development projects in Turkey. The financial support, together with technical and policy advice and analytical work, contribute to the implementation of Turkey’s 11th National Development Plan, as laid out in the World Bank Group’s Country Partnership Framework. With the new lending approvals in 2021, the active lending portfolio in Turkey has reached just over USD7 billion covering 23 projects.⁹⁹⁸

On 19 August 2021, the Draft Regulation on the Operating Principles of Digital Banks and Banking as a Service (“Draft Regulation”) has been introduced for public opinion. The Draft Regulation has been prepared by Turkey’s Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency for encouraging financial innovation, fostering financial inclusiveness, and promoting access to banking services in the banking sector, laying down the rules governing i) digital banks and ii) SaaS business model under separate sections. It is foreseen that the resulting regulation will enter into force on 1 January 2022.⁹⁹⁹

On 5 September 2021, Turkey’s Medium-Term Program for 2022-2024, co-developed by the Ministry of Treasury and Finance and the Presidency of Strategy and Budget was aired. The new economic program expects Turkey’s GDP to grow 9 per cent this year, 5 per cent by 2022, 5.5 per cent by 2023, and 5.5 per cent by 2024. Moreover, per capita income is predicted to surpass USD10,000 threshold in 2023, reaching USD9,489 in 2021, USD9,947 in 2022, USD10,703 in 2023,

⁹⁹⁶ New Economic Reform Package Heralded by President Erdogan, Invest in Türkiye (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.invest.gov.tr/en/news/newsletters/lists/investnewsletter/investment-office-apr-2021-newsletter.pdf>

⁹⁹⁷ Turkish central bank announces large rate rise, Central Banking (Ankara) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.centralbanking.com/central-banks/monetary-policy/7812576/turkish-central-bank-announces-large-rate-rise>

⁹⁹⁸ World Bank in Turkey Focuses on Protecting People and Firms, while Improving Climate Resilience in Fiscal Year 2021, World Bank (Washington DC) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/07/15/world-bank-in-turkey-focuses-on-protecting-people-and-firms-while-improving-climate-resilience-in-fiscal-year-2021>

⁹⁹⁹ Turkey is paving the way for digital-only banks’ legal infrastructure, Global Banking Regulation Review (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date:24 September 2021. <https://globalbankingregulationreview.com/pro/content/turkey-is-paving-the-way-for-digital-only-banks-legal-infrastructure>

and USD11,465 in 2024. Despite the increasing labor force participation, unemployment rate is expected to gradually decrease 12.6 per cent this year, 12 per cent in 2022, 11.4 per cent in 2023, and 10.9 per cent in 2024. While annual inflation in Turkey is projected to reach 16.2 per cent by the end of this year, it is expected to fall into single digits starting from next year receding 9.8 per cent in 2022, 8 per cent in 2023, and 7.6 per cent in 2024. Turkey will continue to set new export records in the coming years. While the country's export target for 2022 is USD230.9 billion, it aims to gain USD255 billion by 2024. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism revenues were revised to reasonable levels, with the goal of gaining USD25 billion in 2022, USD30 billion in 2023, and USD33 billion in 2024.¹⁰⁰⁰

Turkey has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

In January 2021, the UK published a call for input “to identify options to make the UK a more attractive location to set up, manage and administer funds, and support more efficient investments better suited to investors’ needs.”¹⁰⁰¹

On 3 March 2021, the details of the new UK budget were published. According to the document, in 2021-22 the UK government will carry out sound monetary policies and apply countercyclical fiscal measure to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁰²

On 19 March 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced new plans to help fintechns scale up. In particular, “the UK will consult on changes to its prospectus regime – which governs the information a company must publish when raising finance...to ensure the rules are not overly burdensome but provide investors with the information they need, tailored to the type of transaction. The consultation will also explore how to make it easier for companies to provide the forward-looking financial information investors want to see, which would particularly benefit technology and life sciences companies with high-growth potential, and their investors. A group of experts will also be convened to look at how to improve the efficiency of rights issues – when a listed company invites its existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares – and the role technology could play in streamlining the process, as recommended by the Review. Separately, ambitious reforms to the UK’s wider capital markets regime will also be consulted on this summer, including proposals to delete the share trading obligation and double volume cap. The consultation process aims to deliver a

¹⁰⁰⁰ Turkey Unveils 2022-2024 Medium-Term Program, Invest in Türkiye (Antalya) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.invest.gov.tr/en/news/news-from-turkey/pages/turkey-unveils-2022-2024-medium-term-program.aspx>

¹⁰⁰¹ Review of the UK funds regime: A call for input, HM Treasury (London) January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955542/REVIEW_OF_THE_UK_FUNDS_REGIME_-_CALL_FOR_INPUT.pdf

¹⁰⁰² Policy paper. Budget 2021 (HTML), HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents/budget-2021-html>

rulebook that is fair, outcomes-based and supports competitiveness, whilst ensuring the UK maintains the highest regulatory standards.”¹⁰⁰³

In April 2021, the UK government’s gross reserves increased by USD815 million to USD178,964 million, as compared to end-March.¹⁰⁰⁴

The United Kingdom has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

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

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 18 December 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced that it had “voted to affirm the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at the current level of 0 per cent...follow[ing] the framework detailed in the Board’s policy statement for setting the CCyB for private-sector credit exposures located in the United States.”¹⁰⁰⁵ This move was, according to the message by the Board, intended to “increase the resilience of the financial system by raising capital requirements on large banking organizations” as well as to help moderate fluctuations in the supply of credit.¹⁰⁰⁶

On 18 February 2021, the Federal Reserve Board “announced a final rule that is intended to reduce risk and increase efficiency in the financial system by applying netting protections to a broader range of financial institutions. The final rule amends Regulation EE (Financial Institution Netting) to apply netting provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 to certain new entities including swap dealers. The rule also provided clarifications to the existing activities-based test in Regulation EE to clarify how the activities-based test applies following a consolidation of legal entities.”¹⁰⁰⁷

On 8 March 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced the extension of its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility by three months to 30 June 2021. The extension was aimed at providing “continued support for the flow of credit to small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program.”¹⁰⁰⁸

¹⁰⁰³ Ambitious plans to boost UK fintech and financial services set out by Chancellor, UK Government (London) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-plans-to-boost-uk-fintech-and-financial-services-set-out-by-chancellor>

¹⁰⁰⁴ Statistical Release: UK official holdings of international reserves – April 2021, HM Treasury (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/983632/Statistical_Release_UK_official_holdings_of_international_-_April_2021.pdf

¹⁰⁰⁵ Federal Reserve Board votes to affirm the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at the current level of 0 percent, Federal Reserve (Washington) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20201218c.htm>

¹⁰⁰⁶ Federal Reserve Board votes to affirm the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at the current level of 0 percent, Federal Reserve (Washington) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20201218c.htm>

¹⁰⁰⁷ Federal Reserve Board announces final rule intended to reduce risk and increase efficiency in the financial system by applying netting protections to a broader range of financial institutions, Federal Reserve (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210218a.htm>

¹⁰⁰⁸ Federal Reserve Board announces it will extend its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility, or PPPLF, by three months to June 30, 2021, Federal Reserve (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20210308a.htm>

On 31 March 2021, the Federal Reserve Board adopted a final rule outlining and confirming the use of supervisory guidance for regulated institutions. The rule codified the Interagency Statement Clarifying the Role of Supervisory Guidance, made in 2018, as an Appendix to the Board's Rules of Procedure, affirming the principle of administrative law that guidance does not have the force and effect of law or regulation. This decision served, according to the memo by the Board, to provide certainty and transparency to regulated financial institutions.¹⁰⁰⁹

On 28 April 2021, President Joseph Biden announced the American Families Plan, providing for a massive increase in government financial support to “American families and communities.” Around 161 million payments of up to USD1,400 were distributed among households, and social infrastructure institutions around the country, with a special emphasis on children.¹⁰¹⁰

The United States took actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 2 December 2020, the Council of the European Union published Conclusions on the European Commission's Capital Markets Union Action Plan. The Council called on the Commission “to focus on actions that can be delivered via non-legislative means, and which, like legislative means, can help channeling savings into the capital markets in order to make these funds available for the economy without risking financial stability, market integrity or consumer protection.”¹⁰¹¹ It also urged the Commission to set up “an EU-wide “single access point” for financial and non-financial company information that is useful for investors in order to increase transparency, while avoiding creating disproportionate reporting and filing burden for EU companies.”¹⁰¹²

On 3 March 2021, the European Commission “adopted a Communication providing Member States with broad guidance on the conduct of fiscal policy in the period ahead. It provided guiding principles for the proper design and quality of fiscal measures.”¹⁰¹³ The Commission advocated “coordinated and consistent policy response to the current crisis. This requires credible fiscal policies that address the short-term consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and support the recovery, while not endangering fiscal sustainability in the medium-term.”¹⁰¹⁴

¹⁰⁰⁹ Board Memo: Final Rule on the Role of Supervisory Guidance, Federal Reserve (Washington) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/files/board-memo-20210312.pdf>

¹⁰¹⁰ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan, the White House (Washington DC) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan/>

¹⁰¹¹ Council Conclusions on the Commission's CMU Action Plan, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12898-2020-REV-1/en/pdf>

¹⁰¹² Council Conclusions on the Commission's CMU Action Plan, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12898-2020-REV-1/en/pdf>

¹⁰¹³ Commission presents updated approach to fiscal policy response to coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_884

¹⁰¹⁴ Commission presents updated approach to fiscal policy response to coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_884

On 22 April 2021, the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) “decided to reconfirm its very accommodative monetary policy stance.”¹⁰¹⁵ The aim of this policy is “to ensure that inflation moves towards its aim in a sustained manner, in line with the ECB’s commitment to symmetry.”¹⁰¹⁶

On 9 June 2021, the European Commission published a list of indicators for tracking capital markets’ developments and measuring progress of the EU’s capital markets union policy. The set of indicators will help identify rules that need to be adjusted and potential new measures needed to improve capital market development.¹⁰¹⁷

The European Union has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

¹⁰¹⁵ Monetary policy decisions, European Central Bank (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.mp210422~f075ebe1f0.en.html>

¹⁰¹⁶ Monetary policy decisions, European Central Bank (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.mp210422~f075ebe1f0.en.html>

¹⁰¹⁷ The Commission publishes a list of indicators to monitor progress towards the CMU objectives, European Commission (Brussels) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/210609-capital-markets-union-indicators_en

3. Trade: Investment

“We strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.”

G20 Riyadh 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 | | 0 | |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | 0 | |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 0 | |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.65 (83%) | |

Background

The 2020 G20 Leaders’ Statement acknowledges the importance of “supporting the multilateral trading system” in response to the economic contraction brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰¹⁸ Additionally, the G20 leaders affirm the need to promote inclusive economic growth, fostering the integration of developing and least developed countries into the international trading system.¹⁰¹⁹

Discussions on realizing the goal of free, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment can be traced back to the 2008 Washington Summit. In the face of the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G20 leaders agreed to “ensure transparency” and “restore stability” while remaining committed to free market principles.¹⁰²⁰ Accordingly, the G20 leaders committed to

¹⁰¹⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁰¹⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁰²⁰ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

undertaking a Financial Sector Assessment Program report, which consists of a financial stability assessment and a financial development assessment, bolstering transparency and stability.¹⁰²¹

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders drafted the Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, encouraging financial inclusion, stability, and market-based incentives conducive to a competitive economic landscape.¹⁰²² Leaders renewed their commitment to “refrain from raising barriers or imposing new barriers to investment or trade in goods and services,” promoting free trade and investment.¹⁰²³ At the 2010 Seoul Summit, leaders delivered the Seoul Action Plan to “enhance the stability of financial markets,” and a modernized International Monetary Fund with “greater representation of dynamic emerging markets and developing countries,” encouraging fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory international trade.¹⁰²⁴

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, leaders “firmly committed to open trade and investment,” underlining the significance of “an open, predictable, rules-based, and transparent” trade environment.¹⁰²⁵ At the 2013 St Petersburg Summit, leaders agreed to achieving “the open, rules-based, transparent and non-discriminatory WTO-based trading system,” and reaffirmed their support of free trade principles, extending their commitment to “removing barriers and impediments to global trade and investment” until the end of 2016.¹⁰²⁶

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders recognized the importance of “trade and investment frameworks and the principle of non-discrimination,” vowing to fight “all unfair trade practices.”¹⁰²⁷ The leaders reaffirmed the “importance of transparency for predictable and mutually beneficial trade,” and recognized the unequal benefits of international trade and investment, committing to enhancing “international cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable global growth.”¹⁰²⁸

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders first stated their commitment “to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.”¹⁰²⁹ Additionally, they reaffirmed support for reforms to the World Trade Organization (WTO), recognizing the importance of the WTO and WTO-consistent bilateral and regional trade agreements for realizing their ideal trade and investment environments.¹⁰³⁰

On 29 June 2020, the WTO published Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, covering mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020. The report found that of the 154 new trade-related measures

¹⁰²¹ Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP), International Monetary Fund (Washington) 29 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/fsap/fssa.aspx>

¹⁰²² Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-principles.html>

¹⁰²³ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

¹⁰²⁴ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

¹⁰²⁵ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

¹⁰²⁶ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

¹⁰²⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁰²⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁰²⁹ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁰³⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

implemented by G20 members, 95 were trade-facilitating and 59 were trade-restrictive.¹⁰³¹ The COVID-19 pandemic was identified as exacerbating the trend of G20 investment policies aimed to “safeguard national security interests against threats associated with international investment.”¹⁰³²

Commitment Features

In the face of an economic contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 members “strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.” This commitment can be divided into two parts: the first to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade environment, and the second to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable investment environment.

“Strive” refers “to try very hard to do something or make something happen, especially for a long time or against difficulties.”¹⁰³³

The term “trade” is understood to mean the exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property.¹⁰³⁴ In the context of this commitment, a “trade environment” should be understood as the international conditions in which these exchanges take place. The term “investment” is understood to mean the act of allocating funds into something to achieve a result.¹⁰³⁵ In the context of this commitment, an “investment environment” refers to the international conditions in which investment takes place. To “realize” is to “bring into concrete existence; accomplish.”¹⁰³⁶

The WTO outlines four principles that form “the foundation of the multilateral trading system.”¹⁰³⁷ First, non-discriminatory trade mandates that countries “cannot discriminate between trading partners,” and must treat local and imported goods and services equally. Second, free trade dictates that countries will gradually work towards lowering trade barriers such as tariffs and import bans or quotas, progressively liberalizing their markets. Third, predictability encourages nations to make their trade rules clear and transparent. The WTO institutes “binding” commitments, placing a ceiling on customs tariff rates, and in certain agreements requires governments to publicly disclose their practice. The WTO includes “stability” and “transparency” under this principle. Fourth, promoting fair, rules-based trading encourages “undistorted competition.” Finally, “inclusive trade” is understood to mean “all segments of society can take advantage of the opportunities that flow from trade. This means providing equal opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that may already be at disadvantage, including women, Indigenous peoples, youth and other underrepresented groups.”¹⁰³⁸ Together, these five principles describe trading and investment

¹⁰³¹ Joint Summary on the G-20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_joint_summary_jun20_e.pdf

¹⁰³² Joint Summary on the G-20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_joint_summary_jun20_e.pdf

¹⁰³³ Strive, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/strive>

¹⁰³⁴ What we do, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_we_do_e.htm

¹⁰³⁵ Investment, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/investment>

¹⁰³⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁰³⁷ Principles of the trading system, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact2_e.htm

¹⁰³⁸ Spotlight on Inclusive Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/guides/spotlight-pleins_feux/spotlight-trade-pleins-feux-commerce.aspx?lang=eng

environments that are “free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable,” and will be used to determine the compliance of G20 members with this commitment.

A G20 member can achieve full compliance for the first part of the commitment by striving to realize a trade environment in accordance with four to five of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive a score of non-compliance for the first part of the commitment if it strives to realize a trade environment in accordance with one or none of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive partial compliance for the first part of the commitment if it realizes a trade environment in accordance with two to three of the aforementioned principles.

A G20 member can achieve full compliance for the second part of the commitment by striving to realize an investment environment in accordance with four to five of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive a score of non-compliance for the second part of the commitment if it strives to realize an investment environment in accordance with one or none of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive partial compliance for the second part of the commitment if it realizes an investment environment in accordance with two or three of the aforementioned principles.

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A member can fully realize or partially realize the goal of a trade and/or investment environment in accordance with WTO principles. To achieve full compliance, a G20 member must take significant action in order to fully realize the goal of a trade and investment environment in accordance with WTO principles. Examples of significant actions that warrant full compliance include enforcing WTO principles through legislative action, initiating programs to encourage trade and investment in accordance with WTO principles, and engaging with international institutions that facilitate trade and investment. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance include reaffirmation of the commitment in official government statements and attending meetings that discuss the international trade and investment environments.

To achieve full compliance for this commitment, G20 members must take strong action towards realizing both a trade environment and an investment environment that is free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable. Partial compliance will be awarded if a G20 member only takes action towards one of the commitment targets – either trade or investment. Non-compliance will be awarded if a G20 member has completed none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | The G20 member has not taken action towards realizing a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable or stable trade nor investment environment. |
| 0 | The G20 member has either taken action towards realizing a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade OR investment environment. |
| +1 | The G20 member has taken strong action towards realizing the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade AND investment environment. |

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Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 November 2021, Argentina and the European Union met virtually to discuss trade and economics.¹⁰³⁹ During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new

¹⁰³⁹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

taxation laws and interest in varying policy areas.¹⁰⁴⁰ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.¹⁰⁴¹

On 22 December 2020, Minister for Social Development Daniel Arroyo, Minister of Transport Mario Meoni and Foreign Minister Felipe Solá signed an inter-ministerial framework aimed at strengthening partnerships with Middle Eastern countries regarding the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture exports.¹⁰⁴² Minister Solá stated that “we are fully committed to opening new markets for traditional or novel products and introducing novel products in traditional markets.”¹⁰⁴³

On 7 January 2021, Argentina met with Japan to “foster mutual trade and investments.”¹⁰⁴⁴ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”¹⁰⁴⁵

On 4 February 2021, Argentina and Chile enacted their automotive agreement.¹⁰⁴⁶ The agreement allows Argentina to export 10,000 more vehicles to Chile.¹⁰⁴⁷

On 5 March 2021, Argentina published ministerial order 37/21 which created a promotional unit in energy and mining investment¹⁰⁴⁸ The order increases investment attraction in both mining and energy sectors, internationalizing Argentinian companies.¹⁰⁴⁹ The unit will also identify and support “trade and cooperation agreements to promote foreign investment.”¹⁰⁵⁰

¹⁰⁴⁰ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹⁰⁴¹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹⁰⁴² Foreign minister Solá: “We want the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture to have export capacity,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-minister-sola-we-want-grassroots-economy-social-economy-and-family>

¹⁰⁴³ Foreign minister Solá: “We want the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture to have export capacity,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-minister-sola-we-want-grassroots-economy-social-economy-and-family>

¹⁰⁴⁴ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

¹⁰⁴⁵ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

¹⁰⁴⁶ Argentina to Export Ten Thousand More Pickup Trucks to Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-export-ten-thousand-more-pickup-trucks-chile>

¹⁰⁴⁷ Argentina to Export Ten Thousand More Pickup Trucks to Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-export-ten-thousand-more-pickup-trucks-chile>

¹⁰⁴⁸ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

¹⁰⁴⁹ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

¹⁰⁵⁰ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

On 9 March 2021, Argentina and Brazil solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.¹⁰⁵¹ This marks the culmination of work initiated in 2020 and the resolution of these issues will cause a major intensification of the bilateral trade flow of agricultural products.¹⁰⁵²

On 17 March 2021, Argentina met with India and opened India's market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.¹⁰⁵³ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 19 March 2021, Argentina concluded the Joint Declaration on Financing the Private Sector with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).¹⁰⁵⁵ The Joint Declaration mandates that the OPEC Fund will invest in the Argentinian private sector, supporting an inclusive, and non-discriminatory investment environment.¹⁰⁵⁶

On 25 March 2021, Economy Minister Martin Guzmán and his team held discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding an economic plan that the IMF could support.¹⁰⁵⁷ Both parties agreed on the “importance of policies to boost value-added exports and productivity” which would promote an external shock resiliency as well as a more robust growth trajectory, strengthened by private investments.¹⁰⁵⁸

On 5 April 2021, Argentina and Bolivia met virtually for the Second Meeting of the Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on Trade, Investments, and Economic Relations.¹⁰⁵⁹ Market access and cooperation on regulatory matters were discussed.¹⁰⁶⁰ Both countries agreed to virtually hold

¹⁰⁵¹ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

¹⁰⁵² Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

¹⁰⁵³ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

¹⁰⁵⁴ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

¹⁰⁵⁵ The Foreign Ministry Agrees with OPEC Investments for the Private Sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/la-cancilleria-acuerda-con-la-opep-inversiones-para-el-sector-privado>

¹⁰⁵⁶ The Foreign Ministry Agrees with OPEC Investments for the Private Sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/la-cancilleria-acuerda-con-la-opep-inversiones-para-el-sector-privado>

¹⁰⁵⁷ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

¹⁰⁵⁸ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

¹⁰⁵⁹ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

¹⁰⁶⁰ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

negotiations in May for “building business partnerships to promote the region’s production in third markets.”¹⁰⁶¹

On 29 April 2021, Minister Solá virtually closed the First Seminar on Technical Capacities in Foreign Relations which intended on offering tools to the country’s provinces and municipalities.¹⁰⁶² Trade promotion and investments and the multilateral agenda were addressed.¹⁰⁶³

On 12 May 2021, Argentina shipped its first shipment of lemons to the Netherlands since the EU reopened their citrus market to Argentina.¹⁰⁶⁴ Argentina and the National Food Safety and Quality Service reviewed and adjusted their guidelines on citrus to ensure a transparent trade environment.¹⁰⁶⁵

On 3 June 2021, Minister Solá met with Foreign Minister of Paraguay Euclides Acevedo to discuss the position of Mercosur on common external tariffs and external relations.¹⁰⁶⁶ Both ministers agreed to respect the guidelines of the Treaty of Asunción, which works towards a free and communal market.¹⁰⁶⁷

On 8 July 2021, President Alberto Fernández led the Summit of Heads of State of Mercosur, where he discussed the future of trading with fellow Mercosur members.¹⁰⁶⁸ Fernández stated that “it is through more regional integration and not less regional integration, that we will be in better conditions to produce, trade, negotiate and compete.”¹⁰⁶⁹

¹⁰⁶¹ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

¹⁰⁶² Felipe Solá closed the Seminar to promote the international insertion of the provinces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-cerro-seminario-para-promover-la-insercion-internacional-de-las>

¹⁰⁶³ Felipe Solá closed the Seminar to promote the international insertion of the provinces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-cerro-seminario-para-promover-la-insercion-internacional-de-las>

¹⁰⁶⁴ Agriculture and Senasa Certified the First Shipment of Lemons to Export to the European Union, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agricultura-y-el-senasa-certificaron-el-primer-cargamento-de-limones-para-exportar-la-union>

¹⁰⁶⁵ Agriculture and Senasa Certified the First Shipment of Lemons to Export to the European Union, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agricultura-y-el-senasa-certificaron-el-primer-cargamento-de-limones-para-exportar-la-union>

¹⁰⁶⁶ Felipe Solá met with the Foreign Minister of Paraguay to analyze progress in Mercosur, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-se-reunio-con-el-canciller-de-paraguay-para-analizar-avances-en-el>

¹⁰⁶⁷ Felipe Solá met with the Foreign Minister of Paraguay to analyze progress in Mercosur, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-se-reunio-con-el-canciller-de-paraguay-para-analizar-avances-en-el>

¹⁰⁶⁸ "It is through more regional integration that we will be in a better position to produce, trade, negotiate and compete," said the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/destacados/es-traves-de-mas-integracion-regional-que-estaremos-en-mejores-condiciones-de-producir>

¹⁰⁶⁹ "It is through more regional integration that we will be in a better position to produce, trade, negotiate and compete," said the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/destacados/es-traves-de-mas-integracion-regional-que-estaremos-en-mejores-condiciones-de-producir>

On 24 July 2021, Minister Solá attended the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Mexico.¹⁰⁷⁰ He restated how CELAC helps make the needs of the countries involved visible to the international community and has also promoted dialogue with “extra-regional partners.”¹⁰⁷¹

On 28 June 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Nation introduced measures to remove 67 tariff positions as part of a process to reduce export duties which began in December 2019.¹⁰⁷² The project is being undertaken with the goal of “generating economic development with social equity.”¹⁰⁷³

On 29 July 2021, Secretary of International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry Jorge Neme met with El Salvador’s Minister of Economy María Luisa Hayem Brevé to analyze the bilateral flow in trades, goods and services.¹⁰⁷⁴ These included food and beverage, metalworking, pharmaceutical, chemical and automotive sectors as well as the knowledge economy.¹⁰⁷⁵

On 31 July 2021, Secretary Neme visited Honduras where he met with the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise where an agreement was made to deepen bilateral relations between the two countries in the automotive, agricultural, pharmaceutical and food sectors.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 9 August 2021, Minister Solá met with the Head of the Central Bank Miguel Pesce to discuss attracting foreign direct investment.¹⁰⁷⁷ They shared a common goal to “make our country's productive activities more complex and efficient.”¹⁰⁷⁸ An export and investment promotion policy

¹⁰⁷⁰ Solá in Mexico: “For Argentina, CELAC is the centre of our integration convictions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/sola-en-mexico-para-la-argentina-la-celac-es-el-centro-de-nuestras-convicciones>

¹⁰⁷¹ Solá in Mexico: “For Argentina, CELAC is the centre of our integration convictions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/sola-en-mexico-para-la-argentina-la-celac-es-el-centro-de-nuestras-convicciones>

¹⁰⁷² The National Government reduced the export duties of new products from the regional economies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-redujo-los-derechos-de-exportacion-de-nuevos-productos-de-las>

¹⁰⁷³ The National Government reduced the export duties of new products from the regional economies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-redujo-los-derechos-de-exportacion-de-nuevos-productos-de-las>

¹⁰⁷⁴ Argentina advances in the trade agenda with El Salvador, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-avanza-en-la-agenda-comercial-con-el-salvador>

¹⁰⁷⁵ Argentina advances in the trade agenda with El Salvador, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-avanza-en-la-agenda-comercial-con-el-salvador>

¹⁰⁷⁶ Neme visited Honduras with a focus on trade and agricultural cooperation, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/neme-visito-honduras-con-eje-en-el-comercio-y-la-cooperacion-agropecuaria>

¹⁰⁷⁷ To promote foreign investment and boost exports: Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the BCRA, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/para-promover-las-inversiones-extranjeras-e-impulsar-las-exportaciones-convenio>

¹⁰⁷⁸ To promote foreign investment and boost exports: Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the BCRA, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/para-promover-las-inversiones-extranjeras-e-impulsar-las-exportaciones-convenio>

was developed which aimed to expand the volume and diversity of Argentine products in the world.¹⁰⁷⁹

On 20 August 2021, the VII Meeting of the Argentina-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic-Commercial and Scientific-Technological Cooperation was held virtually.¹⁰⁸⁰ During the meeting, the economic trade agenda was revised where “new topics were identified to incorporate in the bilateral relationship, among them, the potential of knowledge-based services, a sector that Argentina offers a wide range.”¹⁰⁸¹

On 23 August 2021, Secretary Neme met with Costa Rica’s Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Renato Alvarado to discuss deepening bilateral trade through opening the markets to Argentine meats and opportunities for cooperation in genetics and livestock development in tropical and subtropical areas.¹⁰⁸² To conclude the meeting, Secretary Neme suggested a binational trade, investment and economic commission be created.¹⁰⁸³

On 25 August 2021, Foreign Secretary Pablo Tettamanti met with the United States Chargé d’Affaires MaryKay Carlson in a working meeting.¹⁰⁸⁴ During the meeting they discussed the necessity to strengthen multilateralism and bilateral relations to fight the pandemic.¹⁰⁸⁵

On 25 August 2021, Chief of Staff of the Foreign Ministry Guillermo Justo Chaves met with Ambassador of the Netherlands Roel Nieuwenkamp to discuss the bilateral political and commercial agenda.¹⁰⁸⁶ They reviewed the possibility of increasing trade and investment flow between both governments.¹⁰⁸⁷

¹⁰⁷⁹ To promote foreign investment and boost exports: Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the BCRA, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/para-promover-las-inversiones-extranjeras-e-impulsar-las-exportaciones-convenio>

¹⁰⁸⁰ VII Argentina-Vietnam Joint Meeting, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/vii-reunion-comixta-argentina-vietnam>

¹⁰⁸¹ VII Argentina-Vietnam Joint Meeting, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/vii-reunion-comixta-argentina-vietnam>

¹⁰⁸² After the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica enables the entry of Argentine fishing companies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/tras-gestion-de-cancilleria-costa-rica-habilita-el-ingreso-de-empresas-pesqueras>

¹⁰⁸³ After the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica enables the entry of Argentine fishing companies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/tras-gestion-de-cancilleria-costa-rica-habilita-el-ingreso-de-empresas-pesqueras>

¹⁰⁸⁴ Argentina – United States: Working meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-estados-unidos-reunion-de-trabajo-en-cancilleria>

¹⁰⁸⁵ Argentina – United States: Working meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-estados-unidos-reunion-de-trabajo-en-cancilleria>

¹⁰⁸⁶ Argentina and the Netherlands seek to optimize the bilateral link, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-paises-bajos-buscan-optimizar-el-vinculo-bilateral>

¹⁰⁸⁷ Argentina and the Netherlands seek to optimize the bilateral link, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-paises-bajos-buscan-optimizar-el-vinculo-bilateral>

On 2 September 2021, Secretary Neme visited Cuba to deepen bilateral cooperation in agriculture.¹⁰⁸⁸ It was concluded that Argentina is able to support the Cuban agricultural development sector and both parties agreed to advance in a bilateral cooperation agreement.¹⁰⁸⁹

On 2 September 2021, Minister Solá met the Italian Ambassador to Argentina Fabrizio Lucentini where they agreed to increase balanced and diverse bilateral trade.¹⁰⁹⁰

On 3 September 2021, Argentina and Panama met to deepen bilateral trade and investments, allowing an increase in “exports of vehicles, food, medicines and agricultural machinery.”¹⁰⁹¹ Secretary Neme and Executive Director of Panama Carmen Vergara agreed to sign an agreement with the Argentine Investment and International Trade Agency.¹⁰⁹²

On 8 September 2021, MERCOSUR and India met via videoconference to deepen their preferential trade agreement “with a view to strengthening economic relations and, especially, increasing trade exchanges.”¹⁰⁹³ Argentina, together with MERCOSUR, is seeking to gain new markets and increase exports.¹⁰⁹⁴ Another meeting is set to take place in October to expand the current trade agreement.¹⁰⁹⁵

On 8 September 2021, Minister Solá received the ambassador of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia Hussein M. Alassiri to discuss “bilateral relationship, trade, investment and triangular cooperation.”¹⁰⁹⁶ Minister Solá expressed Argentina’s wish to maintain bilateral relations between the two countries by “increasing and diversifying exports.”¹⁰⁹⁷

¹⁰⁸⁸ Argentina collaborates with Cuba for import substitution, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-colabora-con-cuba-para-sustitucion-de-importaciones>

¹⁰⁸⁹ Argentina collaborates with Cuba for import substitution, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-colabora-con-cuba-para-sustitucion-de-importaciones>

¹⁰⁹⁰ Foreign Minister Solá received the new Italian ambassador, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/el-canciller-sola-recibio-al-nuevo-embajador-de-italia>

¹⁰⁹¹ Argentina and Panama strengthen trade and investment ties, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-panama-refuerzan-vinculos-comerciales-y-de-inversion>

¹⁰⁹² Argentina and Panama strengthen trade and investment ties, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-panama-refuerzan-vinculos-comerciales-y-de-inversion>

¹⁰⁹³ MERCOSUR advances in its commercial ties with India, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/mercosur-avanza-en-sus-vinculos-comerciales-con-india>

¹⁰⁹⁴ MERCOSUR advances in its commercial ties with India, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/mercosur-avanza-en-sus-vinculos-comerciales-con-india>

¹⁰⁹⁵ MERCOSUR advances in its commercial ties with India, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/mercosur-avanza-en-sus-vinculos-comerciales-con-india>

¹⁰⁹⁶ The chancellor met with the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/el-canciller-se-reunio-con-el-embajador-del-reino-de-arabia-saudita>

¹⁰⁹⁷ The chancellor met with the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/el-canciller-se-reunio-con-el-embajador-del-reino-de-arabia-saudita>

On 9 September 2021, Argentina and Japan met for the sixth meeting of the dialogue for trade and investment.¹⁰⁹⁸ The meeting was held “with a view to facilitating and diversifying bilateral trade, adding value, incorporating new technologies and making new investments.”¹⁰⁹⁹ The meeting focused on increasing bilateral trade, opening the market and boosting bilateral investment.¹¹⁰⁰ They agreed to hold future meetings regularly.¹¹⁰¹

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Argentina has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by engaging in discussions with global partners. Additionally, Argentina has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by signing multilateral declarations affirming their support for WTO investment principles.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 November 2020, ministers from 15 countries, including Australia, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹¹⁰² The agreement is aimed at improving export access and supply chain opportunities for Australian businesses in fourteen Indo-Pacific countries and boosting trade in services, especially in education, health, engineering, finance and professional services.¹¹⁰³

On 13 December 2020, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) entered into force.¹¹⁰⁴ It sets minimum standards of transparency and obligation for Parties beyond

¹⁰⁹⁸ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹⁰⁹⁹ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹¹⁰⁰ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹¹⁰¹ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹¹⁰² Australia signs world’s largest free trade agreement, Australian trade and investment commission (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/latest-from-austrade/2020-latest-from-austrade/australia-signs-worlds-largest-free-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁰³ Australia signs world’s largest free trade agreement, Australian trade and investment commission (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/latest-from-austrade/2020-latest-from-austrade/australia-signs-worlds-largest-free-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁰⁴ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Transparency, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/transparency>

the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.¹¹⁰⁵ The agreement increases awareness of investment opportunities, reinforces legal protections of investors, and includes commitments to achieving a non-discriminatory, predictable, and stable investment environment.¹¹⁰⁶

On 14 December 2020, Japan, Australia and Singapore, issued a Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce negotiations on behalf of eighty-six WTO members.¹¹⁰⁷ The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.¹¹⁰⁸

On 1 January 2021, several tariff cuts outlined in the Comprehensive Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership came into effect, expanding opportunities for Australian exporters and encouraging a predictable, non-discriminatory, and free trade environment.¹¹⁰⁹ The tariff cuts have improved commodity access across agricultural and seafood exporters.¹¹¹⁰

On 1 January 2021, the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in Relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings between Australia and the UK entered into force.¹¹¹¹ The agreement set rules on testing products by a suitable conformity assessment body prior to exportation in order to reduce technical barriers to trade.¹¹¹²

On 6 April 2021, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan launched the government's flagship program to advance trade and investment with India.¹¹¹³ The Australia India Business Exchange will provide businesses in both nations with market insights and connections to foster commercial partnerships that will help generate jobs and business opportunities in Australia and India.¹¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰⁵ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Transparency, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/transparency>

¹¹⁰⁶ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Investment, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/investment>

¹¹⁰⁷ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

¹¹⁰⁸ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

¹¹⁰⁹ Tariff-ic start to 2021 for Australia's farmers, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/ny-tariff-cuts>

¹¹¹⁰ Tariff-ic start to 2021 for Australia's farmers, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/ny-tariff-cuts>

¹¹¹¹ Reducing technical barriers to trade, Department of industry, science, energy and resources (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/reducing-technical-barriers-to-trade>

¹¹¹² Reducing technical barriers to trade, Department of industry, science, energy and resources (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/reducing-technical-barriers-to-trade>

¹¹¹³ Boosting business ties with India, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-business-ties-india>

¹¹¹⁴ Boosting business ties with India, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-business-ties-india>

On 6 April 2021, Minister Tehan launched Australia's Services Exports Action Plan in Melbourne.¹¹¹⁵ According to the plan, Australian businesses can use digital technology to improve their productivity and improve transparency.¹¹¹⁶ In addition, the plan supports the international competitiveness of Australia's service industry.¹¹¹⁷

On 7 April 2021, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg delegated additional powers to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) under the Corporations Act 2001.¹¹¹⁸ This serves to improve the regulation of financial markets.¹¹¹⁹ Treasurer Frydenberg aims to protect investors and ensure that markets are fair, efficient and transparent.¹¹²⁰

On 22 April 2021, Australia attended the WTO general council meeting.¹¹²¹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed "necessary to relieve critical shortages," and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹¹²² Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹¹²³

On 22 April 2021, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne and New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta met in Wellington for the biannual Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations.¹¹²⁴ They discussed the shared challenges regarding trade and investment.¹¹²⁵

¹¹¹⁵ Australia in a digitised world – a practical, principled and patient approach to Australia's digital trade transformation, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/trade-and-investment/business-envoy-april-2021-digital-trade-edition/australia-digitised-world-practical-principled-and-patient-approach-australias-digital-trade-transformation>

¹¹¹⁶ Australia in a digitised world – a practical, principled and patient approach to Australia's digital trade transformation, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/trade-and-investment/business-envoy-april-2021-digital-trade-edition/australia-digitised-world-practical-principled-and-patient-approach-australias-digital-trade-transformation>

¹¹¹⁷ Action plan to boost Australia's services exports, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/action-plan-boost-australias-services-exports>

¹¹¹⁸ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

¹¹¹⁹ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

¹¹²⁰ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

¹¹²¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹²² COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹²³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹²⁴ Strengthening trans-Tasman ties: Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-trans-tasman-ties-australia-new-zealand-foreign-minister-consultations>

¹¹²⁵ Strengthening trans-Tasman ties: Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-trans-tasman-ties-australia-new-zealand-foreign-minister-consultations>

On 14 May 2021, Minister Tehan announced additional AUD65.5 million will be provided for the Export Market Development Grants program to support small and medium sized businesses and help Australian businesses grow internationally.¹¹²⁶

On 28 May 2021, Australia and Malaysia held the first meeting of the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission virtually.¹¹²⁷ The parties exchanged information and perspectives on policies relating to dairy product quotas and import conditions.¹¹²⁸

On 17 June 2021, Australia and the UK finalised their Agreement in Principle.¹¹²⁹ The agreement will create more Australian jobs and business opportunities for exporters, provide businesses and workers greater access to the UK, and progressively eliminate tariffs on beef, sheepmeat, sugar and dairy products.¹¹³⁰

On 30 June 2021, the first virtual trade ministers' meeting since the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus entered into force was held.¹¹³¹ Minister for International Development and the Pacific Zed Seselja announced that Australia will co-fund the AUD25 million development and economic work program, which will boost trade and attract investment to support economic recovery across the Pacific after the pandemic.¹¹³²

On 1 July 2021, Minister Tehan announced the Morrison Government would provide AUD2.5 million to fund 28 small-scale projects to create trade opportunities and deepen business cooperation for the Australia-Vietnam Enhanced Economic Engagement Grant pilot program.¹¹³³

On 6 July 2021, Treasurer Frydenberg and Minister Tehan virtually hosted the inaugural Indonesia-Australia Economic, Trade and Investment Ministers' meeting.¹¹³⁴ The meeting highlighted ways in

¹¹²⁶ Funding boost to back Australian exporters, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/funding-boost-back-australian-exporters>

¹¹²⁷ First meeting of the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/first-meeting-malaysia-australia-free-trade-agreement-joint-commission>

¹¹²⁸ First meeting of the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/first-meeting-malaysia-australia-free-trade-agreement-joint-commission>

¹¹²⁹ Australia-UK FTA Agreement in Principle, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-uk-fta-agreement-principle>

¹¹³⁰ Australia-UK FTA Agreement in Principle, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-uk-fta-agreement-principle>

¹¹³¹ Australia and Pacific delivering trade and development agreement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-and-pacific-delivering-trade-and-development-agreement>

¹¹³² Australia and Pacific delivering trade and development agreement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-and-pacific-delivering-trade-and-development-agreement>

¹¹³³ Boosting economic opportunities with Vietnam, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-economic-opportunities-vietnam>

¹¹³⁴ Strengthening economic ties with Indonesia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/strengthening-economic-ties-indonesia>

which Australia and Indonesia worked together closely and productively over 2020-21 in the context of rapidly responding to COVID-19.¹¹³⁵

On 11 July 2021, Minister Tehan announced plans to visit Singapore, Vietnam, Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States.¹¹³⁶ Minister Tehan seeks to strengthen Australia's trading relationships and encourage investment in Australia, while "champion[ing] support for a functioning global rules-based trading system."¹¹³⁷

On 15 July 2021, Minister Tehan and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi co-chaired the third Japan-Australia Ministerial Economic Dialogue in Tokyo.¹¹³⁸ The meeting demonstrated the growing strength of the Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries characterised by shared values and a commitment to a free, open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific to meet evolving challenges, including recovery from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.¹¹³⁹

On 21 July 2021, Australia and Korea held the 7th Australia-ROK Joint Economic Committee meeting via video.¹¹⁴⁰ At the dialogue, officials explored ways to advance economic relationship between two countries, especially the acceleration of digital economies in the COVID era.¹¹⁴¹

On 21 July 2021, Minister Tehan met with German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier during the second meeting of the German-Australian Joint Economic Committee to discuss closer economic cooperation between the two countries.¹¹⁴² They highlighted their desire to give a new impetus to the bilateral economic relations between Germany and Australia and advocated for a rapid conclusion of negotiations concerning the planned EU-Australia Trade Agreement, which they

¹¹³⁵ Strengthening economic ties with Indonesia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/strengthening-economic-ties-indonesia>

¹¹³⁶ International travel to promote Australia's trade interests, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/international-travel-promote-australias-trade-interests>

¹¹³⁷ International travel to promote Australia's trade interests, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/international-travel-promote-australias-trade-interests>

¹¹³⁸ Japan-Australia Ministerial Economic Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/japan-australia-ministerial-economic-dialogue>

¹¹³⁹ Japan-Australia Ministerial Economic Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/japan-australia-ministerial-economic-dialogue>

¹¹⁴⁰ Seventh Australia-ROK Joint Economic Committee, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/media-release/seventh-australia-rok-joint-economic-committee>

¹¹⁴¹ Seventh Australia-ROK Joint Economic Committee, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/media-release/seventh-australia-rok-joint-economic-committee>

¹¹⁴² Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

argue would make it easier for companies to become active on the market of the other country and further facilitate cooperation.¹¹⁴³

On 5 August 2021, the Prime Minister's Special Trade Envoy for India Tony Abbott met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation as part of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.¹¹⁴⁴ They emphasized that enhanced economic cooperation would help both countries in addressing economic challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that it would play a role in realising their shared vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.¹¹⁴⁵

On 26 August 2021, Minister Tehan and Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry, Food and Consumer Affairs and Textiles Piyush Goyal held a video conference.¹¹⁴⁶ Both parties noted the importance of negotiations in the fields of business, industry and other stakeholders and discussed the way forward for an early conclusion of a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.¹¹⁴⁷

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Australia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by actively lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, Australia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by enacting PACER Plus and increasing ASIC regulatory power.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Haobin Chen

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

¹¹⁴³ Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

¹¹⁴⁴ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM's Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PM_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹¹⁴⁵ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM's Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PM_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹¹⁴⁶ Joint Press Statement on the India-Australia Trade Talks by Trade Ministers of Australia and India, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/joint-press-statement-india-australia-trade-talks-trade-ministers-australia-and-india>

¹¹⁴⁷ Joint Press Statement on the India-Australia Trade Talks by Trade Ministers of Australia and India, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/joint-press-statement-india-australia-trade-talks-trade-ministers-australia-and-india>

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a new tool for sharing information on trade agreements negotiated and under negotiation by Brazil.¹¹⁴⁸ Foreign Trade Secretary Lucas Ferraz explained that the development of the tool was inspired by the principles of transparency and transparent governance in the agenda of trade negotiations in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on Trade Facilitation.¹¹⁴⁹

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced the launch of a new phase of the Single Foreign Trade Portal which seeks to simplify Brazil's exports and imports through a reformulation of procedures, requirements and systems applicable to external commercial transactions.¹¹⁵⁰ These measures reduce time and costs for private actors to complete their trade operations.¹¹⁵¹

On 3 February 2021, Brazil put in an initial offer of market access to join the WTO Government Contracting Agreement, which makes public contracts open to international competition.¹¹⁵² Compliance with the agreement will promote reduced public spending and improvement in the quality of government goods and services and encourage Brazilian exports and foreign investment in the country.¹¹⁵³

On 9 March 2021, Brazil and Argentina solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.¹¹⁵⁴ This marks the culmination of work initiated in 2020 and the resolution of these issues will cause a major intensification of the bilateral trade flow of agricultural products.¹¹⁵⁵

On 10 March 2021, the Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announced the implementation of the Single Waterway Window project as an integrated module of the Unique Foreign Trade Portal, which will unify waterway models necessary for Brazilian logistics operators to meet the requirements

¹¹⁴⁸ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2020/dezembro/economia-lanca-ferramenta-com-informacoes-sobre-acordos-comerciais>

¹¹⁴⁹ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2020/dezembro/economia-lanca-ferramenta-com-informacoes-sobre-acordos-comerciais>

¹¹⁵⁰ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/janeiro/economia-lanca-nova-etapa-do-portal-unico-de-comercio-exterior>

¹¹⁵¹ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/janeiro/economia-lanca-nova-etapa-do-portal-unico-de-comercio-exterior>

¹¹⁵² Initial Brazilian offer to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Contracting Agreement, Joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/fevereiro/oferta-inicial-brasileira-para-adesao-ao-acordo-sobre-contratacoes-governamentais>

¹¹⁵³ Initial Brazilian offer to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Contracting Agreement, Joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/fevereiro/oferta-inicial-brasileira-para-adesao-ao-acordo-sobre-contratacoes-governamentais>

¹¹⁵⁴ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

¹¹⁵⁵ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

of different waterway logistics bodies for foreign trade.¹¹⁵⁶ This will result in the streamlining of foreign sea trade logistics by eliminating redundancies and inapplicable procedures and a reduction in costs, thereby increasing the competitiveness of Brazilian foreign trade.¹¹⁵⁷

On 31 March 2021, the National Committee on Trade Facilitation approved a work plan for the 2021-2022 biennium to reduce bureaucracy in international trade operations and lower transaction costs for private operators by the coordinated actions of multiple government agencies.¹¹⁵⁸ A primary feature of this plan is the digital consolidation of foreign trade operations from port to administration in the Facilitation 2.0 system.¹¹⁵⁹ The plan also outlines initiatives to improve international trading capabilities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.¹¹⁶⁰

On 22 April 2021, Brazil attended the WTO general council meeting.¹¹⁶¹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹¹⁶² Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹¹⁶³

On 26 May 2021, the Ministry of Economy released the Complaint Management Report to the National Department of Business Registration and Integration tool to facilitate easier access complaint management services provided by public bodies for companies doing business in Brazil.¹¹⁶⁴ This step will promote investment in the country.¹¹⁶⁵

¹¹⁵⁶ Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announce implementation of the Single Waterway Window project, Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure (Brasilia) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/marco/ministerios-da-economia-e-da-infraestrutura-anunciam-implantacao-do-projeto-janela-unica-aquaviaria>

¹¹⁵⁷ Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announce implementation of the Single Waterway Window project, Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure (Brasilia) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/marco/ministerios-da-economia-e-da-infraestrutura-anunciam-implantacao-do-projeto-janela-unica-aquaviaria>

¹¹⁵⁸ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

¹¹⁵⁹ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

¹¹⁶⁰ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

¹¹⁶¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁶² COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁶³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁶⁴ Ministry publishes manual in Spanish to simplify participation of foreigners in bids, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministerio-divulga-manual-em-espanhol-para-simplificar-participacao-de-estrangeiros-em-licitacoes>

On 11 June 2021, the Ministry of Economy published the System Unified Suppliers Registration Manual to increase the number of international suppliers for public procurement in the Procurement System of the Federal Government and promote international investment in the country.¹¹⁶⁶

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Brazil has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a predictable and inclusive trade environment through unilateral initiatives and multilateral commitments. However, Brazil has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shalin Nayak

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 8 December 2020, Canada and the UK agreed to a “temporary agreement that will head off an automatic increase in tariffs that was set to kick in when Britain leaves the European Union” the following week.¹¹⁶⁷ Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland ensured that Canadian goods including maple syrup, lobster, beef, and car parts are not affected by British Tariffs starting on 1 January 2021.¹¹⁶⁸ This ensures Canada and the UK will continue to have “preferential access.”¹¹⁶⁹

On 9 December 2020, UK Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade John Hannaford signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.¹¹⁷⁰ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.¹¹⁷¹

On 11 January 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced Canada’s commitment to strengthening its trade and investment ties with Asia-Pacific partners.¹¹⁷² Canada is planning to advance “parallel opportunities...by expanding trade and

¹¹⁶⁵ Ministry publishes manual in Spanish to simplify participation of foreigners in bids, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministerio-divulga-manual-em-espanhol-para-simplificar-participacao-de-estrangeiros-em-licitacoes>

¹¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Economy publishes first report on compliance with Boards of Trade, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/ministerio-da-economia-publica-primeiro-relatorio-sobre-atendimento-das-juntas-comerciais>

¹¹⁶⁷ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁶⁸ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁶⁹ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁷⁰ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁷¹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁷² Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

investment ties with fast-growing markets, such as Indonesia.”¹¹⁷³ The consultations are focused on how Canada should “proceed regarding a possible [comprehensive economic partnership agreement] with Indonesia,” and are happening concurrently with Canada’s continued engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a free trade agreement.¹¹⁷⁴

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau conversed with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel to discuss several issues, including “collaboration between Canada and Germany on shared priorities,” which includes international trade.¹¹⁷⁵ They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”¹¹⁷⁶

On 22 January 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with US President Joseph Biden and shared their vision for “strengthening Canada-US supply chain security and resilience.”¹¹⁷⁷ The leaders agreed to “avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth” to protect the economic relationships between the two countries.¹¹⁷⁸

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng attended a virtual World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting of fellow ministers.¹¹⁷⁹ They discussed priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global recovery.”¹¹⁸⁰ Minister Ng highlighted the government’s efforts to keep markets open, and called on WTO members to implement sustainable trade practices.¹¹⁸¹

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and “discussed the strong and growing economic ties between Canada and Japan and welcomed the

¹¹⁷³ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

¹¹⁷⁴ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

¹¹⁷⁵ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

¹¹⁷⁶ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

¹¹⁷⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹¹⁷⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹¹⁷⁹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

¹¹⁸⁰ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

¹¹⁸¹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”¹¹⁸²

On 10 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding “their common interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific.”¹¹⁸³ They agreed to work together on challenges such as “strengthening global trade” and “reinforcing the rules-based international order.”¹¹⁸⁴

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded a meeting with G7 leaders.¹¹⁸⁵ He stressed the importance of working with G7 partners to create jobs and economic growth, which includes “building fairer trading systems.”¹¹⁸⁶

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with US President Joseph Biden to begin a “reset in relations with Canada’s largest trading partner and one of its closest allies after four tumultuous years with President Donald Trump.”¹¹⁸⁷ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.¹¹⁸⁸ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.¹¹⁸⁹

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”¹¹⁹⁰ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”¹¹⁹¹

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau conversed with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva regarding global economic recovery.¹¹⁹² They focused on

¹¹⁸² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-suga-yoshihide>

¹¹⁸³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/10/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi>

¹¹⁸⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/10/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi>

¹¹⁸⁵ Prime Minister concludes productive G7 leaders meeting, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>

¹¹⁸⁶ Prime Minister concludes productive G7 leaders meeting, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>

¹¹⁸⁷ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹¹⁸⁸ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹¹⁸⁹ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹¹⁹⁰ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

¹¹⁹¹ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

the need for “international collaboration to address debt and liquidity challenges associated with the economic impacts of COVID-19” and the need to “foster international action to address the unique challenges of highly vulnerable countries” in terms of access to financing.¹¹⁹³

On 19 March 2021, Canada agreed to the Trade Continuity Agreement deal.¹¹⁹⁴ Canada and the UK are aiming to implement the agreement by 1 April 2021.¹¹⁹⁵ The agreement is meant to be a temporary agreement while both countries negotiate a more “expansive free trade agreement” after the UK exits the EU.¹¹⁹⁶

On 25 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with the President of the World Bank David Malpass on economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹⁹⁷ They “discussed the pandemic’s devastating impacts on economies around the world, particularly the fragile economies of developing countries and small island states.”¹¹⁹⁸

On 29 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau organized a high-level meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness to “[strengthen] financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout.”¹¹⁹⁹ The meeting directed urgency to the need for concrete action to provide liquidity and address debt vulnerability in developing countries.¹²⁰⁰

From 6 April 2021 to 9 April 2021, Minister Freeland attended numerous meetings with world leaders to discuss the “global economic outlook and international policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including actions of the IMF and World Bank.”¹²⁰¹ Minister Freeland engaged in discussions on how to “support vulnerable countries, including low-income countries and small

¹¹⁹² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021.

¹¹⁹³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021.

¹¹⁹⁴ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

¹¹⁹⁵ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

¹¹⁹⁶ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

¹¹⁹⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

¹¹⁹⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/25/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-world-bank-group-david>

¹¹⁹⁹ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

¹²⁰⁰ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

¹²⁰¹ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

states, which continue to face significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis.”¹²⁰² These meetings include meeting with the G7 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors, Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, G20 Finance Ministers, IMF’s International Monetary and Financial Committee, IMF Managing Director, as well as Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors from Latin America, Canada and the United States.¹²⁰³ The Canadian Department of Finance expressed that Canada will “advocate for strong support for vulnerable countries ...to ensure a strong and sustainable economic recovery.”¹²⁰⁴

On 22 April 2021, Canada attended the WTO general council meeting.¹²⁰⁵ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹²⁰⁶ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹²⁰⁷

On 13 May 2021, Minister Ng announced Canada’s Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) Model.¹²⁰⁸ The FIPA Model hopes to encourage a stable, rules-based investment environment, prioritizing inclusivity and the interests of women, Indigenous peoples, and owners of small and medium-sized enterprises.¹²⁰⁹

On 18 May 2021, Minister Ng met with representatives from Mexico and the U.S. regarding North American trade, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), and next steps in rebuilding a resilient North American economy.¹²¹⁰

On 11 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to discuss the importance of securing a trade agreement between the two countries.¹²¹¹ The two leaders affirmed

¹²⁰² Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

¹²⁰³ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

¹²⁰⁴ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

¹²⁰⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁰⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁰⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁰⁸ Minister Ng announces launch of Canada’s Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement Model, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-canadas-foreign-investment-promotion-and-protection-agreement-model.html>

¹²⁰⁹ Minister Ng announces launch of Canada’s Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement Model, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-canadas-foreign-investment-promotion-and-protection-agreement-model.html>

¹²¹⁰ Canada, U.S., Mexico looking to strengthen, rebuild economies as trade partners: Ng, Global News (Ottawa) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/video/7874679/canada-u-s-mexico-looking-to-strengthen-rebuild-economies-as-trade-partners-ng/>

the potential benefit of a trade agreement and agreed to work towards a comprehensive free trade agreement.¹²¹²

On 15 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.¹²¹³ The leaders discussed a global recovery strategy that creates jobs and opportunities for the growing middle class.¹²¹⁴

On 21 June 2021, Minister Ng and Indonesia's Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi initiated negotiations over a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (ICA-CEPA).¹²¹⁵ The negotiations aim to eliminate various tariffs, ease customs procedures, trade facilities, trade remedies, mobilize services and ease investment.¹²¹⁶

On 23 July 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson initiated a review of Canada's approach to elephant ivory trade in an attempt to protect biodiversity.¹²¹⁷ Minister Wilkinson aims to bolster Canada's domestic strategies for curbing the trade of ivory.¹²¹⁸

On 2 August 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with US President Joe Biden regarding trade and broader collaboration.¹²¹⁹ Prime Minister Trudeau recognized the significant alignment between both countries regarding labour and environmental standards.¹²²⁰

On 28 August 2021, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said "India was making fast progress in discussions on free trade agreements with multiple countries," namely Canada, who demonstrated

¹²¹¹ UK, Canada agreed to redouble efforts for trade deal, Reuters (London), 11 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-canada-agreed-redouble-efforts-trade-deal-2021-06-11/>

¹²¹² UK, Canada agreed to redouble efforts for trade deal, Reuters (London), 11 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-canada-agreed-redouble-efforts-trade-deal-2021-06-11/>

¹²¹³ Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

¹²¹⁴ Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

¹²¹⁵ Indonesia, Canada open talks on comprehensive trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/21/indonesia-canada-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

¹²¹⁶ Indonesia and Canada Agreed to Start the Negotiation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Toronto, Canada (Toronto) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/toronto/en/news/14053/indonesia-and-canada-agreed-to-start-the-negotiation-of-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-cepa>

¹²¹⁷ Canada launches consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade, Newswire Cision (New York) 24 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-launches-consultation-on-stricter-measures-for-elephant-ivory-trade-800318175.html>

¹²¹⁸ Canada launches consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade, Newswire Cision (New York) 24 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-launches-consultation-on-stricter-measures-for-elephant-ivory-trade-800318175.html>

¹²¹⁹ In call with Biden, Trudeau talks trade, border 'collaboration' and Olympic soccer, CTV (Toronto) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/in-call-with-biden-trudeau-talks-trade-border-collaboration-and-olympic-soccer-1.5532190>

¹²²⁰ In call with Biden, Trudeau talks trade, border 'collaboration' and Olympic soccer, CTV (Toronto) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/in-call-with-biden-trudeau-talks-trade-border-collaboration-and-olympic-soccer-1.5532190>

fast progress.¹²²¹ The minister also expressed “India was only dealing with countries that it believed would provide a fair deal and reciprocal benefits.”¹²²²

On 30 August 2021, Canada engaged in discussions between the US and Mexico over the trade of automobiles.¹²²³ Canada’s participation was limited to an “interested third party,” expressing concern about America’s “increasingly protectionist position on vehicle trade.”¹²²⁴

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Canada has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free and predictable trade environment by engaging in bilateral discussions with heads of state and international organizations. Additionally, Canada has taken strong action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable, and inclusive investment environment through the launch of the FIPA model.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 1 December 2020, China confirmed its contribution of USD500,000 to the World Trade Organization (WTO)’s Least Developed Countries and Accessions Programme at a signing ceremony between WTO Deputy Director General Yonov Frederick Agah and Ambassador to the WTO Zhang Xiangchen.¹²²⁵ This program “aims to enable least-developed countries (LDCs) to better integrate into the global economy by strengthening their participation in WTO activities.”¹²²⁶ It provides financing to support “WTO accessions internships, WTO accessions round table meetings, LDC’s participation in WTO Meetings, South-South Dialogue on LDCs and Development and LDCs Trade Policy Review Follow-up Workshops.”¹²²⁷

¹²²¹ India’s fast progressing in FTA discussion with UK, UAE, Canada, says Piyush Goyal, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-fast-progressing-in-fta-discussions-with-uk-uae-canada-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/85711977.cms>

¹²²² India’s fast progressing in FTA discussion with UK, UAE, Canada, says Piyush Goyal, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-fast-progressing-in-fta-discussions-with-uk-uae-canada-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/85711977.cms>

¹²²³ Canada to Participate In Automatic Trade Talks With The U.S. And Mexico, Baystreet.ca (Toronto) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.baystreet.ca/economiccommentary/3321/Canada-To-Participate-In-Automotive-Trade-Talks-With-The-US-And-Mexico>

¹²²⁴ Canada to Participate In Automatic Trade Talks With The U.S. And Mexico, Baystreet.ca (Toronto) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.baystreet.ca/economiccommentary/3321/Canada-To-Participate-In-Automotive-Trade-Talks-With-The-US-And-Mexico>

¹²²⁵ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

¹²²⁶ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

¹²²⁷ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹²²⁸ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹²²⁹

On 16 December 2020, Vice Minister of Commerce Yu Jianhua and Netherlands’ Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag co-chaired the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee.¹²³⁰ China committed to working closely with the Netherlands to reach new levels of bilateral cooperation and views on “economic issues of mutual interest between China and the Netherlands and between China and the EU” were exchanged.¹²³¹

On 18 December 2020, China and Iceland held the fourth meeting of the joint free trade agreement (FTA) committee.¹²³² The delegates discussed the “implementation for the China-Iceland FTA” and recognized a “deepened cooperation in trade in goods, services, investment, [and] economic technology.”¹²³³

On 30 December 2020, China and the EU announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.¹²³⁴ The main goal of the deal is “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”¹²³⁵ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.¹²³⁶ EU Trade Chief Valdis Dombrovskis believes “the main purpose of this agreement is to address the economic imbalance in our relations...[as] the EU’s market is substantially more open to Chinese companies and investment than China’s market is for EU companies.”¹²³⁷

On 8 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Tarumi Hideo.¹²³⁸ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”¹²³⁹

¹²²⁸ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹²²⁹ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹²³⁰ Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, and Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-chair the 17th session of the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203026912.shtml>

¹²³¹ Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, and Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-chair the 17th session of the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203026912.shtml>

¹²³² China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203025630.shtml>

¹²³³ China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203025630.shtml>

¹²³⁴ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021.

Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁵ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021.

Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁶ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021.

Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁷ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021.

Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁸ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

On 25 January 2021, China officially signed a deal with New Zealand to improve their existing trade pact, giving commodities exports from New Zealand increased access to Chinese markets.¹²⁴⁰ This deal is expected to “reduce compliance costs for New Zealand exports by millions of dollars each year.”¹²⁴¹ New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor stated that “99 [per cent] of New Zealand’s nearly NZ\$3 billion wood and paper trade to China will be granted tariff free access.”¹²⁴²

On 25 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Deputy Governor Chen Yulu attended the G20 finance and central bank deputies meeting to discuss G20’s financial priorities for 2021.¹²⁴³ The discussion includes “cooperation on global economic risk monitoring, international financial architecture, financial sector reforms, sustainable finance, infrastructure investment, and international taxation, with the aim to improve macroeconomic and financial policy coordination and support economic recovery.”¹²⁴⁴

On 26 January 2021, Governor Yi attended the 2021 virtual Davos Agenda Week of the World Economic Forum. Panelists discussed “emerging financial risks resulting from policy response to COVID-19, and how to make financial institutions more resilient.”¹²⁴⁵

On 28 January 2021, China and New Zealand signed the Protocol on Upgrading the Free Trade Agreement.¹²⁴⁶ The protocol will increase cooperation, “benefit the businesses and people from both sides, and enrich and substantiate the China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership.”¹²⁴⁷ The Upgrade Protocol opens markets for timber and paper products; clarifies rules of trade; lowers barriers in aviation, education, finance, elderly care; eases investment thresholds between China and New Zealand; and includes provisions on environmental protection and law enforcement.¹²⁴⁸

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of Commerce and the economic and trade departments of Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary and Serbia signed cooperation documents on the “establishment of the investment cooperation and trade promotion mechanism.”¹²⁴⁹ China plans to establish “working

¹²³⁹ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

¹²⁴⁰ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

¹²⁴¹ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

¹²⁴² China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

¹²⁴³ Deputy Governor Chen Yulu Attended G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4173468/index.html>

¹²⁴⁴ Deputy Governor Chen Yulu Attended G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4173468/index.html>

¹²⁴⁵ Governor Yi Gang Attends the 2021 Virtual Davos Agenda Week of the World Economics Forum, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4171673/index.html>

¹²⁴⁶ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

¹²⁴⁷ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

¹²⁴⁸ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

¹²⁴⁹ Ministry of Commerce signed economic and trade cooperation documents with the corresponding departments of CEECs, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203039715.shtml>

groups on investment cooperation with Albania and Serbia,” “a working group on unimpeded trade with the Czech Republic” and “work with Hungary to promote the high-quality development of China-Hungary investment cooperation.”¹²⁵⁰

On 26 February 2021, Governor Yi attended a virtual meeting between G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.¹²⁵¹ Participants committed to increase international coordination by “adopting a stronger multilateral approach and focusing on a set of core priorities.”¹²⁵² Governor Yi specifically addressed three key issues, including “endorsing a general [Special Drawing Rights (SDR)] allocation ...to channel to low-income countries,” “joint debt treatment on comparable terms” and “assessing the economic and financial implications of climate change.”¹²⁵³

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijarto discussed views on “implementing the outcomes and consensuses of the China-CEEC Summit and further deepening economic and trade relations and anti-epidemic cooperation.”¹²⁵⁴ Minister Wentao outlined China’s 14th five-year plan, which aims to “present a broader market and development opportunities for all countries.”¹²⁵⁵

On 25 March 2021, China and Singapore engaged in negotiations on a FTA upgrade.¹²⁵⁶ The countries discussed the rules of cross-border trade in services, investment, telecommunications and other areas, and exchanged views on issues related to negotiations on trade in services and investment liberalization.¹²⁵⁷

On 7 April 2021, Governor Yi met with G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.¹²⁵⁸ During the meeting, “ministers and governors reaffirmed their resolve to use all available policy tools to support the global economic recovery.”¹²⁵⁹ In addition, “they acknowledged the important role of

¹²⁵⁰ Ministry of Commerce signed economic and trade cooperation documents with the corresponding departments of CEECs, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203039715.shtml>

¹²⁵¹ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

¹²⁵² Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

¹²⁵³ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

¹²⁵⁴ Wang Wentao: Further Deepening China-Hungary Anti-epidemic and Trade and Economic Cooperation to Bring Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202103/20210303042474.shtml>

¹²⁵⁵ Wang Wentao: Further Deepening China-Hungary Anti-epidemic and Trade and Economic Cooperation to Bring Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202103/20210303042474.shtml>

¹²⁵⁶ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403050370.shtml>

¹²⁵⁷ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403050370.shtml>

¹²⁵⁸ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

¹²⁵⁹ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

open and fair trade in restoring growth.”¹²⁶⁰ Governor Yi supported upgrading the G20 Sustainable Finance Study Group to a working group, and “committed to working with G20 members in advancing the G20 sustainable finance agenda.”¹²⁶¹

On 7 April 2021, China and Belarus began negotiations over a service trade and investment agreement.¹²⁶² Both countries “agreed on the Terms of Reference, and had an in-depth exchange of views on trade, investment and IP [intellectual property] rules.”¹²⁶³ This was an attempt to improve “the bilateral trade and economic rules regarding service trade and investment and foster an enabling environment for expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation.”¹²⁶⁴

On 10 April 2021, Minister Wang met with Indonesia’s Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi to exchange “views on deepening China-Indonesia trade and economic ties and reached broad common understanding.”¹²⁶⁵ The ministers participated in a signing of the agreement to “establish a Working Group on Promoting Smooth Trade.”¹²⁶⁶

On 9 April 2021, Governor Yi attended a meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, focusing on the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) Global Policy Agenda.¹²⁶⁷ Among other topics, Governor Yi expressed that “China supports the IMF’s proposal of a new SDR allocation ...and to channel extra SDRs to vulnerable countries.”¹²⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, China attended the WTO general council meeting.¹²⁶⁹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and

¹²⁶⁰ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

¹²⁶¹ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

¹²⁶² China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

¹²⁶³ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

¹²⁶⁴ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

¹²⁶⁵ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia Trade and Economic links, Ministry of Commerce PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://wangwentao2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/activity/202104/20210403051673.shtml>

¹²⁶⁶ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia Trade and Economic links, Ministry of Commerce PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://wangwentao2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/activity/202104/20210403051673.shtml>

¹²⁶⁷ Governor Yi Gang Attends the Forty-Third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4228360/index.html>

¹²⁶⁸ Governor Yi Gang Attends the Forty-Third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4228360/index.html>

¹²⁶⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹²⁷⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹²⁷¹

On 26 July 2021, Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.¹²⁷² The discussion involved addressing the “stiff competition” between the two countries and establishing that neither side is seeking conflict.¹²⁷³

On 1 September 2021, Minister Wang Wentao pledged to support Hong Kong in joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world’s largest free-trade deal.¹²⁷⁴ Senior mainland Chinese officials have expressed confidence in Hong Kong’s future as a global financial hub and stressed the central government will continue to back the city’s membership in the world’s largest free-trade deal.¹²⁷⁵

On 11 September 2021, Minister Wang Yi met Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and other officials to discuss COVID-19 and other regional issues.¹²⁷⁶ Cambodia’s foreign ministry said the “meeting would include discussions of trade and security.”¹²⁷⁷

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. China has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by contributing funds to the WTO’s LDC and Accession program, actively renegotiating FTAs and attending G20 ministerial meetings. Additionally, China has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free and predictable investment environment by setting a five-year plan in accordance with WTO principles, signing new investment deals and supporting multilateral initiatives for SDR allocation.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

¹²⁷⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁷¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁷² US and China trade barbs after another high-level meeting but say they want to keep talking, CNN (Atlanta) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/politics/us-china-sherman-tense-meetings/index.html>

¹²⁷³ US and China trade barbs after another high-level meeting but say they want to keep talking, CNN (Atlanta) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/politics/us-china-sherman-tense-meetings/index.html>

¹²⁷⁴ Beijing will back Hong Kong’s entry into world’s biggest free-trade deal, China’s commerce minister tells bet and road summit, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3147134/beijing-will-back-hong-kongs-entry-worlds-biggest-free>

¹²⁷⁵ Beijing will back Hong Kong’s entry into world’s biggest free-trade deal, China’s commerce minister tells bet and road summit, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3147134/beijing-will-back-hong-kongs-entry-worlds-biggest-free>

¹²⁷⁶ China’s FM Wang visiting Cambodia to discuss virus, trade, Independent (Northcliffe House), 12 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/cambodia-china-wang-yi-hun-sen-beijing-b1918579.html>

¹²⁷⁷ China’s FM Wang visiting Cambodia to discuss virus, trade, Independent (Northcliffe House), 12 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/cambodia-china-wang-yi-hun-sen-beijing-b1918579.html>

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 December 2020, after a call between President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on behalf of the Presidency of the EU council, the EU and China have concluded the principle negotiations for a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.¹²⁷⁸ This agreement allows for a better balance between EU and Chinese trade relations and “set[s] a high benchmark in terms of transparency, level playing field, marketing access commitments and sustainable development.”¹²⁷⁹ This agreement has yet to be ratified.¹²⁸⁰

On 23 February 2021, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian spoke on the telephone with Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi.¹²⁸¹ Minister Le Drian reaffirmed France’s interests in strengthening the partnership between France and Indonesia, as well as within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹²⁸²

On 1 March 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Franck Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier via video conference.¹²⁸³ Ministers discussed the new trade policy strategy that was presented by the European Commission on 18 February 2021.¹²⁸⁴ They also discussed the draft agreement between the EU and Mercosur.¹²⁸⁵ This agreement paves the way for reducing trade barriers and facilitating free trade between the EU and Mercosur.¹²⁸⁶

On 5 March 2021, Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery Bruno Le Maire and Minister Riester welcomed the agreement between the EU and the United States, which enacted a mutual

¹²⁷⁸ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

¹²⁷⁹ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

¹²⁸⁰ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

¹²⁸¹ Indonesia – Call between Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Indonesian Counterpart, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/indonesia/news/article/indonesia-call-between-mr-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-indonesian-counterpart-26>

¹²⁸² Indonesia – Call between Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Indonesian Counterpart, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/indonesia/news/article/indonesia-call-between-mr-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-indonesian-counterpart-26>

¹²⁸³ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

¹²⁸⁴ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

¹²⁸⁵ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

¹²⁸⁶ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

suspension of punitive tariffs that emerged in the Airbus-Boeing dispute.¹²⁸⁷ The EU, and thereby France, will suspend the additional tariffs that it had been imposing on American products valued at USD4 billion since 10 November 2020.¹²⁸⁸ The goal of this four-month suspension is to allocate resources towards finalizing a permanent resolution to the dispute and implement new regulations that will “provide better protection against unfair competition and distortions linked to industrial subsidies.”¹²⁸⁹

On 5 March 2021, 20 interns from developing countries taking part in the French-Irish Mission Internship Programme were welcomed at a virtual ceremony.¹²⁹⁰ This program is co-funded by France and Ireland, and seeks to “build sustainable trade-related capacity in beneficiary countries by providing officials with an opportunity to participate in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) work in Geneva.”¹²⁹¹ France’s WTO Permanent Representative Jean-Marie Paugam said: “France and the beneficiaries of the programme are certain of its importance in helping to build a multilateral trading system adapted to the needs of all members at all levels of development.¹²⁹² France will continue to discuss with the WTO Secretariat the next phases for this trade-related capacity-building fund so that it continues to be of benefit to developing countries.”¹²⁹³

On 30 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder, via video conference.¹²⁹⁴ This meeting follows the renewal of France’s partnership with the ILO for the period of 2020 to 2024.¹²⁹⁵ Minister Riester reaffirmed France’s support of the ILO and its initiatives.¹²⁹⁶ Minister Riester and Director Ryder discussed the

¹²⁸⁷ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

¹²⁸⁸ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

¹²⁸⁹ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

¹²⁹⁰ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

¹²⁹¹ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

¹²⁹² Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

¹²⁹³ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

¹²⁹⁴ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

¹²⁹⁵ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

¹²⁹⁶ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

role of trade policy in relation to ILO norms and conventions, and placed emphasis on the strengthening of trade and investment in the facilitation of sustainable development.¹²⁹⁷

On 1 April 2021, Minister Riester and Minister Le Maire visited Geneva, and met with Director General of the WTO Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.¹²⁹⁸ They discussed WTO reform that will preserve and sustain the rules-based multilateral trade system, sustainable development, and fair trade.¹²⁹⁹ Minister Riester met with Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang and Director General of the French National Institute of Industrial Property Pascal Faure, with whom he reaffirmed the importance of “protecting geographical indications” for French companies in order to support exportations and international expansion.¹³⁰⁰

On 2 April 2021, Minister Riester met with the Minister Delegate for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, attached to the Minister of Economy, France and the Recovery Alain Griset and the Strategic Export Council via videoconference.¹³⁰¹ They discussed the results of the export dimension of the France Relance recovery plan, noting that “in January 2021, exports of French products had practically returned to January 2020 levels.”¹³⁰²

On 2 May 2021, Minister Le Drian attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting in London.¹³⁰³ In the communiqué, Ministers reaffirmed their support for “free and fair trade conducted within a system of transparent and predictable international rules and standards.”¹³⁰⁴ Ministers urged greater collaboration with African governments to increase trade and unlock private investment opportunities.¹³⁰⁵

¹²⁹⁷ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

¹²⁹⁸ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

¹²⁹⁹ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

¹³⁰⁰ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

¹³⁰¹ Foreign trade – Meeting of the Strategic Export Council, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/foreign-trade-meeting-of-the-strategic-export-council-02-apr-21>

¹³⁰² Foreign trade – Meeting of the Strategic Export Council, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/foreign-trade-meeting-of-the-strategic-export-council-02-apr-21>

¹³⁰³ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁴ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁵ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

On 5 May 2021, the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) and High Representative of the European Union Josep Borrell participated in a critical juncture.¹³⁰⁶ During the meeting, the G7 members including France, reiterated principles of maintaining “free and fair trade, and the free and secure flow of capital, data, knowledge, ideas and talent.”¹³⁰⁷ The participants highlighted the importance of free and fair markets to sustainable social and economic advancement.¹³⁰⁸ In particular, they underlined concerns regarding “practices that undermine such free and fair economic systems, including...trade, and development finance,” urging China to “assume and fulfil obligations and responsibilities commensurate with its global economic role.”¹³⁰⁹ In relation to the conflict in Yemen, the G7 calls for the free flow of imports through Red Sea ports.¹³¹⁰ Furthermore, the G7 welcomes the ratification of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.¹³¹¹

On 21 May 2021, Minister Riestler participated in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) in Brussels.¹³¹² The discussions focused on “the new trade strategy” proposed by the European Commission on 18 February 2021.¹³¹³ Minister Riestler stressed the “importance of the link between the EU’s trade agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,” reaffirmed France’s position against the EU-Mercosur agreement as it currently stands and stressed the importance of combating unfair trade practices.¹³¹⁴ The Council of Ministers further discussed preparations for the forthcoming trans-Atlantic summit and 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, where Minister Riestler “will reaffirm the need to promote an open, stable and rules-based trade environment...[to ensure] a more sustainable and equitable approach to international trade.”¹³¹⁵

¹³⁰⁶ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁷ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁸ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁹ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³¹⁰ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³¹¹ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³¹² European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

¹³¹³ European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

¹³¹⁴ European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

¹³¹⁵ European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

On 10 June 2021, President Macron participated in a press conference prior to the G7 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summits.¹³¹⁶ President Macron advocated for the removal of all export restrictions on supplies required to produce COVID-19 vaccines.¹³¹⁷ President Macron further advocated for fair taxation through a system built around taxing excess profits, particularly of major digital groups, and establishing a minimum 15 per cent tax.¹³¹⁸

On 11 to 13 June 2021, President Macron participated in the G7 Summit in Cornwall.¹³¹⁹ After the summit, President Macron participated in a press conference, detailing the outcomes of the event.¹³²⁰ President Macron announced a collective commitment by all G7 members to lift all export restrictions on countries important for producing vaccines for “middle-income or poorest areas” such as India.¹³²¹ President Macron confirmed the G7’s commitment to “reach an agreement at the OECD in July on a minimum tax on multinationals of at least 15 per cent and to adapt our taxation to the digital economy through a fairer distribution of the tax base.”¹³²²

On 15 June 2021, leaders of the EU and US met at the EU-US summit.¹³²³ The summit “facilitated the renewal of trans-Atlantic relations, notably including the resolution of the Airbus/Boeing dispute and the creation of a U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council.”¹³²⁴

On 19 July 2021, Minister Riester met with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Drombovskis, European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders and European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevicius.¹³²⁵ Minister Riester discussed trans-Atlantic relations in a follow-up to the June EU-US

¹³¹⁶ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Elysée Palace, 10 June 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

¹³¹⁷ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Elysée Palace, 10 June 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

¹³¹⁸ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Elysée Palace, 10 June 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

¹³¹⁹ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²⁰ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²¹ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²² G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²³ EU-US summit statement: “Towards a renewed Transatlantic partnership”, European Council (Council of the European Union) (Brussels) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/15/eu-us-summit-statement-towards-a-renewed-transatlantic-partnership/>

¹³²⁴ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

¹³²⁵ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

summit.¹³²⁶ Minister Riester reiterated France’s “support for the new trade strategy presented by the European Commission in February,” which seeks to present a balanced response to challenges posed by the pandemic, trade tensions, and climate crisis.¹³²⁷ Minister Riester reviewed trade negotiations that are in development.¹³²⁸ Minister Riester demonstrated France’s full support in the signing of the EU-Mexico association agreement.¹³²⁹ Minister Riester underlined concerns regarding Russian trade barriers that impact champagne producers and highlighted the difficulties caused by international market tensions on the supply of lumber to French and European industries.¹³³⁰

On 22 and 23 July 2021, Minister of State for European Affairs Clément Beaune met with fellow European affairs ministers in Ljubljana at the informal meeting of the General Affairs Council of the European Council.¹³³¹ The ministers discussed matters of “resiliency and the revival of the European economy as the EU confronts the challenges of the green and digital transitions.”¹³³²

France has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. France has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by engaging in multilateral trade initiatives and lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, France has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by attending the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sabar Fatima

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

¹³²⁶ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

¹³²⁷ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

¹³²⁸ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>

¹³²⁹ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>

¹³³⁰ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>

¹³³¹ EU – Clément Beaune participating in the informal meeting of European affairs ministers (Ljubljana and Brdo pri Kranju, 22 and 23 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-clement-beaune-participating-in-the-informal-meeting-of-european-affairs>

¹³³² EU – Clément Beaune participating in the informal meeting of European affairs ministers (Ljubljana and Brdo pri Kranju, 22 and 23 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-clement-beaune-participating-in-the-informal-meeting-of-european-affairs>

On 24 November 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that Germany hopes to complete a China-EU investment agreement to strengthen cooperation in vaccine distribution, investment, climate change and environmental protection.¹³³³ Merkel's statement promotes the development of Germany-China and EU-China trade and investment relations.¹³³⁴

On 27 November 2020, Germany approved an investment of EUR10 billion between 2021 and 2030 with hopes of creating an additional EUR20 billion in private venture capital investments to promote start-ups in the country.¹³³⁵ The President of the Federal Association of German Start-Ups Christian Miele stated that the Bundestag created the necessary budgetary conditions for significantly improving the financing of start-ups through this "future fund."¹³³⁶

On 3 December 2020, Germany and Estonia pledged EUR815,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework, a global development program for helping least-developed-countries (LDC) enhance their trading capacities and for creating an inclusive trade environment.¹³³⁷ The new funding will support 47 LDCs across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and 4 countries that recently graduated from LDC status: Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa.¹³³⁸

On 7 December 2020, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier stated that the government is "continuing to work on putting the right policy environment in place for forward-looking investments in a digital and green economy in Germany and Europe."¹³³⁹

On 12 January 2021, Minister Altmaier and Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh co-chaired the first session of the German-Vietnamese Economic Committee, which aims to advance German-Vietnamese trade relations.¹³⁴⁰ Minister Altmaier continued the promotion of open markets and free trade between the two countries following the success of the August 2020 German-Vietnamese free trade agreement.¹³⁴¹

On 18 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discussed several issues, including "collaboration between Canada and Germany on shared priorities," which

¹³³³ Xi Jinping and Angela Merkel discuss vaccine distribution after G20 summit, CGTN (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-24/Xi-Jinping-and-Merkel-discusses-vaccine-distribution-after-G20-summit--VGu8YoolzO/index.html>

¹³³⁴ Xi Jinping and Angela Merkel discuss vaccine distribution after G20 summit, CGTN (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-24/Xi-Jinping-and-Merkel-discusses-vaccine-distribution-after-G20-summit--VGu8YoolzO/index.html>

¹³³⁵ Germany to Invest €10 Billion in Start-Up Support, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-ten-billion-startup-fund-585322>

¹³³⁶ Germany to Invest €10 Billion in Start-Up Support, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-ten-billion-startup-fund-585322>

¹³³⁷ Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm

¹³³⁸ Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm

¹³³⁹ 2020 further bolstered Germany's reputation around the world, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-reputation-international-surveys-rankings-588572>

¹³⁴⁰ Minister Altmaier co-chairs first session of German-Vietnamese Joint Economic Committee, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210112-minister-altmaier-co-chairs-first-session-of-german-vietnamese-joint-economic-committee.html>

¹³⁴¹ Minister Altmaier co-chairs first session of German-Vietnamese Joint Economic Committee, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210112-minister-altmaier-co-chairs-first-session-of-german-vietnamese-joint-economic-committee.html>

includes international trade.¹³⁴² They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”¹³⁴³

On 26 January 2021, Minister Altmaier met with New Zealand’s Trade Minister Damien O’Connor via video conference to exchange views concerning German-New Zealand economic relations and developments in global trade policy.¹³⁴⁴ Minister Altmaier stated that Germany continues to cooperate with New Zealand and that the continued negotiations for a free trade agreement between the EU and New Zealand reinforces this cooperation, strengthens the multilateral trade environment, and promotes free trade.¹³⁴⁵

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel announced that the country will continue to work on reinforcing rules-based international trade structures and supporting bilateral international trade agreements.¹³⁴⁶ The announcement confirms that Germany will maintain its efforts to strengthen the World Trade Organization (WTO), which Merkel believes to be the “core element of rules-based global trade.”¹³⁴⁷

On 15 February 2021, Transatlantic Coordinator Peter Beyer announced that Germany wants Europe and the US to bolster transatlantic relations with a trade deal that eliminates industrial tariffs, reforms the WTO to increase pressure on China to “play by international trade rules” and that establishes a joint carbon-emission trading system for climate protection.¹³⁴⁸ Beyer also argued that the new US administration should “withdraw punitive tariffs” imposed by Former US President Donald Trump on European imports of aluminum and steel as a first step towards “rebuilding trust” between the US and the EU.¹³⁴⁹

On 24 March 2021, Minister Altmaier met with the new Director-General of the WTO Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala via video conference to discuss WTO reform and the priorities of the new Director-

¹³⁴² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

¹³⁴³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

¹³⁴⁴ Federal Minister Peter Altmaier discusses current trade policy issues with New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210126-federal-minister-peter-altmaier-discusses-current-trade-policy-issues-with-new-zealand-trade-minister-damien-o-connor.html>

¹³⁴⁵ Federal Minister Peter Altmaier discusses current trade policy issues with New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210126-federal-minister-peter-altmaier-discusses-current-trade-policy-issues-with-new-zealand-trade-minister-damien-o-connor.html>

¹³⁴⁶ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

¹³⁴⁷ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

¹³⁴⁸ 'Let's think big' – Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate, Reuters (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-idUSKBN2AF160>

¹³⁴⁹ 'Let's think big' – Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate, Reuters (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-idUSKBN2AF160>

General.¹³⁵⁰ The talks prioritized strengthening the multilateral trading system by reforming the WTO.¹³⁵¹ Minister Altmaier claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic and changing global conditions underline the need for this reform.¹³⁵²

On 24 March 2021, Minister Altmaier met with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to discuss the importance of the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.¹³⁵³ Minister Altmaier and Representative Tai committed to strengthening US-German cooperation on shared objectives related to unfair trade practices of large non-market economies and focussed on the two countries' "strong interest" in resolving a long-running US-EU aircraft subsidy dispute and addressing the global excess steel and aluminum capacity.¹³⁵⁴

On 25 March 2021, Federal Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz and Minister Altmaier tasked the KfW, a government owned development bank, with the execution of the Zukunftsfonds (Future Fund).¹³⁵⁵ The Zukunftsfonds offers innovative technology start-ups better access to capital through a EUR10 billion investment from the federal government and at least EUR30 billion in venture capital from private and public investors.¹³⁵⁶

On 29 April 2021, Germany passed a law that permits over 4,000 institutional investment funds to invest as much as 20 per cent of their portfolio in crypto currencies.¹³⁵⁷ Experts claim that this law could boost Germany's position as a financial investment hub and in turn boosts the crypto currency sector by legitimising the asset class.¹³⁵⁸ Member of the Bundestag Frank Schäffler stated that the addition of crypto assets in such investment funds is a crucial step for their acceptance.¹³⁵⁹

On 4 May 2021, Minister Altmaier met with Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg via video conference to discuss current challenges in trade policy and ways in which

¹³⁵⁰ Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

¹³⁵¹ Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

¹³⁵² Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

¹³⁵³ USTR says Tai, Germany's Altmaier discuss aircraft dispute, excess metals capacity, Reuters (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tai-germany-idUSKBN2BG2XL>

¹³⁵⁴ USTR says Tai, Germany's Altmaier discuss aircraft dispute, excess metals capacity, Reuters (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tai-germany-idUSKBN2BG2XL>

¹³⁵⁵ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

¹³⁵⁶ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

¹³⁵⁷ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

¹³⁵⁸ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

¹³⁵⁹ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

the two countries can expand German-Swedish economic relations.¹³⁶⁰ Minister Altmaier said that the two countries enjoy a long history of intensive cooperation and that they continue to work together to promote open markets and free trade to ensure consistent strengthening of the multilateral trading system and the bilateral EU free trade agenda.¹³⁶¹ He also cited the German-Swedish innovation partnership as an integral part of deepening bilateral economic relations.¹³⁶²

On 5 May 2021, Chancellor Merkel promoted the idea of a trade agreement between the US and the EU as part of an effort to strengthen transatlantic ties and to welcome the US's "return to the multilateral fold" under US President Joe Biden.¹³⁶³

On 25 May 2021, Minister Altmaier met virtually with Mexican Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier to exchange views on reinforcing economic and investment relations between Germany and Mexico.¹³⁶⁴ He said that the two countries continue to focus on tackling the ongoing pandemic, but also that both intend to deepen economic and investment relations with a modernized EU-Mexico Global Agreement, which would act as a major building block for their shared goal.¹³⁶⁵

On 14 June 2021, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller met with Togo's Foreign Minister Robert Dussey, Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah Dogbé and President Faure Gnassingbé to sign an agreement for a reform partnership between the two countries.¹³⁶⁶ The partnership would intensify cooperation with Togo to support growth, jobs and reforms; it will also provide support for the private sector and work to improve the trade and investment environment in Togo by establishing an export and investment promotion agency.¹³⁶⁷

On 29 June 2021, Germany and Chile signed a letter of intent that outlines a bilateral alliance on hydrogen production and trade in the form of a task force in an effort to facilitate a hydrogen supply

¹³⁶⁰ Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier talks with his Swedish counterpart Anna Hallberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/210504-federal-minister-for-economic-affairs%20and-energy-peter-altmaier-talks-with-his-swedish-counterpart-anna-hallberg.html>

¹³⁶¹ Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier talks with his Swedish counterpart Anna Hallberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/210504-federal-minister-for-economic-affairs%20and-energy-peter-altmaier-talks-with-his-swedish-counterpart-anna-hallberg.html>

¹³⁶² Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier talks with his Swedish counterpart Anna Hallberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/210504-federal-minister-for-economic-affairs%20and-energy-peter-altmaier-talks-with-his-swedish-counterpart-anna-hallberg.html>

¹³⁶³ Merkel wants Europe, United States to aim for new trade deal, Reuters (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/merkel-wants-europe-united-states-aim-new-trade-deal-2021-05-05/>

¹³⁶⁴ Minister Altmaier exchanges views with Mexico's Secretary of Economy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/20210525-altmaier-exchanges-with-mexicos-secretary-of-economy.html>

¹³⁶⁵ Minister Altmaier exchanges views with Mexico's Secretary of Economy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/20210525-altmaier-exchanges-with-mexicos-secretary-of-economy.html>

¹³⁶⁶ Minister Müller signs reform partnership agreement with Togo, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-signs-reform-partnership-agreement-with-togo-83646>

¹³⁶⁷ Minister Müller signs reform partnership agreement with Togo, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-signs-reform-partnership-agreement-with-togo-83646>

chain between the two countries.¹³⁶⁸ Minister Altmaier said that cooperation with Chile would open up new trade routes for clean energy hydrogen imports for Germany's "big energy players."¹³⁶⁹

On 21 July 2021, Minister Altmaier held a videoconference with Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan during the second meeting of the German-Australian Joint Economic Committee to discuss closer economic cooperation between the two countries.¹³⁷⁰ They highlighted their desire to give a new impetus to the bilateral economic relations between Germany and Australia and advocated for a rapid conclusion of negotiations concerning the planned EU-Australia Trade Agreement, which they argue would make it easier for companies to become active on the market of the other country and further facilitate cooperation.¹³⁷¹

On 27 August 2021, Chancellor Merkel discussed the supply of coronavirus vaccines to Africa.¹³⁷² During the fourth conference on the Compact with Africa, a G20 initiative that aims to establish reform partnerships with African countries, she said that "vaccine availability and production are directly linked to the economic well-being of the African continent."¹³⁷³ Chancellor Merkel also added that the task of the Compact with Africa now is to do more to lower barriers to trade and investment.¹³⁷⁴

On 27 August 2021, Minister Altmaier met with the new Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Mathias Cormann during his inaugural visit to Berlin.¹³⁷⁵ Minister Altmaier stressed the importance of the OECD in regard to multilateralism and the key role it plays in developing a joint response to major global challenges such as climate change mitigation, fair trade and the digital transition.¹³⁷⁶

¹³⁶⁸ Germany and Chile sign accord to boost hydrogen cooperation, Reuters (Frankfurt) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/germany-chile-sign-accord-boost-hydrogen-cooperation-2021-06-29/>

¹³⁶⁹ Germany and Chile sign accord to boost hydrogen cooperation, Reuters (Frankfurt) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/germany-chile-sign-accord-boost-hydrogen-cooperation-2021-06-29/>

¹³⁷⁰ Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

¹³⁷¹ Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

¹³⁷² "We now have to ensure the vaccine gets to the people of Africa quickly," The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/compact-with-africa-conference-1955092>

¹³⁷³ "We now have to ensure the vaccine gets to the people of Africa quickly," The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/compact-with-africa-conference-1955092>

¹³⁷⁴ "We now have to ensure the vaccine gets to the people of Africa quickly," The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/compact-with-africa-conference-1955092>

¹³⁷⁵ Economic Affairs Minister Altmaier meets with new OECD Secretary-General Cormann in Berlin, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/08/20210827-economic-affairs-minister-altmaier-meets-new-oecd-secretary-general-cormann.html>

¹³⁷⁶ Economic Affairs Minister Altmaier meets with new OECD Secretary-General Cormann in Berlin, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/08/20210827-economic-affairs-minister-altmaier-meets-new-oecd-secretary-general-cormann.html>

On 10 September 2021, Chancellor Merkel had a phone conversation with China's President Xi Jinping wherein they agreed to make joint efforts to promote the China-EU investment agreement.¹³⁷⁷ They pushed for the completion of the investment agreement negotiations and continued to advocate multilateralism and free trade to strengthen the bilateral ties between Germany and China.¹³⁷⁸

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Germany has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by fostering the trading environments of LDCs. Additionally, Germany has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by developing forward-looking investment plans.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 25 November 2020, the cabinet approved a capital infusion of INR60 billion in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) over the next two years.¹³⁷⁹ Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar stated that the government would invest INR24 billion in the NIIF during the current financial year ending in March 2021, which would help generate up to INR1.1 trillion for investments.¹³⁸⁰

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal welcomed foreign investors to “be a part of India’s growth story” and stated that India continues to open up to global investors in order to strengthen economic plans for the future.¹³⁸¹ Goyal also cited the continuous growth of India’s Foreign Direct Investment, which facilitates a non-discriminatory investment environment in the country.¹³⁸²

On 25 January 2021, Ambassador to Cambodia Devyani Uttam Khobragade and Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn reached a consensus to speed up negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty and the draft operating conditions for

¹³⁷⁷ China, Germany vow to jointly promote China-EU investment agreement, CGTN (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-09-10/Xi-Jinping-has-phone-conversation-with-Angela-Merkel-13rK2FGqQco/index.html>

¹³⁷⁸ China, Germany vow to jointly promote China-EU investment agreement, CGTN (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-09-10/Xi-Jinping-has-phone-conversation-with-Angela-Merkel-13rK2FGqQco/index.html>

¹³⁷⁹ Indian Government to Invest \$812 Million in NIIF: Minister, Businessworld (New Delhi) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Indian-Government-To-Invest-812-Million-In-NIIF-Minister/25-11-2020-346535/>

¹³⁸⁰ Indian Government to Invest \$812 Million in NIIF: Minister, Businessworld (New Delhi) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Indian-Government-To-Invest-812-Million-In-NIIF-Minister/25-11-2020-346535/>

¹³⁸¹ Shri Piyush Goyal invites Foreign Investors to be a part of India’s growth story, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-invites-foreign-investors-to-be-a-part-of-indias-growth-story/>

¹³⁸² Shri Piyush Goyal invites Foreign Investors to be a part of India’s growth story, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-invites-foreign-investors-to-be-a-part-of-indias-growth-story/>

Cambodia-India Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, which are intended to expand trade and investment between the countries.¹³⁸³ On 3 February 2021, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan announced that the country's budget for 2021-22 aims to enhance the physical environment for investment, targeting a "plug and play eco-system for investors," easing trade facilitation measures and addressing unfair trade practices.¹³⁸⁴ Secretary Wadhawan added that he hopes the domestic playing field will be levelled by addressing unfair trade practices.¹³⁸⁵

On 8 February 2021, Minister Goyal and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss released a statement laying the groundwork for an "Enhanced Trade Partnership."¹³⁸⁶ Details of the partnership include discussions of a full free trade agreement and a commitment to long-term India-UK partnership, all while understanding each country's priorities and trade sensitivities.¹³⁸⁷

On 18 February 2021, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla met Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the development of an important partnership between the two countries.¹³⁸⁸ Shringla and Lavrov emphasized the two countries' aspiration to increase trade and economic turnover by expanding cooperation in traditional and high-tech spheres and taking forward the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.¹³⁸⁹

On 18 February 2021, Minister Goyal delivered the keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, in which he invited businesses from both countries to "bring in sparkle" into India and Singapore's partnership, encouraging international investment and creating an inclusive investment environment.¹³⁹⁰ Minister Goyal said he is looking at expanding bilateral ties with Singapore.¹³⁹¹

¹³⁸³ Rush order on India signings, The Phnom Penh Post (Phnom Penh) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/rush-order-india-signings>

¹³⁸⁴ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/>

¹³⁸⁵ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/>

¹³⁸⁶ India, UK Agree to Immediate 'Enhanced Trade Partnership,' India Briefing (Kowloon) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-uk-agree-to-immediate-enhanced-trade-partnership-21667.html/>

¹³⁸⁷ India, UK Agree to Immediate 'Enhanced Trade Partnership,' India Briefing (Kowloon) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-uk-agree-to-immediate-enhanced-trade-partnership-21667.html/>

¹³⁸⁸ Foreign Secretary Shringla Discusses Ways to Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Russian Minister, Mint (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-secretary-shringla-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership-with-russian-minister-11613613614268.html>

¹³⁸⁹ Foreign Secretary Shringla Discusses Ways to Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Russian Minister, Mint (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-secretary-shringla-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership-with-russian-minister-11613613614268.html>

¹³⁹⁰ Shri Piyush Goyal delivers keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-delivers-keynote-address-at-india-singapore-ceo-forum/>

¹³⁹¹ Shri Piyush Goyal delivers keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-delivers-keynote-address-at-india-singapore-ceo-forum/>

On 19 February 2021, India and the EU “expressed hope to forge a host of bilateral cooperation arrangements with a view to boost bilateral trade” by continuing negotiations on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, in which the EU seeks greater market access for its commodities in India.¹³⁹²

On 22 February 2021, India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), a free trade agreement, during a meeting between Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth.¹³⁹³ CECPA will provide preferential access to Mauritius for the bulk of trade and many “aspirational items” in the Indian market, boost the dynamism of the services sector in Mauritius and provide Mauritius with an additional 100,000 doses of Made in India COVID-19 vaccines.¹³⁹⁴ Minister Jaishankar said that CECPA would also enable Indian investors to use Mauritius as a launch pad for business expansion into continental Africa and help the prospect of Mauritius emerging as a “hub of Africa.”¹³⁹⁵

On 2 March 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a long-term USD82 billion investment plan for the country’s seaports, which includes plans to develop renewable power to supply more than half of the energy needs of India’s ports by 2030.¹³⁹⁶ During the Maritime India Summit, Prime Minister Modi also called for massive public and private commitments to improve infrastructure for maritime trade.¹³⁹⁷

On 16 March 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Finland Sanna Marin, met virtually to review and express their desire to further expand and diversify the ongoing bilateral engagements relating to sectors such as trade and investment, innovation, education, and emerging technologies.¹³⁹⁸ Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to work for multilateralism, a rules-based international order, sustainable development and climate change.¹³⁹⁹

On 17 March 2021, India met with Argentina and opened India’s market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.¹⁴⁰⁰ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.¹⁴⁰¹

¹³⁹² India, EU Express Hope to Forge Host of Bilateral Cooperation Arrangements, Business Standard (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-eu-express-hope-to-forge-host-of-bilateral-cooperation-arrangements-121021901306_1.html

¹³⁹³ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

¹³⁹⁴ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

¹³⁹⁵ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

¹³⁹⁶ India Announces \$82B Port Infrastructure Plan, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-announces-82b-port-infrastructure-plan>

¹³⁹⁷ India Announces \$82B Port Infrastructure Plan, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-announces-82b-port-infrastructure-plan>

¹³⁹⁸ India-Finland Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33631/IndiaFinland+Virtual+Summit>

¹³⁹⁹ India-Finland Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33631/IndiaFinland+Virtual+Summit>

¹⁴⁰⁰ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

On 25 March 2021, Minister Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai agreed to work on resolving outstanding bilateral trade issues and look at ways to expand the trade relationship between India and the US.¹⁴⁰² They also agreed to revitalise engagement through the US-India Trade Policy Forum.¹⁴⁰³

On 28 March 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina agreed on the need to remove non-tariff barriers to increase bilateral trade.¹⁴⁰⁴ They committed to fast tracking the on-going joint study on the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries.¹⁴⁰⁵

On 6 April 2021, Minister Jaishankar and Russia's Minister Lavrov discussed ways to enhance the bilateral relationship in sectors such as investment, energy and military equipment production.¹⁴⁰⁶ They agreed on moving forward on the negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.¹⁴⁰⁷

On 3 May 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a GBP1 billion private-sector investment and committed to pursue an “Enhanced Trade Partnership” agreement during a virtual meeting.¹⁴⁰⁸ The agreement would lift export barriers on British goods, allow UK firms access to India's legal services sector and improve India's access to Britain's fisheries and nursing sectors.¹⁴⁰⁹ Both have the ambition to double existing bilateral trade by 2030.¹⁴¹⁰

¹⁴⁰¹ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

¹⁴⁰² India, US agree to resolve outstanding trade issues, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-us-agree-to-resolve-outstanding-trade-issues-101616696904959.html>

¹⁴⁰³ India, US agree to resolve outstanding trade issues, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-us-agree-to-resolve-outstanding-trade-issues-101616696904959.html>

¹⁴⁰⁴ PM Modi, Hasina agree to remove non-tariff barriers in trade, speed up report on CEPA, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-hasina-agree-to-remove-non-tariff-barriers-in-trade-speed-up-report-on-cepa/article34181981.ece>

¹⁴⁰⁵ PM Modi, Hasina agree to remove non-tariff barriers in trade, speed up report on CEPA, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-hasina-agree-to-remove-non-tariff-barriers-in-trade-speed-up-report-on-cepa/article34181981.ece>

¹⁴⁰⁶ India, Russia discuss deepening of partnership in trade, space, defence, energy, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-russia-discuss-deepening-of-partnership-in-trade-space-defence-energy/article34254354.ece>

¹⁴⁰⁷ India, Russia discuss deepening of partnership in trade, space, defence, energy, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-russia-discuss-deepening-of-partnership-in-trade-space-defence-energy/article34254354.ece>

¹⁴⁰⁸ UK and India step closer to trade deal, agreeing investment and migration pacts, Reuters (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-india-announce-14-billion-investment-boost-step-closer-trade-deal-2021-05-03/>

¹⁴⁰⁹ UK and India step closer to trade deal, agreeing investment and migration pacts, Reuters (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-india-announce-14-billion-investment-boost-step-closer-trade-deal-2021-05-03/>

¹⁴¹⁰ UK and India step closer to trade deal, agreeing investment and migration pacts, Reuters (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-india-announce-14-billion-investment-boost-step-closer-trade-deal-2021-05-03/>

On 5 May 2021, India reached out to the top US pharmaceutical companies to encourage investments into the country's pharmaceutical and medical devices sector.¹⁴¹¹ Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu met virtually with the CEOs of Pfizer, Thermo Fisher, Antylia Scientific and Pall Life Sciences to discuss the ways in which the companies could support healthcare efforts and strengthen India's pandemic response through new investment opportunities.¹⁴¹²

On 7 May 2021, Prime Minister Modi agreed to resume negotiations for a trade agreement with the EU during a virtual summit with all 27 EU member-state leaders.¹⁴¹³ The trade agreement would respond to challenges such as combating climate change and solving market access issues.¹⁴¹⁴

On 3 June 2021, Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Australian Minister of Agriculture David Littleproud announced a joint plan in which Australia provides market access for Indian pomegranates, pomegranate arils, mangoes and okra, and in return exports barley to India.¹⁴¹⁵ Additionally, India seeks greater access to Australian coal, rare earth minerals and metals such as copper, cobalt and nickel with ambitions to deepen trade ties between the two countries.¹⁴¹⁶

On 4 June 2021, negotiators from the Ministry of Commerce and Canada's international trade department resumed discussions towards a possible trade pact, revisiting the stalled Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.¹⁴¹⁷ India's High Commissioner to Ottawa Ajay Bisaria stated that the trade pact would "boost trade and investment in the bilateral economic corridor."¹⁴¹⁸

On 17 June 2021, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs cut the tariff import value of crude palm oil by USD86 per tonne and crude palm olein by USD112 per tonne, in addition to the reduction of the base import price of crude soybean oil by USD37 per tonne.¹⁴¹⁹ India meets around two-thirds of its edible oil demand through imports and experts say that this move can lead to lower domestic prices.¹⁴²⁰

¹⁴¹¹ India reaches out to US companies over investment in pharmaceutical, medical devices sector, Times of India (Mumbai) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-reaches-out-to-us-companies-over-investment-in-pharmaceutical-medical-devices-sector/articleshow/82397923.cms>

¹⁴¹² India reaches out to US companies over investment in pharmaceutical, medical devices sector, Times of India (Mumbai) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-reaches-out-to-us-companies-over-investment-in-pharmaceutical-medical-devices-sector/articleshow/82397923.cms>

¹⁴¹³ EU and India agree to resume trade talks at virtual summit, Reuters (Brussels) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-india-re-launch-trade-talks-virtual-summit-2021-05-08/>

¹⁴¹⁴ EU and India agree to resume trade talks at virtual summit, Reuters (Brussels) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-india-re-launch-trade-talks-virtual-summit-2021-05-08/>

¹⁴¹⁵ Amid China's high tariffs, India, Australia ramp up farm trade, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/amid-china-s-high-tariffs-india-australia-ramp-up-farm-trade-101622694609374.html>

¹⁴¹⁶ Amid China's high tariffs, India, Australia ramp up farm trade, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/amid-china-s-high-tariffs-india-australia-ramp-up-farm-trade-101622694609374.html>

¹⁴¹⁷ India, Canada resume talks on stalled trade pact, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-canada-resume-talks-on-stalled-trade-pact-101622783535354.html>

¹⁴¹⁸ India, Canada resume talks on stalled trade pact, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-canada-resume-talks-on-stalled-trade-pact-101622783535354.html>

¹⁴¹⁹ Govt slashes tariff value for edible oil import, may lead to lower domestic prices, Mint (New Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-slashes-tariff-value-for-edible-oil-import-may-lead-to-lower-domestic-prices-11623936224423.html>

¹⁴²⁰ Govt slashes tariff value for edible oil import, may lead to lower domestic prices, Mint (New Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-slashes-tariff-value-for-edible-oil-import-may-lead-to-lower-domestic-prices-11623936224423.html>

On 22 June 2021, Minister of Power and Minister of New and Renewable Energy Raj Kumar Singh announced a 'green tariff' plan that will assist power distribution companies in supplying electricity generated from clean energy projects at much lower tariffs than from conventional fuel sources such as coal.¹⁴²¹ The new tariff plan will ensure open and affordable access to clean energy that will allow large users of energy to buy power from the market.¹⁴²²

On 28 June 2021, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Vellamvelly Muraleedharan met virtually with Zimbabwe's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Frederick Shava to discuss bilateral, regional and multilateral issues including matters related to trade and investment.¹⁴²³ They reiterated their commitment to continue to strengthen the bilateral relationship citing the historical ties between India and Zimbabwe.¹⁴²⁴

On 2 July 2021, Minister Goyal announced that India recorded all-time high quarterly exports, surging 85 per cent from the previous year, lifted by exports of USD32.5 billion in June.¹⁴²⁵ Goyal said that the country achieved record exports despite the ongoing pandemic and that the numbers give "a glimpse of things to come."¹⁴²⁶

On 15 July 2021, at a WTO ministerial meeting, Minister Goyal stated that significant work on a draft fisheries agreement is necessary to address the concerns of developing countries.¹⁴²⁷ Goyal called one aspect of the draft deal "unequal, unfair, unjust" but stated that India is committed to concluding the negotiations once the concerns are addressed.¹⁴²⁸

On 20 July 2021, the BRICS countries agreed to hold a trade fair show from 16-18 August 2021 to strengthen economic ties.¹⁴²⁹ The trade fair show will occur before the BRICS Trade Ministers meeting on 3 September 2021, which Minister Goyal will chair.¹⁴³⁰

¹⁴²¹ Green tariff plan may help supply cheaper renewable power, Mint (New Delhi) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/green-tariff-plan-may-help-supply-cheaper-renewable-power-11624384072861.html>

¹⁴²² Green tariff plan may help supply cheaper renewable power, Mint (New Delhi) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/green-tariff-plan-may-help-supply-cheaper-renewable-power-11624384072861.html>

¹⁴²³ Virtual Interaction between the Minister of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade of Republic of Zimbabwe, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33958/Virtual_Interaction_between_the_Minister_of_State_for_External_Affairs_and_the_Minister_of_Foreign_Affairs__International_Trade_of_Republic_of_Zimbabwe

¹⁴²⁴ Virtual Interaction between the Minister of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade of Republic of Zimbabwe, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33958/Virtual_Interaction_between_the_Minister_of_State_for_External_Affairs_and_the_Minister_of_Foreign_Affairs__International_Trade_of_Republic_of_Zimbabwe

¹⁴²⁵ India records highest-ever exports in June quarter, Mint (New Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-records-highest-ever-exports-in-june-quarter-11625226809084.html>

¹⁴²⁶ India records highest-ever exports in June quarter, Mint (New Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-records-highest-ever-exports-in-june-quarter-11625226809084.html>

¹⁴²⁷ India says significant work needed on WTO fisheries deal, Reuters (Geneva) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/india-says-significant-work-needed-wto-fisheries-deal-2021-07-15/>

¹⁴²⁸ India says significant work needed on WTO fisheries deal, Reuters (Geneva) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/india-says-significant-work-needed-wto-fisheries-deal-2021-07-15/>

¹⁴²⁹ India to chair BRICS 2021 trade fair, MSME roundtable, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-to-chair-brics-2021-trade-fair-msme-roundtable-101626783672347.html>

On 22 July 2021, the federal cabinet approved plans that would allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment in state-run oil companies – an increase from the current 49 per cent.¹⁴³¹ The move also involves the sale of the government’s 53 per cent stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp, India’s second-largest state-run refiner, to raise INR1.75 trillion from stakes in companies.¹⁴³²

On 5 August 2021, Prime Minister Modi met with Australian Prime Minister’s Special Trade Envoy for India Tony Abbott to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation as part of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.¹⁴³³ They emphasized that enhanced economic cooperation would help both countries in addressing economic challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that it would play a role in realising their shared vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.¹⁴³⁴

On 18 August 2021, Minister Goyal chaired the fifth meeting of BRICS Industry Ministers.¹⁴³⁵ The ministers reiterated their commitment to make efforts to foster an open, fair and non-discriminatory trade environment that ensures greater participation in global value chains and enhanced digital inclusion.¹⁴³⁶

On 24 August 2021, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel inaugurated the India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Engineering Partnership Summit organized by Engineering Exports Promotion Council with support from Minister Jaishankar and the

¹⁴³⁰ India to chair BRICS 2021 trade fair, MSME roundtable, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-to-chair-brics-2021-trade-fair-msme-roundtable-101626783672347.html>

¹⁴³¹ India cabinet eases foreign investment rules to aid BPCL sale – sources, Reuters (New Delhi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-cabinet-eases-foreign-investment-rules-aid-bpcl-sale-sources-2021-07-22/>

¹⁴³² India cabinet eases foreign investment rules to aid BPCL sale – sources, Reuters (New Delhi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-cabinet-eases-foreign-investment-rules-aid-bpcl-sale-sources-2021-07-22/>

¹⁴³³ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM’s Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PM_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹⁴³⁴ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM’s Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PM_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹⁴³⁵ India expresses desire to expand the horizon of New Development Bank (NDB) for strengthening social infrastructure at BRICS Industry Ministers meet, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/india-expresses-desire-to-expand-the-horizon-of-new-development-bank-ndb-for-strengthening-social-infrastructure-at-brics-industry-ministers-meet/>

¹⁴³⁶ India expresses desire to expand the horizon of New Development Bank (NDB) for strengthening social infrastructure at BRICS Industry Ministers meet, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/india-expresses-desire-to-expand-the-horizon-of-new-development-bank-ndb-for-strengthening-social-infrastructure-at-brics-industry-ministers-meet/>

Department of Commerce.¹⁴³⁷ The summit provides a platform for engagement between India and ASEAN in engineering trade and investments.¹⁴³⁸

On 28 August 2021, Minister Goyal said that India is “fast progressing” on discussions concerning free trade agreements with countries such as the UK, the UAE and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Australia and the EU.¹⁴³⁹ He added that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the government continues to promote transparency and “ease of doing business.”¹⁴⁴⁰

On 31 August 2021, India continued negotiations concerning a free trade agreement with the UAE, their third largest trading partner.¹⁴⁴¹ The agreement would lead to increased exports of leather goods, gems and jewellery and chemicals to the UAE.¹⁴⁴²

On 11 September 2021, Minister of Defence Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister Jaishankar met with Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Peter Dutton to reaffirm their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation by elevating the India-Australia relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.¹⁴⁴³ The Ministers also highlighted the importance of a balanced trade agreement that encourages expanded trade and investment flows that benefits both countries economically.¹⁴⁴⁴

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. India has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, and free trade environment by fighting unfair trading practices and actively renegotiating FTAs. Additionally, India has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by promoting foreign investment and easing investment restrictions.

¹⁴³⁷ India’s exports to ASEAN estimated at US\$ 46 billion in FY22: Ms Anupriya Patel, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/indias-exports-to-asean-estimated-at-us-46-billion-in-fy22-ms-anupriya-patel/>

¹⁴³⁸ India’s exports to ASEAN estimated at US\$ 46 billion in FY22: Ms Anupriya Patel, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/indias-exports-to-asean-estimated-at-us-46-billion-in-fy22-ms-anupriya-patel/>

¹⁴³⁹ We are fast progressing on our discussions on FTAs with several countries like UK, UAE, GCC countries, Australia and European Union – Shri Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/we-are-fast-progressing-on-our-discussions-on-ftas-with-several-countries-like-uk-uae-gcc-countries-australia-and-european-union-shri-goyal/>

¹⁴⁴⁰ We are fast progressing on our discussions on FTAs with several countries like UK, UAE, GCC countries, Australia and European Union – Shri Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/we-are-fast-progressing-on-our-discussions-on-ftas-with-several-countries-like-uk-uae-gcc-countries-australia-and-european-union-shri-goyal/>

¹⁴⁴¹ India negotiating free trade agreement with UAE, International Leather Maker (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/10271/India_negotiating_free_trade_agreement_with_UAE.html

¹⁴⁴² India negotiating free trade agreement with UAE, International Leather Maker (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/10271/India_negotiating_free_trade_agreement_with_UAE.html

¹⁴⁴³ Joint Statement on Inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34250/Joint_Statement_on_Inaugural_IndiaAustralia_22_Ministerial_Dialogue_11_September_2021_New_Delhi

¹⁴⁴⁴ Joint Statement on Inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34250/Joint_Statement_on_Inaugural_IndiaAustralia_22_Ministerial_Dialogue_11_September_2021_New_Delhi

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia's 7th Trade Policy Review took place, with subsequent reports from both the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat and the Indonesian government.¹⁴⁴⁵ Trade policy reviews are a WTO mandated exercise in which a countries' trade policies are examined and evaluated at regular intervals.¹⁴⁴⁶ Indonesia was praised for its active participation in the Multilateral Trading System, its role in the Joint Statement Initiatives on investment facilitation, and its trade-related structural reforms, which improved transparency in policy making.¹⁴⁴⁷

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia presented an opening statement at the 7th Trade Policy Review, which summarized several ongoing trade initiatives.¹⁴⁴⁸ Indonesia upgraded preferential trade agreements with Pakistan and Japan; began negotiations with Chile on trade and investment; entered into trade negotiations with the EU, Tunisia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Morocco; initiated exploratory talks with countries in Africa, South Asia, the Eurasian Economic Union, Mercosur, and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council; begun implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Australia; and is in the final process of ratifying trade agreements with Mozambique and the European Free Trade Association.¹⁴⁴⁹ Indonesia concluded with wishes that the trade policy review will restore the "strong confidence in the multilateral trading system which should allow an open, fair and predictable trade environment for all Members of the WTO."¹⁴⁵⁰

On 18 December 2020, Indonesia and Korea signed the Korea-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partners Agreement after eight years of negotiations.¹⁴⁵¹ It will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods, and 94.8 per cent of South Korean goods and improve investment conditions.¹⁴⁵²

¹⁴⁴⁵ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp501_e.htm

¹⁴⁴⁶ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp501_e.htm

¹⁴⁴⁷ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp501_crc_e.htm

¹⁴⁴⁸ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

¹⁴⁴⁹ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

¹⁴⁵⁰ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

¹⁴⁵¹ Korea, Indonesia sign CEPA, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://english.motie.go.kr/en/tp/ftaeconomiccooperation/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=1022&bbs_cd_n=1&view_type_v=TOPIC¤tPage=1&search_key_n=&search_val_v=&cate_n=4

¹⁴⁵² S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff free trade, Pulse News (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

On 22 February 2021, Indonesia and the EU met for the 10th round of negotiations on the EU-Indonesian Free Trade Agreement.¹⁴⁵³ Progress was made in several chapters including technical barriers to trade, services and investment, with both sides agreeing to further negotiations in July 2021.¹⁴⁵⁴

On 14 January 2021, Foreign Minister Reno Marsudi met with the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and discussed economic recovery.¹⁴⁵⁵ Minister Marsudi encouraged joint efforts to remove trade barriers, especially for Indonesia's leading exports, and increase investment cooperation in infrastructure development.¹⁴⁵⁶

On 18 January 2021, Ambassador to Russia Jose Tavares stated the two countries uphold similar values to strengthen the WTO multilateral free trade agreements and increase trade and investment.¹⁴⁵⁷ Ambassador Tavares stated that the bilateral relations with Russia need to be enhanced.¹⁴⁵⁸

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia and Iran improved trade relations by signing procurement contracts of 700 hemodialysis equipment until 2025.¹⁴⁵⁹ Ambassador to Iran Ronny Yuliantoro expressed that the countries would increase collaboration, especially in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.¹⁴⁶⁰

On 17 February 2021, Minister Marsudi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Peter Sijjarto signed a letter of intent for the formation of an Indonesian-Hungary Investment Fund.¹⁴⁶¹

¹⁴⁵³ Report of the 10th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Indonesia, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159484.pdf

¹⁴⁵⁴ Report of the 10th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Indonesia, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159484.pdf

¹⁴⁵⁵ Indonesia and China Agree to Strengthen Collaboration to Promote Economic Recovery and Prevent Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2069/berita/indonesia-and-china-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-to-promote-economic-recovery-and-prevent-pandemic>

¹⁴⁵⁶ Indonesia and China Agree to Strengthen Collaboration to Promote Economic Recovery and Prevent Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2069/berita/indonesia-and-china-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-to-promote-economic-recovery-and-prevent-pandemic>

¹⁴⁵⁷ Indonesia and Russia Enhance Cooperation in Facing Global Uncertainty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2076/berita/indonesia-and-russia-enhance-cooperation-in-facing-global-uncertainty>

¹⁴⁵⁸ Indonesia and Russia Enhance Cooperation in Facing Global Uncertainty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2076/berita/indonesia-and-russia-enhance-cooperation-in-facing-global-uncertainty>

¹⁴⁵⁹ Indonesian and Iranian Business Partnership in Procurement of Hemodialysis Equipment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Tehran) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2129/berita/indonesian-and-iranian-business-partnership-in-procurement-of-hemodialysis-equipment>

¹⁴⁶⁰ Indonesian and Iranian Business Partnership in Procurement of Hemodialysis Equipment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Tehran) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2129/berita/indonesian-and-iranian-business-partnership-in-procurement-of-hemodialysis-equipment>

¹⁴⁶¹ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

The fund will “ensure a source of funding for national strategic projects.”¹⁴⁶² The meeting also set up a distribution centre for Indonesian products in Hungary, which will increase bilateral trade.¹⁴⁶³

On 4 March 2021, Indonesia and Russia agreed to remove trade barriers at the 4th Indonesia-Russia Bilateral Consultations Forum to achieve USD5 billion target trade volume.¹⁴⁶⁴ The countries identified tourism, health and education as potential points for cooperation.¹⁴⁶⁵

On 9 March 2021, Indonesia and Singapore ratified the Bilateral Investment Treaty.¹⁴⁶⁶ The treaty is a move towards open and fair economic cooperation, establishes rules on the treatment of investors and investments for both countries and grants additional protection from discriminatory treatment.¹⁴⁶⁷

On 22 March 2021, Ambassador to Senegal Dindin Wahyudin met with President of Cabo Verde Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca and encouraged businesses to participate in business forums and trade shows to increase trade activities between the two countries.¹⁴⁶⁸ Ambassador Dindin conveyed hopes to strengthen bilateral ties.¹⁴⁶⁹

On 7 April 2021, the 3rd Indonesia-UK Partnership Forum was held.¹⁴⁷⁰ Both countries agreed to advance the economy and trade in ten priority sectors and sign a memorandum of understanding on the Joint Economic and Trade Committee on 19 April 2021.¹⁴⁷¹ Minister Marsudi reaffirmed the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook on the Indo-

¹⁴⁶² Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

¹⁴⁶³ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

¹⁴⁶⁴ Indonesia-Russia Committed to Removing Trade Barriers Between Two Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2218/berita/indonesia-russia-committed-to-remove-trade-barriers-between-two-countries>

¹⁴⁶⁵ Indonesia-Russia Committed to Removing Trade Barriers Between Two Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2218/berita/indonesia-russia-committed-to-remove-trade-barriers-between-two-countries>

¹⁴⁶⁶ S'Pore bilateral investment treaty with Indonesia enters into force, The Straits Time (Singapore) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/bilateral-investment-treaty-between-singapore-and-indonesia-comes-into-force>

¹⁴⁶⁷ S'Pore bilateral investment treaty with Indonesia enters into force, The Straits Time (Singapore) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/bilateral-investment-treaty-between-singapore-and-indonesia-comes-into-force>

¹⁴⁶⁸ Indonesian Ambassador Encourages Indonesia Cabo Verde Tourism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Senegal) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2275/berita/indonesian-ambassador-encourages-indonesia-cabo-verde-tourism-cooperation>

¹⁴⁶⁹ Indonesian Ambassador Encourages Indonesia Cabo Verde Tourism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Senegal) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2275/berita/indonesian-ambassador-encourages-indonesia-cabo-verde-tourism-cooperation>

¹⁴⁷⁰ Indonesia-United Kingdom Partnership Forum 2021: joint statement, Government of the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indonesia-united-kingdom-partnership-forum-2021-joint-statement/indonesia-united-kingdom-partnership-forum-2021-joint-statement>

¹⁴⁷¹ Indonesia and UK Strengthen Cooperation to Overcome Pandemic and Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2347/berita/indonesia-and-uk-strengthen-cooperation-to-overcome-pandemic-and-terrorism>

Pacific, which includes an area of economic and trade cooperation, is “based on key principles such as inclusiveness, transparency, openness, and cooperation.”¹⁴⁷²

On 8 April 2021, Minister Marsudi attended the ASEAN-UK Open-ended Troika Dialogue and encouraged ASEAN countries and the UK to overcome trade barriers.¹⁴⁷³ Minister Marsudi suggested that cooperation with the UK can be further expanded in the future.¹⁴⁷⁴

On 12 April 2021, the House of Representatives approved the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and the European Free Trade Association composed of Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.¹⁴⁷⁵ It will be Indonesia’s first trade agreement with European countries once it is brought into force.¹⁴⁷⁶

On 26 April 2021, Minister of Trade Muhammad Lutfi and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic Trade Committee to lower the trade barriers and promote a rules-based trade system.¹⁴⁷⁷ The UK is a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.¹⁴⁷⁸

On 21 June 2021, Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi and Canadian Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng initiated negotiations over a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (ICA-CEPA).¹⁴⁷⁹ The negotiations will aim to eliminate various tariffs, ease customs procedures, trade facilities, trade remedies, mobilize labour/services and ease investment.¹⁴⁸⁰ Minister Lutfi expressed that this reflects Indonesia’s effort to actively negotiate international trade deals to open new export markets amidst the pandemic.¹⁴⁸¹

¹⁴⁷² Indonesia and UK Strengthen Cooperation to Overcome Pandemic and Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2347/berita/indonesia-and-uk-strengthen-cooperation-to-overcome-pandemic-and-terrorism>

¹⁴⁷³ Indonesia Urges the United Kingdom to Support Equal and Fair Access to Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2353/berita/indonesia-urges-the-united-kingdom-to-support-equal-and-fair-access-to-vaccine>

¹⁴⁷⁴ Indonesia Urges the United Kingdom to Support Equal and Fair Access to Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2353/berita/indonesia-urges-the-united-kingdom-to-support-equal-and-fair-access-to-vaccine>

¹⁴⁷⁵ House Approves Indonesia-EFTA Trade Deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

¹⁴⁷⁶ House Approves Indonesia-EFTA Trade Deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

¹⁴⁷⁷ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹⁴⁷⁸ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹⁴⁷⁹ Indonesia, Canada open talks on comprehensive trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/21/indonesia-canada-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

¹⁴⁸⁰ Indonesia and Canada Agreed to Start the Negotiation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Toronto, Canada (Toronto) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/toronto/en/news/14053/indonesia-and-canada-agreed-to-start-the-negotiation-of-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-cepa>

¹⁴⁸¹ Indonesia, Canada open talks on comprehensive trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/21/indonesia-canada-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

On 2 September 2021, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates commenced the first round of negotiations for a new free trade and investment agreement.¹⁴⁸² They discussed biotechnology, the digital economy, energy transition and space development, precious metals, stainless steel, automobiles, halal food and palm oil in negotiating a new comprehensive economic partnership agreement.¹⁴⁸³

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Indonesia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by cooperating with WTO trade policy reviews. Additionally, Indonesia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and predictable investment environment by improving policy transparency and facilitating open, rules-based investing.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio met virtually with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan in the Italy-Turkey Joint Economic and Trade Commission meeting.¹⁴⁸⁴ Minister Di Maio recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a memorandum of understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”¹⁴⁸⁵

On 12 December 2020, Minister Di Maio participated virtually with the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov in the Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, encouraging bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.¹⁴⁸⁶ Following the forum, the minister discusses bilateral relations.¹⁴⁸⁷

¹⁴⁸² Indonesia and UAE begin talks on trade and investment pact, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Indonesia-and-UAE-begin-talks-on-trade-and-investment-pact>

¹⁴⁸³ Indonesia and UAE begin talks on trade and investment pact, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Indonesia-and-UAE-begin-talks-on-trade-and-investment-pact>

¹⁴⁸⁴ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html

¹⁴⁸⁵ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html

¹⁴⁸⁶ Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/business-forum-italia-uzbekistan.html

¹⁴⁸⁷ Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/business-forum-italia-uzbekistan.html

On 14 December 2020, Deputy Minister Manlio Di Stefano met with Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Dang Hoang An, in the 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee in virtual format.¹⁴⁸⁸ At the meeting the forthcoming signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ICE-Italian Trade Agency and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry was announced.¹⁴⁸⁹

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.¹⁴⁹⁰

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi and Minister of Economy and Finance Daniele Franco specified some aspects of the Euronext-Borsa Italiana operation.¹⁴⁹¹ The operation aims to improve access to capital markets for all Italian issuers and international investors.¹⁴⁹²

On 19 April 2021, Minister Di Maio and Minister of Economic Development Giancarlo Giorgetti attended the meeting session with the Control Room.¹⁴⁹³ The meeting is dedicated to attracting foreign direct investments to support the economic and employment growth of post COVID-19 Italy.¹⁴⁹⁴

On 25 April 2021, Minister Di Maio visited the Dubai Future Foundation.¹⁴⁹⁵ Minister Di Maio attended the meeting with partner companies and sponsors of the Italian Pavilion in EXPO2020 Dubai and participated in the bilateral meeting with United Arab Emirates Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development Noura Al Kaabi.¹⁴⁹⁶

¹⁴⁸⁸ 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/12/vi-edizione-commissione-economica-mista-italia-vietnam_0.html

¹⁴⁸⁹ 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/12/vi-edizione-commissione-economica-mista-italia-vietnam_0.html

¹⁴⁹⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html

¹⁴⁹¹ The Euronext operation and the Italian nature of the Stock Exchange, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finances (Rome) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Loperazione-Euronext-e-litalianita-di-Borsa/>

¹⁴⁹² The Euronext operation and the Italian nature of the Stock Exchange, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finances (Rome) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Loperazione-Euronext-e-litalianita-di-Borsa/>

¹⁴⁹³ Control room for internationalization – Extraordinary session for attracting foreign investments, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/cabina-di-regia-per-l-internazionalizzazione-sessione-straordinaria-per-l-attrazione-investimenti-esteri.html

¹⁴⁹⁴ Control room for internationalization – Extraordinary session for attracting foreign investments, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/cabina-di-regia-per-l-internazionalizzazione-sessione-straordinaria-per-l-attrazione-investimenti-esteri.html

¹⁴⁹⁵ Mission of Minister Luigi Di Maio to the United Arab Emirates, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/04/missione-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-negli-emirati-arabi-uniti.html

¹⁴⁹⁶ Mission of Minister Luigi Di Maio to the United Arab Emirates, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/04/missione-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-negli-emirati-arabi-uniti.html

On 9 May 2021, Minister Di Maio received the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala for an interview.¹⁴⁹⁷ The interview focused on the importance of the multilateral trade system for the relaunch of the world economy following the pandemic.¹⁴⁹⁸ The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Italy's support for the reform process of the WTO and Minister Di Maio promised Italy would work intensively to accompany this process and to foster a broad international convergence on the relaunch of trade and investments.¹⁴⁹⁹

On 27 May 2021, Undersecretary Manlio Di Stefano participated in the G7 Commerce Ministerial.¹⁵⁰⁰ Undersecretary Di Stefano stated that Italy hoped for the necessary reform of world trade within the framework of the EU.¹⁵⁰¹

On 19 June 2021, Minister Di Maio had a meeting with his Spanish counterpart Arancha González.¹⁵⁰² Minister Di Maio confirmed Italy's willingness to continue strengthening bilateral relations in every respect and to deepen Italian-Spanish coordination on the main issues of the European and international agenda.¹⁵⁰³

On 2 July 2021, Minister Sereni and Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Achim Steiner had a meeting.¹⁵⁰⁴ Minister Sereni appreciated UNDP's leadership in implementing the reform of the UN Development System and stated Italy would also support the

¹⁴⁹⁷ Farnesina - press release on Minister Di Maio's meeting with the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/farnesina-comunicato-stampa-sull-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-la-direttrice-generale-dell-organizzazione-mondiale-del-commercio-ngozi-okonjo-iweala.html

¹⁴⁹⁸ Farnesina - press release on Minister Di Maio's meeting with the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/farnesina-comunicato-stampa-sull-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-la-direttrice-generale-dell-organizzazione-mondiale-del-commercio-ngozi-okonjo-iweala.html

¹⁴⁹⁹ Farnesina - press release on Minister Di Maio's meeting with the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/farnesina-comunicato-stampa-sull-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-la-direttrice-generale-dell-organizzazione-mondiale-del-commercio-ngozi-okonjo-iweala.html

¹⁵⁰⁰ Undersecretary Di Stefano at the G7 Commerce Ministerial, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/sottosegretario-di-stefano-alla-ministeriale-g7-commercio.html

¹⁵⁰¹ Undersecretary Di Stefano at the G7 Commerce Ministerial, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/sottosegretario-di-stefano-alla-ministeriale-g7-commercio.html

¹⁵⁰² Meeting of Minister Luigi Di Maio with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arancha González Laya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/incontro-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-con-la-ministra-degli-affari-esteri-spagnola-arancha-gonzalez-laya.html

¹⁵⁰³ Meeting of Minister Luigi Di Maio with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arancha González Laya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/incontro-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-con-la-ministra-degli-affari-esteri-spagnola-arancha-gonzalez-laya.html

¹⁵⁰⁴ UN; Sereni meets UNDP Administrator Steiner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/onu-sereni-incontra-amministratore-undp-steiner_0.html

modernization of the UNDP and make it a particularly relevant UN partner in the socio-economic response to COVID-19 in developing countries.¹⁵⁰⁵

On 9 July 2021, Minister Di Maio co-chaired the 21st meeting of the Italy-India Mixed Economic Commission together with the Indian Minister of Trade and Industry Piyush Goyal.¹⁵⁰⁶ They agreed to deepen cooperation and explore new opportunities to develop a strong partnership in the field of economic growth.¹⁵⁰⁷

On 14 July 2021, Minister Luigi Di Maio had a meeting with his Estonian counterpart Eva-Maria Limets.¹⁵⁰⁸ In reviewing the excellent state of bilateral relations, they agreed on the opportunity to further intensify economic exchanges.¹⁵⁰⁹

On 24 July 2021, Minister Di Maio launched a series of financial and promotional measures to benefit the companies which participate in international fairs.¹⁵¹⁰ The fund will also aim to support Italian companies through increased focus on digital innovation and sustainability.¹⁵¹¹

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Italy has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory and inclusive investment environment by improving access of foreign investors to Italian capital markets and engaging in bilateral and multilateral meetings. However, Italy has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of a trade environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Haobin Chen

¹⁵⁰⁵ UN; Sereni meets UNDP Administrator Steiner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/onu-sereni-incontra-amministratore-undp-steiner_0.html

¹⁵⁰⁶ Note Farnesina - Italy - India Mixed Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/nota-farnesina-commissione-mista-italia-india.html

¹⁵⁰⁷ Note Farnesina - Italy - India Mixed Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/nota-farnesina-commissione-mista-italia-india.html

¹⁵⁰⁸ Minister Luigi Di Maio meets the Foreign Minister of Estonia, Eva-Maria Limets, at the Farnesina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/il-ministro-luigi-di-maio-incontra-alla-farnesina-la-ministra-degli-esteri-di-estonia-eva-maria-limets.html

¹⁵⁰⁹ Minister Luigi Di Maio meets the Foreign Minister of Estonia, Eva-Maria Limets, at the Farnesina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/il-ministro-luigi-di-maio-incontra-alla-farnesina-la-ministra-degli-esteri-di-estonia-eva-maria-limets.html

¹⁵¹⁰ Made in Italy is synonymous with quality (Milano Finanza), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2021/07/il-made-in-italy-e-sinonimo-di-qualita.html

¹⁵¹¹ Made in Italy is synonymous with quality (Milano Finanza), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2021/07/il-made-in-italy-e-sinonimo-di-qualita.html

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 4 December 2020, the parliament ratified the Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreement that will enter into force on 1 January 2021.¹⁵¹² The free trade agreement will abolish tariffs on import and exports of industrial goods. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said the agreement “ensures continuity for Japanese and British companies, and it is hoped that bilateral trade and investment will advance under the agreement’s high standards.”¹⁵¹³

On 14 December 2020, Japan, Australia and Singapore, issued a Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce negotiations on behalf of eighty-six World Trade Organization (WTO) members.¹⁵¹⁴ The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.¹⁵¹⁵

On 8 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi.¹⁵¹⁶ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”¹⁵¹⁷

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama attended the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting with over twenty-nine WTO members.¹⁵¹⁸ At the meeting, Japan indicated its intentions to continue discussions on curbing export restrictions on the supply chain of medical supplies.¹⁵¹⁹

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and “discussed the strong and growing economic ties between Canada and Japan and welcomed the United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”¹⁵²⁰

On 21 February 2021, Japan donated CHF160,000 to support the developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) trading capabilities.¹⁵²¹ Japan’s WTO Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki

¹⁵¹² Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>

¹⁵¹³ Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>

¹⁵¹⁴ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

¹⁵¹⁵ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

¹⁵¹⁶ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

¹⁵¹⁷ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

¹⁵¹⁸ Minister Kajiyama attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

¹⁵¹⁹ Minister Kajiyama attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

¹⁵²⁰ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-suga-yoshihide>

¹⁵²¹ Japan gives CHF 160,000 to help developing countries strengthen negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 14, 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr873_e.htm

said the country is pleased to “further contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system, which is key to enhancing global prosperity.”¹⁵²²

On 22 February 2021, Japan contributed over CHF72,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework to help LDCs to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing their capacity to trade.¹⁵²³ It is the only multilateral partnership dedicated exclusively to help LDCs use trade as the mechanism for growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.¹⁵²⁴

On 24 February 2021, Japan’s cabinet approved the bill to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹⁵²⁵ The agreement is the world’s largest free trade deal comprising 15 Asia-Pacific countries that will eliminate 91 per cent tariffs on goods and create a rules-based environment for trade and investment.¹⁵²⁶

On 26 February 2021, Ambassador Yamazaki attended a meeting with the World Trade Institute and higher education from Taiwan and discussed special and differential treatment for developing members on WTO negotiations.¹⁵²⁷ He spoke about the importance of the WTO helping all countries achieve sustainable growth.¹⁵²⁸

On 7 January 2021, Japan met with Argentina met to “foster mutual trade and investments.”¹⁵²⁹ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”¹⁵³⁰

On 29 March 2021, Minister Kajiyama met with Executive Vice President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis to discuss trade and transparency mechanisms for exports of

¹⁵²² Japan gives CHF 160,000 to help developing countries strengthen negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 14, 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr873_e.htm

¹⁵²³ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID-19, expand trade capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 February 2021. Access Date: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

¹⁵²⁴ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID-19, expand trade capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 February 2021. Access Date: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

¹⁵²⁵ Japan Cabinet Oks bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/2ae304227c45-japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china.html>

¹⁵²⁶ Japan Cabinet Oks bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/2ae304227c45-japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china.html>

¹⁵²⁷ Ambassador Yamazaki Attends a Webinar on Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210226.html

¹⁵²⁸ Ambassador Yamazaki Attends a Webinar on Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210226.html

¹⁵²⁹ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

¹⁵³⁰ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

COVID-19 vaccines.¹⁵³¹ Minister Kajiyama asked Executive Vice President Dombrovskis to ensure smooth delivery of vaccines from Europe to Japan.¹⁵³²

On 1 April 2021, Minister Kajiyama attended the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting.¹⁵³³ The G7 Trade Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a multilateral trading system and reforming the WTO.¹⁵³⁴

On 5 April 2021, Japan and Malaysia signed a memorandum of cooperation between the Japan External Trade Organization and Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation to strengthen the countries' economic relationship through trade and investment.¹⁵³⁵ The countries agreed to deepen their economic relationship.¹⁵³⁶

On 16 April 2021, Japan and the US released a joint leaders' statement which renewed bilateral relations and agreed to support transparent terms of trade, further WTO reform, and improve non-discriminatory trade practices.¹⁵³⁷ The countries also launched a new Competitive and Resilience Partnership to support the global economic recovery.¹⁵³⁸

On 22 April 2021, Japan attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁵³⁹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed "necessary to relieve critical shortages," and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁵⁴⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁵⁴¹

On 5-6 May 2021, Ambassador Yamazaki attended the WTO General Council meeting in preparation for the Ministerial Council meeting scheduled for December.¹⁵⁴² Several trade-related

¹⁵³¹ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0329_001.html

¹⁵³² Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0329_001.html

¹⁵³³ Minister Kajiyama Attends the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_003.html

¹⁵³⁴ Minister Kajiyama Attends the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_003.html

¹⁵³⁵ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0406_003.html

¹⁵³⁶ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0406_003.html

¹⁵³⁷ U.S.-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement: "U.S.-Japan Global Partnership For A New Era, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/u-s-japan-joint-leaders-statement-u-s-japan-global-partnership-for-a-new-era/>

¹⁵³⁸ U.S.-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement: "U.S.-Japan Global Partnership For A New Era, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/u-s-japan-joint-leaders-statement-u-s-japan-global-partnership-for-a-new-era/>

¹⁵³⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁵⁴⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁵⁴¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁵⁴² Ambassador Yamazaki Attends the WTO General Council (5-6 May 2021), The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210505.html

issues ranging from health to fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, and Joint Statement Initiatives to create new rules on investment facilitations were discussed.¹⁵⁴³

On 25 May 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Ejima Kiyoshi met with the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.¹⁵⁴⁴ Both parties agreed to strive to deepen economic relations by implementing a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Initiative between the two countries.¹⁵⁴⁵

On 15 June 2021, at a meeting on e-commerce negotiations, co-convenors Japan, Australia, and Singapore, emphasized that the outcomes of the e-commerce negotiations should encompass three objectives: fit within the WTO architecture; allow for a sufficient level of ambition in key topics like data-related disciplines; and be subjected to the WTO dispute settlement system.¹⁵⁴⁶ Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki urged participants to deepen discussion and listen to the concerns of developing and least developing countries.¹⁵⁴⁷

On 25 June 2021, Japan's cabinet ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), making Japan the third member to complete ratification procedures.¹⁵⁴⁸ RCEP comprises fifteen countries including China, Korea and ASEAN members.¹⁵⁴⁹

On 15 July 2021, Japan and Australia agreed to promote the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive and Economic Partnership regional trade deals as a post-economic recovery method.¹⁵⁵⁰

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Japan has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by providing financial support to LDCs and entering into multilateral initiatives. Additionally, Japan has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by entering into economic partnerships.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

¹⁵⁴³ Ambassador Yamazaki Attends the WTO General Council (5-6 May 2021), The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210505.html

¹⁵⁴⁴ State Minister Ejima Holds Video Conference with H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0525_002.html

¹⁵⁴⁵ State Minister Ejima Holds Video Conference with H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0525_002.html

¹⁵⁴⁶ E-commerce negotiations: Members share updates, discuss legal architecture of future outcome, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ecom_21jun21_e.htm

¹⁵⁴⁷ E-commerce negotiations: Members share updates, discuss legal architecture of future outcome, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ecom_21jun21_e.htm

¹⁵⁴⁸ Japan ratifies massive free trade deal involving China, South Korea and ASEAN, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/25/business/japan-rcep-ratified/>

¹⁵⁴⁹ Japan ratifies massive free trade deal involving China, South Korea and ASEAN, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/25/business/japan-rcep-ratified/>

¹⁵⁵⁰ Japan and Australia agree to promote regional trade deals, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/15/business/japan-australia-trade-tp-p-rcep/>

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 3 December 2020, Director of International Cooperation Bureau Sang-Man Lee re-signed the Agreement on Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation with New Zealand, replacing the previous agreement and promoting agricultural and fisheries cooperation.¹⁵⁵¹ Korea and New Zealand made the initial agreement in November 2019.¹⁵⁵²

On 8 December 2020, President Moon Jae-in announced Korea's potential participation in the Comprehensive and Progress Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade agreement involving eleven states.¹⁵⁵³ It will introduce Korea to an extensive Asia-Pacific multilateral free trade network.¹⁵⁵⁴ President Moon described the agreement as a "new window of opportunity, especially for small and medium-sized firms."¹⁵⁵⁵

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia.¹⁵⁵⁶ Korea will lift tariffs on 95.8 per cent of goods traded with Indonesia and allow local exporters access to the Southeast Asian market.¹⁵⁵⁷ The agreement is waiting for approval from the National Assembly.¹⁵⁵⁸

On 1 January 2021, Korea and the UK implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁵⁵⁹ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁵⁶⁰

On 28 January 2021, President Moon introduced bilateral free trade negotiations with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.¹⁵⁶¹ Korea and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding on

¹⁵⁵¹ Korea-New Zealand's Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation Continues, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Sejong) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.mafra.go.kr/english/756/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjl1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnJvdjUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFnZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

¹⁵⁵² Korea-New Zealand's Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation Continues, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Sejong) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.mafra.go.kr/english/756/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjl1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnJvdjUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFnZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

¹⁵⁵³ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁵⁵⁴ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁵⁵⁵ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁵⁵⁶ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁵⁵⁷ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁵⁵⁸ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁵⁵⁹ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁵⁶⁰ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁵⁶¹ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

digital industrial cooperation.¹⁵⁶² Both will serve as a part of Korea's policy to promote bilateral free trade and cooperation.¹⁵⁶³

On 25 February 2021, Korea stated that the free trade agreement with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua would be fully effective from March.¹⁵⁶⁴ It will lift tariffs on more than 95 per cent of goods traded between the countries.¹⁵⁶⁵

On 4 March 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo and the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber agreed to seek cooperation in sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels and eventually to reduce carbon footprints.¹⁵⁶⁶ Ministers Sung and Al Jaber signed a memorandum of understanding to promote trade and technological exchanges related to hydrogen energy.¹⁵⁶⁷

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy stated that it plans to establish facilities that include free trade agreement support centers overseas worth KRW11.9 billion.¹⁵⁶⁸ Korea expects it to help exporters to benefit further from the free trade agreement during the pandemic.¹⁵⁶⁹

On 1 April 2021, Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee and Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mohamed Azmin bin Ali agreed to expand bilateral exchanges to overcome the economic difficulties under the pandemic situation and endeavour the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹⁵⁷⁰ Korea seeks to sign an independent bilateral free trade agreement with Malaysia, separate from one with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹⁵⁷¹

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy stated it plans to cooperate with major trade partners to address technical barriers to trade, a form of non-tariff restrictions.¹⁵⁷² Korea will seek to negotiate with major shareholders in its trade, such as China, to lower trade barriers through the World Trade Organization and other international bodies.¹⁵⁷³

¹⁵⁶² President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁵⁶³ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁵⁶⁴ S. Korea-Central America FTA set for full implementation in March, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210225001200320>

¹⁵⁶⁵ S. Korea-Central America FTA set for full implementation in March, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210225001200320>

¹⁵⁶⁶ (LEAD) S. Korea, UAE to expand ties in hydrogen industry, reduce carbon footprint, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210304002451320>

¹⁵⁶⁷ (LEAD) S. Korea, UAE to expand ties in hydrogen industry, reduce carbon footprint, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210304002451320>

¹⁵⁶⁸ S. Korea to help exporters further utilize FTAs with new support centers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210316001500320>

¹⁵⁶⁹ S. Korea to help exporters further utilize FTAs with new support centers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210316001500320>

¹⁵⁷⁰ S. Korea, Malaysia agree to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210331010200320>

¹⁵⁷¹ S. Korea, Malaysia agree to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210331010200320>

¹⁵⁷² S. Korea seeks to tackle rising non-tariff trade barriers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210420001200320>

¹⁵⁷³ S. Korea seeks to tackle rising non-tariff trade barriers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210420001200320>

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced Korea would gain a permanent board member status of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) from 1 August 2021.¹⁵⁷⁴ Korea has invested USD630 million in CABEI to achieve an eight per cent threshold for permanent board membership.¹⁵⁷⁵

On 12 May 2021, Minister Yoo and Israeli Minister of Economy Amir Peretz signed a free trade agreement.¹⁵⁷⁶ The free trade agreement will broaden economic ties between Korea and Israel, especially in the automotive industry.¹⁵⁷⁷ Korea will lift tariffs from 95.2 per cent of goods under the agreement, giving Israel most favoured nation status.¹⁵⁷⁸

On 26 May 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Moon Sung-wook and Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan agreed to expand economic ties between Korea and Indonesia.¹⁵⁷⁹ They agreed to reinforce the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) they signed in December 2020.¹⁵⁸⁰

On 13 June 2021, President Moon held bilateral talks with Australia and Germany before the G7 summit in the UK.¹⁵⁸¹ President Moon and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to boost economic cooperation through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership signed in November 2020.¹⁵⁸² In his talk with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Moon addressed the necessity of cooperation in vaccine development and production.¹⁵⁸³

On 17 June 2021, President Moon and Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez adopted joint statements during a Korean state visit to Spain.¹⁵⁸⁴ They agreed to enhance economic cooperation and to elevate the level of bilateral relations to a “strategic partnership.”¹⁵⁸⁵ Korea and Spain agreed to restore investment and bilateral tourism exchanges, which faced a temporary drop due to the pandemic.¹⁵⁸⁶

On 25 June 2021, President Moon held an online summit with the Central American Integration System (SICA)’s member states, Costa Rica, Belize, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala,

¹⁵⁷⁴ Korea to permanently join board of C. American financial body, Korea.net (Sejong) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197229&pageIndex=1>

¹⁵⁷⁵ Korea to permanently join board of C. American financial body, Korea.net (Sejong) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197229&pageIndex=1>

¹⁵⁷⁶ S. Korea, Israel ink FTA; cars, auto parts among major beneficiaries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512003400320>

¹⁵⁷⁷ S. Korea, Israel ink FTA; cars, auto parts among major beneficiaries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512003400320>

¹⁵⁷⁸ S. Korea, Israel ink FTA; cars, auto parts among major beneficiaries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512003400320>

¹⁵⁷⁹ S. Korea, Indonesia to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210526001100320>

¹⁵⁸⁰ S. Korea, Indonesia to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210526001100320>

¹⁵⁸¹ President Moon holds talks with Australia, Germany at G7 summit, Korea.net (Sejong) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199452&pageIndex=4>

¹⁵⁸² President Moon holds talks with Australia, Germany at G7 summit, Korea.net (Sejong) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199452&pageIndex=4>

¹⁵⁸³ President Moon holds talks with Australia, Germany at G7 summit, Korea.net (Sejong) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199452&pageIndex=4>

¹⁵⁸⁴ President Moon, Spain agree to upgrade ties to 'strategic partnership', Korea.net (Sejong) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199681&pageIndex=3>

¹⁵⁸⁵ President Moon, Spain agree to upgrade ties to 'strategic partnership', Korea.net (Sejong) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199681&pageIndex=3>

¹⁵⁸⁶ President Moon, Spain agree to upgrade ties to 'strategic partnership', Korea.net (Sejong) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199681&pageIndex=3>

Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.¹⁵⁸⁷ Korea and SICA's member countries adopted a joint statement emphasizing the importance of the Korea-Central America free trade agreement that took effect in March 2021.¹⁵⁸⁸

On 9 July 2021, Minister of Economy and Finance Hong Nam-ki and Argentine Minister of Economy Martín Maximiliano Guzmán discussed the recently resumed free trade talks between Korea and Argentina.¹⁵⁸⁹ They agreed that lowering trade barrier through the normalization of accommodating monetary policies will amplify cross-national flow of capitals.¹⁵⁹⁰

On 16 July 2021, Vice Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Park Jin-kyu and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development Betty Maina discussed several economic issues.¹⁵⁹¹ Vice Minister Park said Korea seeks to enhance its economic presence in Kenya, as it sees the economic growth and integration of the region through the African Continental Free Trade Area.¹⁵⁹²

On 20 July 2021, the cabinet approved a revised enforcement ordinance that will prepare for the implementation of trade deals with Indonesia and Israel.¹⁵⁹³ It will gradually lift or lower tariffs from the two countries on more than 95 per cent of imported goods.¹⁵⁹⁴ Korea signed CEPA with Indonesia in December 2020 and signed a free trade agreement with Israel in May 2021.¹⁵⁹⁵

On 21 July 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung Eui-yong asked Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrés Allamand Zavala during in-person bilateral talks for Chile's cooperation in Korea's bid to join the Pacific Alliance as an associate member for further economic relations in Latin America.¹⁵⁹⁶ The Pacific Alliance is a regional trade bloc in Latin America, consisting of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, accounting for 58 per cent of trade volumes in the region.¹⁵⁹⁷

On 27 July 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy initiated discussions with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) over revising the free trade agreement between

¹⁵⁸⁷ President Moon attends his 1st summit with Central America, Korea.net (Sejong) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=200155&pageIndex=2>

¹⁵⁸⁸ President Moon attends his 1st summit with Central America, Korea.net (Sejong) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=200155&pageIndex=2>

¹⁵⁸⁹ S. Korea, Argentina hold talks on capital flows, economic cooperation, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210709001600320>

¹⁵⁹⁰ S. Korea, Argentina hold talks on capital flows, economic cooperation, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210709001600320>

¹⁵⁹¹ S. Korea eyes deeper economic ties with Kenya, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210716002800320>

¹⁵⁹² S. Korea eyes deeper economic ties with Kenya, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210716002800320>

¹⁵⁹³ S. Korea to lift tariffs on imports from Indonesia, Israel under trade deals, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210720002900320>

¹⁵⁹⁴ S. Korea to lift tariffs on imports from Indonesia, Israel under trade deals, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210720002900320>

¹⁵⁹⁵ S. Korea to lift tariffs on imports from Indonesia, Israel under trade deals, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210720002900320>

¹⁵⁹⁶ FM Chung asks for Chile's cooperation in joining Latin America trade bloc, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210721008400325>

¹⁵⁹⁷ FM Chung asks for Chile's cooperation in joining Latin America trade bloc, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210721008400325>

Korea and ASEAN.¹⁵⁹⁸ Korea's negotiations reflect efforts to address growing protectionism and diversify its trade portfolio.¹⁵⁹⁹

On 12 August 2021, the Bank of Korea (BOK) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey signed their first currency swap agreement.¹⁶⁰⁰ The three-year agreement allows the exchange of Korean and Turkish currencies of USD2 million.¹⁶⁰¹ The swap will grant Korea and Turkey liquidity to stabilize sudden rises in currency demands, stabilizing bilateral trade.¹⁶⁰²

On 17 August 2021, President Moon and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev agreed to broaden bilateral industrial partnerships.¹⁶⁰³ Kazakhstan is Korea's largest trade partner in Central Asia, with a trading volume of USD4.2 billion.¹⁶⁰⁴

On 26 August 2021, Minister of Trade Yeo Han-koo told Mexican Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier that Korea seeks to resume negotiations with Mexico for a free trade agreement.¹⁶⁰⁵ Talks have been delayed since 2008.¹⁶⁰⁶ Minister Yeo also asked Secretary Clouthier to support Korea's associate membership of the Pacific Alliance.¹⁶⁰⁷ It is a trade bloc that consists of Chile, Colombia, Peru and Mexico, in which Korea holds an observer position.¹⁶⁰⁸ A successful entry of Korea to the Pacific Alliance as an associate member will functionally serve as a free trade agreement with Mexico.¹⁶⁰⁹

On 29 August 2021, Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong and Laotian Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith discussed economic cooperation between Korea and Laos.¹⁶¹⁰ The two countries talked over Korea's participation in Laotian infrastructure projects and expansion of

¹⁵⁹⁸ S. Korea, ASEAN to upgrade their FTA, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210727001500320>

¹⁵⁹⁹ S. Korea, ASEAN to upgrade their FTA, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210727001500320>

¹⁶⁰⁰ (LEAD) S. Korea, Turkey sign first currency swap, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812004751320>

¹⁶⁰¹ (LEAD) S. Korea, Turkey sign first currency swap, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812004751320>

¹⁶⁰² (LEAD) S. Korea, Turkey sign first currency swap, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812004751320>

¹⁶⁰³ S. Korean, Kazakh leaders agree in Seoul summit to expand ties on new industries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210817003200315>

¹⁶⁰⁴ S. Korean, Kazakh leaders agree in Seoul summit to expand ties on new industries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210817003200315>

¹⁶⁰⁵ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁶ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁷ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁸ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁹ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶¹⁰ S. Korean, Laotian FMs discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, investment, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210829002800325>

investments.¹⁶¹¹ The talk took place as a part of Korea's effort to extend cooperation with ASEAN.¹⁶¹²

On 30 August 2021, Korea began a new round of negotiations with Mercosur for a free trade agreement.¹⁶¹³ Through these negotiations Korea plans to expand its FTA portfolio in South America.¹⁶¹⁴ Korea currently holds FTAs with Chile and Peru and is negotiating with Ecuador.¹⁶¹⁵

On 1 September 2021, Minister Yeo and ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi agreed to deepen trade ties between Korea and ASEAN, addressing damage from the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶¹⁶ Korea has been promoting its New Southern Policy, which seeks to diversify its trade portfolio away from China and the United States.¹⁶¹⁷

On 6 September 2021, Minister Yeo told the Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade Nevine Gamea that Korea is seeking to initiate negotiations with Egypt on a free trade agreement.¹⁶¹⁸ Egypt is Korea's third-largest trade partner in Africa, with estimated exports of USD1.21 billion in 2020.¹⁶¹⁹ A FTA with Egypt would be Korea's first in Africa.¹⁶²⁰

On 6 September 2021, Minister Yeo announced that he intends to meet the United Arab Emirate's Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani Al Zeyoudi and to propose the resumption of talks on a free trade agreement between Korea and the Gulf Cooperation Council.¹⁶²¹ The council consists of the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.¹⁶²² Negotiations began in 2007, but it saw no progress since 2009.¹⁶²³

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Korea has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and inclusive trade environment by entering into new multilateral trade agreements and expanding upon existing free trade agreements. However, Korea has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

¹⁶¹¹ S. Korean, Laotian FMs discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, investment, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210829002800325>

¹⁶¹² S. Korean, Laotian FMs discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, investment, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210829002800325>

¹⁶¹³ (LEAD) S. Korea kicks off 7th round of free trade talks with Mercosur, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210830001751320>

¹⁶¹⁴ S. Korea to speed up FTA talks with Mercosur, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812000700320>

¹⁶¹⁵ S. Korea to speed up FTA talks with Mercosur, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812000700320>

¹⁶¹⁶ S. Korea, ASEAN aim to forge deeper economic ties amid pandemic fallout, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210901001900320>

¹⁶¹⁷ S. Korea, ASEAN aim to forge deeper economic ties amid pandemic fallout, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210901001900320>

¹⁶¹⁸ S. Korea seeks to launch FTA talks with Egypt, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906002300320?section=news>

¹⁶¹⁹ S. Korea seeks to launch FTA talks with Egypt, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906002300320?section=news>

¹⁶²⁰ S. Korea seeks to launch FTA talks with Egypt, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906002300320?section=news>

¹⁶²¹ S. Korea eyes resumption of new FTA with group of Arab nations, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906001300320>

¹⁶²² S. Korea eyes resumption of new FTA with group of Arab nations, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906001300320>

¹⁶²³ S. Korea eyes resumption of new FTA with group of Arab nations, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906001300320>

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: June Young Lee

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 December 2020, Mexico and the UK signed a Trade Continuity agreement to maintain free trade relations between the two countries. The Trade Continuity agreement maintains the existing trade regime between Mexico and the UK and Northern Ireland under the existing Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.¹⁶²⁴

On 25 February 2021, Mexico and Argentina in a joint statement agreed to further cooperation in matters related to the trade of bovine meat products.¹⁶²⁵ Both countries agreed to advance the opening of the Mexican market to Argentine beef products.¹⁶²⁶

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, in collaboration with ConnectAmericas, unveiled a digital platform known as Comercia MX to help businesses, especially small and medium sized ones, expand their reach to the global market.¹⁶²⁷ The Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier Carillo stated that this platform will address the problems faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in gaining access to information to enter the global market.¹⁶²⁸

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy formally announced the installation of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, whose goal is to facilitate coordination between agencies, Public Administration and autonomous constitutional bodies in the regulation of programs related to foreign trade.¹⁶²⁹ The committee represents a substantive advance in the fulfillment of Mexico's international commitments in promoting fair trade.¹⁶³⁰

On 22 April 2021, Mexico attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) general council meeting.¹⁶³¹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods

¹⁶²⁴Mexico and the United Kingdom sign a Trade Continuity Agreement that maintains free trade between both countries, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/mexico-y-reino-unido-firman-acuerdo-de-continuidad-comercial-que-mantiene-el-libre-comercio-entre-ambos-paises-259437?idiom=es>

¹⁶²⁵Mexico and Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in agri-food matters, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/acuerdan-mexico-y-argentina-fortalecer-cooperacion-en-materia-agroalimentaria?idiom=es>

¹⁶²⁶Mexico and Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in agri-food matters, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/acuerdan-mexico-y-argentina-fortalecer-cooperacion-en-materia-agroalimentaria?idiom=es>

¹⁶²⁷ Ministry of Economy presents Comercia MX, the new digital and global network for Mexican MSMEs, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-presenta-comercia-mx-la-nueva-red-digital-y-global-para-las-mipymes-mexicanas?idiom=es>

¹⁶²⁸ Ministry of Economy presents Comercia MX, the new digital and global network for Mexican MSMEs, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-presenta-comercia-mx-la-nueva-red-digital-y-global-para-las-mipymes-mexicanas?idiom=es>

¹⁶²⁹ Ministry of Economy installs the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-instala-el-comite-nacional-de-facilitacion-del-comercio-266784?idiom=es>

¹⁶³⁰ Ministry of Economy installs the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-instala-el-comite-nacional-de-facilitacion-del-comercio-266784?idiom=es>

¹⁶³¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁶³² Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁶³³

On 9 June 2021, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Martha Delgado and Director General for Multilateral and Global Affairs of Peru Ambassador Luis Enrique Chavez Basagoitia chaired a meeting between Mexico and Peru.¹⁶³⁴ Both parties shared views on promoting trade and investment based on a platform of international economic diplomacy.¹⁶³⁵

On 5 August 2021, Undersecretary Delgado and resident representative of the United Nations Development Program in Mexico Lorenzo Jimenez de Luis launched the Global Economic Boost Project with the goal of promoting investment activities in the country.¹⁶³⁶

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Mexico has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, predictable and inclusive trade environment through the introduction of Comercia MX and the National Committee for Trade Facilitation. However, Mexico has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shalin Nayak

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 23 November 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed Resolution No. 3001-r to open the one-stop-shop system on 26 November 2020.¹⁶³⁷ This allows Russian exporters access to online services from companies entering the foreign market, and helps Russian exporters engage in foreign trade.¹⁶³⁸

On 30 November 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin announced at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting that Russia would adopt a five-year plan for the implementation of the

¹⁶³² COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁶³³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁶³⁴ Mexico and Peru strengthen their dialogue on multilateral issues, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-peru-strengthen-their-dialogue-on-multilateral-issues?idiom=en>

¹⁶³⁵ Mexico and Peru strengthen their dialogue on multilateral issues, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-peru-strengthen-their-dialogue-on-multilateral-issues?idiom=en>

¹⁶³⁶ Ministry of Foreign Relations and the United Nations Development Program launch the "Global Economic Boost Project", Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City), 5 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/secretaria-de-relaciones-exteriores-y-el-programa-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-el-desarrollo-lanzan-el-proyecto-de-impulso-economico-global?idiom=es>

¹⁶³⁷ Mikhail Mishustin signs a resolution to expand the one-stop-shop system for exporters, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/40924/>

¹⁶³⁸ Mikhail Mishustin signs a resolution to expand the one-stop-shop system for exporters, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/40924/>

Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation for the next 15 years until 2035.¹⁶³⁹ Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized the importance of following WTO regulations for ensuring a predictable trade environment.¹⁶⁴⁰

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia has been finalizing provisions of the Strategic Directions for Developing the Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025.¹⁶⁴¹ The primary objective is for Russia to secure free movement of goods, services, capital and workforce in the internal market of the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁶⁴²

On 18 December 2020, Ambassador to Ireland Yuriy Filatov addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, affirming Russia's aim to promote mutually beneficial and equal partnerships founded upon the principles of independence and sovereignty, pragmatism, transparency, and predictability.¹⁶⁴³ The goal is to seek stability, and fair opportunities for all countries.¹⁶⁴⁴

On 14 January 2021, a statement by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov affirmed the close economic cooperation between the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, highlighting a joint USD2.5 billion investment fund.¹⁶⁴⁵ The RDIF has 12 active projects in different areas.¹⁶⁴⁶

On 25 January 2021, Russia announced the new Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry to establish a cost-effective timber industry by balancing the forestry sector and the lumber industry's interests.¹⁶⁴⁷ This is expected to increase the industry's transparency through digitalization and introducing industry-specific information systems, and to attract investments.¹⁶⁴⁸

On 1 February 2021, Russia announced an active investment policy with strategic objectives of economic modernization, renovation and diversification of the production sphere in the Voronezh

¹⁶³⁹ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹⁶⁴⁰ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹⁶⁴¹ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

¹⁶⁴² Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://governments.ru/en/news/41030/>

¹⁶⁴³ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁶⁴⁴ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁶⁴⁵ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions during a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzCA/content/id/4520105

¹⁶⁴⁶ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions during a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzCA/content/id/4520105

¹⁶⁴⁷ Work on the new version of the Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41382/>

¹⁶⁴⁸ Work on the new version of the Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41382/>

Region.¹⁶⁴⁹ It is intended to create conditions for the mobilization and inflow of external investment resources into the region's economy, expand the sources of investment in business projects, and develop the regional infrastructure by using public-private partnership mechanisms.¹⁶⁵⁰

On 18 February 2021, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova announced that Russia is focusing on creating a free, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment, digitalizing different economic sectors and government management systems, and striving to achieve sustainable development.¹⁶⁵¹ The spokeswoman announced efforts to enhance cooperation between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and other regional institutions to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership.¹⁶⁵²

On 25 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed the economic and cultural relationship between Russia and Kyrgyzstan.¹⁶⁵³ The prime minister expressed a goal to restore the dynamics of trade and economic interactions between Russia and Kyrgyzstan, which had been hampered by the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁶⁵⁴

On 9 March 2021, in a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister Lavrov described the common understanding between Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to establish cooperation between RDIF and the UAE's Mubadala Investment Company.¹⁶⁵⁵ This will promote a closer bilateral coordination in the global hydrocarbon market.¹⁶⁵⁶

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk discussed the current trade and economic cooperation and development between Russia and Uzbekistan during a working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor

¹⁶⁴⁹ Passport of the Voronezh Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/vnesneekonomiceskie-svazi-sub-ektov-rossijskoj-federacii/-/asset_publisher/ykggrK2nCl8c/content/id/125246

¹⁶⁵⁰ Passport of the Voronezh Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/vnesneekonomiceskie-svazi-sub-ektov-rossijskoj-federacii/-/asset_publisher/ykggrK2nCl8c/content/id/125246

¹⁶⁵¹ APEC Forum in Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4580881

¹⁶⁵² APEC Forum in Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4580881

¹⁶⁵³ Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41608/>

¹⁶⁵⁴ Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41608/>

¹⁶⁵⁵ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/aderno-nerasprostranenie/-/asset_publisher/JrcRGi5UdnBO/content/id/4613115

¹⁶⁵⁶ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/aderno-nerasprostranenie/-/asset_publisher/JrcRGi5UdnBO/content/id/4613115

Umurakov.¹⁶⁵⁷ The ministers arrived at a goal to enhance the bilateral and multilateral economic dialogue between Russia and Uzbekistan.¹⁶⁵⁸

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin met with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri to discuss creating a favourable investment environment.¹⁶⁵⁹ The ministers reached a consensus in restoring and expanding mutual trade between the two countries.¹⁶⁶⁰

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed current investment issues with Prime Minister of Libya Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh.¹⁶⁶¹ Prime Minister Mishustin noted the importance of fostering a rules-based investment environment in Libya.¹⁶⁶²

On 21 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Artyom Novikov.¹⁶⁶³ The ministers agreed to draft proposals and projects to increase investment cooperation and economic integration between the two countries.¹⁶⁶⁴

On 22 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk attended a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council during which the participants decided to provide a tariff privilege in the form of duty-free sugar imports from 15 May to 30 September 2021.¹⁶⁶⁵ The tariff privilege aims to promote sustainable development of the Union's sugar market.¹⁶⁶⁶

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak exchanged views on current and prospective energy cooperation between Russian regions and Saxony with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer.¹⁶⁶⁷ The ministers reaffirmed promising aspects of expanding economic cooperation and continued investments between Germany and Russia.¹⁶⁶⁸

¹⁶⁵⁷ Alexei Overchuk's working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41738/>

¹⁶⁵⁸ Alexei Overchuk's working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41738/>

¹⁶⁵⁹ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41968/>

¹⁶⁶⁰ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41968/>

¹⁶⁶¹ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41969/>

¹⁶⁶² Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41969/>

¹⁶⁶³ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Artyom Novikov, Government House (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42022/>

¹⁶⁶⁴ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Artyom Novikov, Government House (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42022/>

¹⁶⁶⁵ Alexei Overchuk attends a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42029/>

¹⁶⁶⁶ Alexei Overchuk attends a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42029/>

¹⁶⁶⁷ Alexander Novak's meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42044/>

¹⁶⁶⁸ Alexander Novak's meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42044/>

On 28 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a comprehensive program of economic cooperation for 2021-2025 with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin.¹⁶⁶⁹ The program seeks to encourage their cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁶⁷⁰

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia is preparing new initiatives to increase trade and mutual investment with Armenia.¹⁶⁷¹ The initiatives aim to open all economic and transport communications between Russia and Armenia, create new infrastructure routes, and establish conditions for sustainable development in the South Caucasus.¹⁶⁷²

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin expressed the desire to restore bilateral trade with Tajikistan through joint efforts during a meeting with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kohir Rasulzoda.¹⁶⁷³ The ministers agreed on improving economic relations between Russia and Tajikistan and imbuing them with new promising joint projects.¹⁶⁷⁴

On 20 May 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin met with the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Ali Asadov and exchanged opinions on trade.¹⁶⁷⁵ They agreed to further economic cooperation and bilateral trade.¹⁶⁷⁶

On 27 May 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin noted during a government meeting that the government is continuing to improve the investment climate by drafting amendments which will adjust the mechanism of investment protection and promotion agreements.¹⁶⁷⁷ Doing so is expected to expand the range of potential investors by including medium-sized businesses in Russia.¹⁶⁷⁸

On 18 June 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with Minister of the Economy and Finance of Kyrgyzstan Akylbek Zhaparov.¹⁶⁷⁹ They discussed a broad range of issues on bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and they reached a consensus on developing concrete investment projects in energy, industry, and agriculture sectors between the two countries.¹⁶⁸⁰

¹⁶⁶⁹ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Russian Government (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

¹⁶⁷⁰ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Russian Government (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

¹⁶⁷¹ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42091/>

¹⁶⁷² Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42091/>

¹⁶⁷³ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kohir Rasulzoda, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42087/>

¹⁶⁷⁴ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kohir Rasulzoda, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42087/>

¹⁶⁷⁵ Russian-Azerbaijani talks, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42267/>

¹⁶⁷⁶ Russian-Azerbaijani talks, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42267/>

¹⁶⁷⁷ Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42326/>

¹⁶⁷⁸ Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42326/>

¹⁶⁷⁹ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Finance Akylbek Zhaparov, the Russian Government (Moscow) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42541/>

¹⁶⁸⁰ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Finance Akylbek Zhaparov, the Russian Government (Moscow) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42541/>

On 5 July 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin attended the Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair in Yekaterinburg.¹⁶⁸¹ He noted that Russia has launched SPIC 2.0 which makes investment strictly dependent on introducing state-of-the-art technologies and creating competitive products.¹⁶⁸² This initiative aims to develop mutually beneficial cooperation arrangements on digital technologies for the future.¹⁶⁸³

On 8 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.¹⁶⁸⁴ They exchanged opinions on preparations for the upcoming Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission meeting, the recovery of the upward trend in bilateral trade, as well as projects in energy, industry, and transport.¹⁶⁸⁵

On 21 August 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov.¹⁶⁸⁶ The ministers discussed bilateral trade as well as economic cooperation and investment between the two countries, agreeing to implement the Economic Cooperation Programme.¹⁶⁸⁷

On 23 August 2021, Russia approved a comprehensive program for the expedited socioeconomic development of the Trans-Baikal Territory.¹⁶⁸⁸ The 15-year program is designed to lift infrastructure-related restrictions and create comfortable conditions for businesses to attract investment.¹⁶⁸⁹

On 10 September 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin spoke at the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State on the decision to deepen economic integration within the Union State.¹⁶⁹⁰ He noted that the Russian government will implement macroeconomic policies that bring Russian investments and subsidies to large, medium and small businesses.¹⁶⁹¹

On 11 September 2021, Minister Lavrov spoke at a joint press conference with the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani calling for effective cooperation between the Qatar Investment Authority and the Russian Direct Investment Fund.¹⁶⁹² Minister vi

¹⁶⁸¹ Mikhail Mishustin attends Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair, the Russian Government (Moscow) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42682/>

¹⁶⁸² Mikhail Mishustin attends Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair, the Russian Government (Moscow) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42682/>

¹⁶⁸³ Mikhail Mishustin attends Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair, the Russian Government (Moscow) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42682/>

¹⁶⁸⁴ Yury Borisov met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the Russian Government (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42721/>

¹⁶⁸⁵ Yury Borisov met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the Russian Government (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42721/>

¹⁶⁸⁶ Alexei Overchuk's working visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43064/>

¹⁶⁸⁷ Alexei Overchuk's working visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43064/>

¹⁶⁸⁸ Meeting with deputy prime ministers, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43057/>

¹⁶⁸⁹ Meeting with deputy prime ministers, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43057/>

¹⁶⁹⁰ Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State, the Russian Government (Moscow) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43232/>

¹⁶⁹¹ Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State, the Russian Government (Moscow) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43232/>

¹⁶⁹² Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Moscow, September 11, 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/qa/-/asset_publisher/629HlrvPTwo/content/id/4856809

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Russia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive trade environment by increasing cooperation with regional institutions in accordance with WTO principles. Additionally, Russia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, fair and predictable investment environment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Xin Han

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry and the Ministry of Investment jointly held the 5th Ministerial Meeting on “Saudi-Japan Vision 2030” with the participation of Japanese and Saudi ministers.¹⁶⁹³ Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih stated that Saudi Arabia is fully committed to enabling Japanese investors to expand their role in Saudi Arabia, while promoting cooperation projects to enable the achievement of the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030.¹⁶⁹⁴

On 15 and 16 December 2020, the General Authority for Foreign Trade organized technical online meetings between the Saudi team and experts from the World Trade Organization (WTO) to review the country’s trade and investment policies.¹⁶⁹⁵ The goal is to clarify and discuss some policies, information and data related to the country’s policies which are subject under review.¹⁶⁹⁶

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Commercial Registrations for practicing the activity of collecting debts without requiring a license.¹⁶⁹⁷ This is expected to facilitate and ease business, improve the business and economic environment in the country and realize the goals of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030.¹⁶⁹⁸

On 25 February 2020, Saudi Arabia transformed the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority into the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia. This is part of Saudi Arabia’s ongoing transformation under its Vision 2030 plan to accelerate new opportunities and put Saudi Arabia among the top performing markets for investments. “Through a network of dynamic business centers across the Kingdom, MISA partners with local and international businesses of all scales and sizes—from startups to blue chip multinationals—to help make investing in the Kingdom as streamlined and simple as possible. MISA takes a lead role in improving Saudi Arabia’s overall

¹⁶⁹³ Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Held, Ministry of Investment (Riyadh) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://investsaudi.sa/en/news/SAUDI-JAPAN-VISION-2030>

¹⁶⁹⁴ Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Held, Ministry of Investment (Riyadh) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://investsaudi.sa/en/news/SAUDI-JAPAN-VISION-2030>

¹⁶⁹⁵ Foreign Trade Authority Discusses the Procedures for Reviewing the Kingdom’s Third Trade Policies with the World Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/18-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁶⁹⁶ Foreign Trade Authority Discusses the Procedures for Reviewing the Kingdom’s Third Trade Policies with the World Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/18-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁶⁹⁷ The Ministry of Commerce Announces the Cancellation of Licensing Requirement for Debt Collection Activity, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/31-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁶⁹⁸ The Ministry of Commerce Announces the Cancellation of Licensing Requirement for Debt Collection Activity, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/31-12-20-01.aspx>

business environment, commissioning multiple market intelligence studies every year and developing local opportunities for joint ventures.”¹⁶⁹⁹

On 5 March 2021, the WTO conducted the 3rd Trade Policy Review of Saudi Arabia.¹⁷⁰⁰ The review recognized the country’s opening of economic sectors, wide-ranging institutional changes, and facilitation of an open trade and investment environment.¹⁷⁰¹ The review called upon Saudi Arabia to continue its efforts to enhance transparency in trade and investment, raising concerns regarding policies that appear to restrict trade, the increase in customs during the pandemic, and systematic discrimination in customs practices.¹⁷⁰²

On 18 March 2021, the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program and Riyadh Bank signed a cooperation agreement to work on developing investment and financing capabilities.¹⁷⁰³ Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar bin Ibrahim Al-Khorayef affirmed the importance of cooperation between public and private sectors in achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.¹⁷⁰⁴

On 24 March 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the online discussion of “Digital Trade and Economic Development of Arab and Middle Eastern Countries” organized by WTO’s online Regional Trade Policy Course for WTO members.¹⁷⁰⁵ The themes discussed included digital solutions for financial inclusion, economic diversification, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁷⁰⁶

On 31 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud established the “Shareek” Program which is designed to provide financial support to generate SAR5 trillion of private sector investment by 2030.¹⁷⁰⁷ The “Shareek” Program is an essential part of the national investment strategy.¹⁷⁰⁸

On 8 April 2021, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Planning for International Economic Affairs Bandar Al-Khamis met with Vietnamese Ambassador Vu Viet Dung to discuss

¹⁶⁹⁹ MISA at a Glance, Ministry of Investmetn (Riyadh) n.d. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

<https://misa.gov.sa/en/about/>

¹⁷⁰⁰ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁷⁰¹ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁷⁰² Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁷⁰³ NIDL, Riyadh Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement to Support, Develop Financing and Investment Capabilities, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-180320211>

¹⁷⁰⁴ NIDL, Riyadh Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement to Support, Develop Financing and Investment Capabilities, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-180320211>

¹⁷⁰⁵ WTO holds online discussion on trade issues in Arab and Middle Eastern region, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/tech_24mar21_e.htm

¹⁷⁰⁶ WTO holds online discussion on trade issues in Arab and Middle Eastern region, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/tech_24mar21_e.htm

¹⁷⁰⁷ “Shareek” Program aims to strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-310320212>

¹⁷⁰⁸ “Shareek” Program aims to strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-310320212>

investment opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.¹⁷⁰⁹ The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in investment and trade.¹⁷¹⁰

On 29 April 2021, Minister Al-Khorayef held a meeting with the Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mohamed Azmin Ali to discuss investment opportunities.¹⁷¹¹ The ministers agreed to enhance economic relations between the two countries.¹⁷¹²

On 21 June 2021, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Eng. Abudullah bin Amer Al-Swaha exchanged opinions with delegates from major Estonian companies on ways to enhance the digital cooperation and to support the digital economy between Saudi Arabia and Estonia.¹⁷¹³ Both countries aimed to benefit from investment opportunities in the communications and information technology sector and emerging technologies, to consolidate frameworks of cooperation, to exchange expertise and experiences, and to motivate entrepreneurship between the two countries.¹⁷¹⁴

On 21 July 2021, the Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi met with the Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa Al-Kazemi in Baghdad.¹⁷¹⁵ The two sides reached a consensus to further develop bilateral relations, enhance cooperation in the fields of economy and investment, and develop intra-trade movement between the two countries.¹⁷¹⁶

On 1 September 2021, Minister of Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih met with the Omani Minister of Heritage and Tourism Salim bin Mohammad Al-Mahrouqi during his visit to Muscat.¹⁷¹⁷ They discussed available investment opportunities in the fields of tourism and reached a consensus in strengthening cooperation between the two countries.¹⁷¹⁸

On 2 September 2021, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Tourism for Investment Attraction Mahmoud Abdulhadi participated in the 2021 International Hospitality Investment Forum which was

¹⁷⁰⁹ Saudi-Vietnamese Joint Committee Holds Virtual Meeting, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-080420212>

¹⁷¹⁰ Saudi-Vietnamese Joint Committee Holds Virtual Meeting, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-080420212>

¹⁷¹¹ Al-Khorayef discusses with his Malaysian counterpart investment opportunities in industrial sector, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-290420211>

¹⁷¹² Al-Khorayef discusses with his Malaysian counterpart investment opportunities in industrial sector, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-290420211>

¹⁷¹³ Saudi Arabia and Estonia Strengthen their Partnership in Digital Government and Economy Field, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-210620211>

¹⁷¹⁴ Saudi Arabia and Estonia Strengthen their Partnership in Digital Government and Economy Field, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-210620211>

¹⁷¹⁵ The Iraqi Prime Minister receives the Minister of Trade, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/News/Pages/20-07-21-02.aspx>

¹⁷¹⁶ The Iraqi Prime Minister receives the Minister of Trade, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/News/Pages/20-07-21-02.aspx>

¹⁷¹⁷ Saudi Minister of Investment Meets Omani Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-010920213>

¹⁷¹⁸ Saudi Minister of Investment Meets Omani Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-010920213>

held in the InterContinental Berlin, Germany.¹⁷¹⁹ Undersecretary Abdulhadi noted that the “Invest Saudi” pavilion will provide a firsthand look of the most prominent investment opportunities for representatives of the participating institutions in the forum.¹⁷²⁰

Saudi Arabia has partially with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Saudi Arabia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a free and inclusive trade and investment environment by opening sectors and improving bilateral cooperation. However, Saudi Arabia has failed to take strong action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, and predictable trade and investment environment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Xin Han

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 7 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa assembled the African Union and agreed to commence trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 1 January 2021.¹⁷²¹ The AfCFTA Agreement will progressively reduce tariffs and other trade barriers between African countries and is expected to boost manufacturing and trade across the continent.¹⁷²² The World Bank calculates that AfCFTA could lead to a 7 per cent yearly increase in African GDP, lifting 30 million people out of extreme poverty by 2035.¹⁷²³

On 8 December 2020, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the National Cleaner Production Centre South Africa partnered with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to launch the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Program.¹⁷²⁴ The program is expected to improve the environmental, economic, and social performance and competitive advantage of industrial parks.¹⁷²⁵

¹⁷¹⁹ Saudi Tourism Ministry Reviews Investment Opportunities in 2021 International Hospitality Investment Forum. Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-020920212>

¹⁷²⁰ Saudi Tourism Ministry Reviews Investment Opportunities in 2021 International Hospitality Investment Forum. Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-020920212>

¹⁷²¹ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹⁷²² Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹⁷²³ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹⁷²⁴ Trade, Industry and Competition launches Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dtic-international-partners-launch-project-drive-green-industrial-parks-revitalization>

¹⁷²⁵ Trade, Industry and Competition launches Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dtic-international-partners-launch-project-drive-green-industrial-parks-revitalization>

On 1 January 2021, South Africa enacted the legal and the administrative processes for preferential trade under the AfCFTA.¹⁷²⁶ The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel publicly promoted the new opportunities in export markets to South African farmers.¹⁷²⁷

On 2 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition supported infrastructure in this region, generating an estimated R3.15 billion over the next three years and creating 2,000 manufacturing jobs.¹⁷²⁸ During his visit, the president announced a USD1 billion investment from Ford Motors.¹⁷²⁹

On 9 March 2021, the heads of state and governments of South Africa attended a meeting along with representatives from Costa Rica, Ethiopia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Canada, Jordan, Korea, Tunisia, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, together with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.¹⁷³⁰ The representatives discussed the importance of supporting the World Health Organisation, and rebuilding a global economy that is stable, equal, and resilient.¹⁷³¹

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition collaborated with the South African Consulate General in Dubai, the South African Fruit & Vegetable Canners Association and the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum of South Africa to host a virtual trade and investment webinar with their counterparts.¹⁷³² The goal of the webinar is to deepen the relationship that South Africa has with the United Arab Emirates.¹⁷³³

On 16 March 2021, the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Fikile Majola publicly communicated the role of Special Economic Zones Program.¹⁷³⁴ The Special Economic Zones Program plays a significant role in supporting the implementation of the country's economic and recovery plan as it is structured to stimulate local and foreign direct investments.¹⁷³⁵

¹⁷²⁶ Trade, Industry and Competition on new trade agreements in effect from 2021, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-new-trade-agreements-effect-2021-1-jan-2021-0000>

¹⁷²⁷ Trade, Industry and Competition on new trade agreements in effect from 2021, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-new-trade-agreements-effect-2021-1-jan-2021-0000>

¹⁷²⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Visit to Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-visit-tshwane-automotive-special-economic-zone-2-feb-2021-0000>

¹⁷²⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Visit to Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-visit-tshwane-automotive-special-economic-zone-2-feb-2021-0000>

¹⁷³⁰ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹⁷³¹ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹⁷³² South Africa and United Arab Emirates to Host a Trade and Investment Webinar, the DTIC, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-united-arab-emirates-to-host-a-trade-and-investment-webinar/>

¹⁷³³ South Africa and United Arab Emirates to Host a Trade and Investment Webinar, the DTIC, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-united-arab-emirates-to-host-a-trade-and-investment-webinar/>

¹⁷³⁴ Deputy Minister Fikile Majola on Special Economic Zones, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-fikile-majola-special-economic-zones-16-mar-2021-0000>

¹⁷³⁵ Deputy Minister Fikile Majola on Special Economic Zones, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-fikile-majola-special-economic-zones-16-mar-2021-0000>

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. South Africa has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade through the African Union and directly promoting export opportunities to South African farmers. However, South Africa has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andy Lin

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 4 December 2020, the first train carrying export cargo travelled from Turkey to China, following the Trans Caspian East-West Middle Corridor via Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway.¹⁷³⁶ The goal is to “further enhance connectivity between the East and the West and to consolidate its central position in the region.”¹⁷³⁷

On 17 December 2020, Turkey “extended the suspension of 20 per cent tariffs on wheat, barley, and corn imports” until 30 April 2021.¹⁷³⁸ This takes precedence over a previous decree announced on 30 October 2020 that initially suspended tariffs on wheat, barley and corn imports until 31 December 2020.¹⁷³⁹

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹⁷⁴⁰ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹⁷⁴¹

On 22 January 2021, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development opened a regional Centre focused on global relations in Istanbul, Turkey.¹⁷⁴² The purpose of the centre is to create “a dedicated base for deepening cooperation with partner countries and helping them with

¹⁷³⁶ No: 314, 4 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Departure of the First Export Train from Turkey to China, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-314_-turkiye-den-cin-e-gidecek-ilk-ihracat-treninin-yola-cikmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹⁷³⁷ No: 314, 4 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Departure of the First Export Train from Turkey to China, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-314_-turkiye-den-cin-e-gidecek-ilk-ihracat-treninin-yola-cikmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹⁷³⁸ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetcailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹⁷³⁹ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetcailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹⁷⁴⁰ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹⁷⁴¹ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹⁷⁴² OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

policy guidance and technical support to build more inclusive and prosperous societies.”¹⁷⁴³ The centre will also “strengthen multilateral cooperation, encourage regional collaboration and offer guidance in areas like governance, [and] transparency.”¹⁷⁴⁴

On 9 February 2021, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited Kuwait and met with Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah.¹⁷⁴⁵ Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that Turkey sought to advance economic co-operation with Kuwait and maintain the Turkey-Kuwait bilateral trade volume.¹⁷⁴⁶

On 9 and 10 February 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Oman and met with Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayyid Badr Al-Busaidi and Deputy Prime Minister for Council of Ministers in Oman Sayyid Fahd.¹⁷⁴⁷ Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated that Turkey sought to advance bilateral economic relations with Oman and was “pleased with the increasing interest of Turkish companies to Oman.”¹⁷⁴⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Uzbekistan and met with his Uzbek counterpart, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments of Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov.¹⁷⁴⁹ Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated that Turkey and Uzbekistan’s bilateral trade volume had not decreased amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and intended on further increasing the bilateral trade volume from USD2.3 billion to USD5 billion.¹⁷⁵⁰ Minister Çavuşoğlu sought to conclude the Preferential Trade Agreement and begin negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement with Uzbekistan.¹⁷⁵¹

¹⁷⁴³ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

¹⁷⁴⁴ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

¹⁷⁴⁵ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Kuwait, 9 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-kuveyt-i-ziyareti-9-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁴⁶ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Kuwait, 9 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-kuveyt-i-ziyareti-9-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁴⁷ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Oman, 9-10 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-umman-i-ziyareti-10-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁴⁸ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Oman, 9-10 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-umman-i-ziyareti-10-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁴⁹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁰ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵¹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

On 30 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process.¹⁷⁵² Minister Çavuşoğlu evaluated bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Turkey-Tajikistan Joint European Commission (JEC) Co-Chair and Minister of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan Sherali Kabir.¹⁷⁵³ Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that the 11th JEC meeting would occur in Dushanbe in August and advocated towards the signing of a Preferential Trade Agreement to increase commercial trade relations.¹⁷⁵⁴

On 22 to 23 April 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Bucharest to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania.¹⁷⁵⁵ Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Foreign Minister of Romania Bogdan Aurescu and noted that the bilateral trade volume was USD10 billion.¹⁷⁵⁶ Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau and highlighted that the bilateral trade volume had increased despite the pandemic and that trade goal was USD10 billion.¹⁷⁵⁷

On 4 May 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Slovenia and met with President of the Islamic Community in Slovenia Mufti Nedžad Grabus, Slovenian Minister Anze Logar and Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor to discuss bilateral relations.¹⁷⁵⁸ Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that Turkish-Slovenian trade had surpassed USD2 billion and sought to “increase it in a balanced way.”¹⁷⁵⁹

On 1 June 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu participated in the Council of Ministers Meeting of the OECD via videoconference.¹⁷⁶⁰ At the meeting ministers affirmed their commitment to “open and transparent market-economy principles.”¹⁷⁶¹

¹⁷⁵² Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizintacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵³ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizintacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁴ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizintacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁵ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizinromanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁶ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizinromanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁷ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizinromanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁸ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Slovenia, 4 May 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-slovenya-yi-ziyareti-4-5-21.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Slovenia, 4 May 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-slovenya-yi-ziyareti-4-5-21.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁰ Participation of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu in the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, 1 June 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-nato-disisleri-bakanlari-toplantisina-katilimi-1-6-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶¹ Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/mcm/>

On 8 June 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of Morocco via videoconference.¹⁷⁶² Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that they would hold a joint economic commission meeting and business forum this year to further discuss relations between the two states.¹⁷⁶³

On 20 June 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Mohammad Haneef Atmar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif.¹⁷⁶⁴ The foreign ministers “underlined their commitment to further expand cooperation particularly in the areas that would contribute to economic progress and sustainable development.”¹⁷⁶⁵ The ministers “called upon countries to refrain from applying unilateral economic sanctions as tools of political or economic pressure.”¹⁷⁶⁶

On 3 September 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Black Sea Economic Corporation (BSEC) Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu in Ankara.¹⁷⁶⁷ They discussed issues pertaining to BSEC, including “budgetary issues as well as efforts on making certain changes that will render BSEC more effective and efficient were also discussed.”¹⁷⁶⁸

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Turkey has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, and predictable trade environment by lowering barriers to trade and engaging in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. However, Turkey has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sabar Fatima

¹⁷⁶² Meeting of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu with Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of Morocco, held via videoconference, 8 June 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-fas-disisleri-bakaniyla-video-konferans-gorusmesi.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶³ Meeting of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu with Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of Morocco, held via videoconference, 8 June 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-fas-disisleri-bakaniyla-video-konferans-gorusmesi.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁴ Adopted at the Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, 20 June 2021, Antalya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 20 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afganistan-iran-uclu-disisleri-bakanlari-ortak-bildiri-20-06-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁵ Adopted at the Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, 20 June 2021, Antalya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 20 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afganistan-iran-uclu-disisleri-bakanlari-ortak-bildiri-20-06-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁶ Adopted at the Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, 20 June 2021, Antalya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 20 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afganistan-iran-uclu-disisleri-bakanlari-ortak-bildiri-20-06-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁷ Courtesy visit of the Secretary General to Ankara, Black Sea Economic Network (Istanbul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <http://www.bsec-organization.org/news/72043courtesy-visit-of-the-bsec-permis-secretary-general-to-ankara>

¹⁷⁶⁸ Courtesy visit of the Secretary General to Ankara, Black Sea Economic Network (Istanbul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <http://www.bsec-organization.org/news/72043courtesy-visit-of-the-bsec-permis-secretary-general-to-ankara>

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 24 November 2020, the Exports Credit Guarantee Department signed a cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates.¹⁷⁶⁹ The agreement provides a framework for the UK and Etihad Credit Insurance to aid exports of products through collaborative financial support.¹⁷⁷⁰

On 3 December 2020, High Commissioner for Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson proposed a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue to promote free trade following the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁷⁷¹ It led to a UK-Bangladesh trade and investment dialogue on 28 March 2021.¹⁷⁷²

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a partnership, trade and cooperation agreement with North Macedonia.¹⁷⁷³ It will allow British businesses to continue to trade during the Brexit transition period.¹⁷⁷⁴

On 4 December 2020, the UK continued negotiations with Australia for a free trade agreement.¹⁷⁷⁵ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with Australia following its departure from the EU.¹⁷⁷⁶

On 8 December 2020, the UK and Canada agreed to a “temporary agreement that will head off an automatic increase in tariffs that was set to kick in when Britain leaves the European Union” the following week.¹⁷⁷⁷ Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland ensured that Canadian goods including maple syrup, lobster, beef, and car parts are not affected by British Tariffs starting on 1 January 2021.¹⁷⁷⁸ This ensures that the UK and Canada will continue to have “preferential access.”¹⁷⁷⁹

¹⁷⁶⁹ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹⁷⁷⁰ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹⁷⁷¹ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹⁷⁷² Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹⁷⁷³ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹⁷⁷⁴ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹⁷⁷⁵ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with Australia: Update, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update--2>

¹⁷⁷⁶ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with Australia: Update, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update--2>

¹⁷⁷⁷ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹⁷⁷⁸ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹⁷⁷⁹ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.¹⁷⁸⁰ It will ensure tariff-free status on 95 per cent of goods traded with Norway and 90 per cent of goods with Iceland.¹⁷⁸¹

On 8 December 2020, Minister for International Trade Ranil Jayawardena and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Trade Betty Maina signed an economic partnership agreement, securing Kenyan tariff-free access to the UK's market.¹⁷⁸² It will allow 2,500 UK businesses to access the Kenyan market with duty-free status.¹⁷⁸³

On 9 December 2020, Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade John Hannaford signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.¹⁷⁸⁴ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.¹⁷⁸⁵

On 10 December 2020, Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss agreed on free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam.¹⁷⁸⁶ The deal with Vietnam will remove 99 per cent of tariffs after seven years.¹⁷⁸⁷

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹⁷⁸⁸ The two countries discussed "attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries."¹⁷⁸⁹

On 14 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed a services mobility agreement with Vice-President of Switzerland Guy Parmelin, allowing UK workers to work in Switzerland freely for 90 days every year.¹⁷⁹⁰ It will let existing UK businesses in Switzerland continue to operate.¹⁷⁹¹

¹⁷⁸⁰ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

¹⁷⁸¹ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

¹⁷⁸² UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹⁷⁸³ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹⁷⁸⁴ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹⁷⁸⁵ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹⁷⁸⁶ UK strikes Singapore and Vietnam trade deals, start of new era of trade with Asia, UK Government (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-strikes-singapore-and-vietnam-trade-deals-start-of-new-era-of-trade-with-asia>

¹⁷⁸⁷ UK strikes Singapore and Vietnam trade deals, start of new era of trade with Asia, UK Government (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-strikes-singapore-and-vietnam-trade-deals-start-of-new-era-of-trade-with-asia>

¹⁷⁸⁸ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹⁷⁸⁹ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹⁷⁹² The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹⁷⁹³

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement, supporting bilateral trade between UK and Mexico worth more than GBP5 billion.¹⁷⁹⁴ The agreement provides a roadmap for the UK’s entrance to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).¹⁷⁹⁵

On 24 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen agreed to a deal on the UK’s future trade and security relationship with the EU.¹⁷⁹⁶ The agreement guarantees the tariff-free status of goods worth GBP668 billion, replacing EU membership following Brexit.¹⁷⁹⁷

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹⁷⁹⁸ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹⁷⁹⁹

On 29 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan.¹⁸⁰⁰ The agreement allows the UK to benefit from preferential terms of trade in importing and exporting sectors, supporting the bilateral trade relationship worth GBP18.6 billion.¹⁸⁰¹

¹⁷⁹⁰ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>

¹⁷⁹¹ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>

¹⁷⁹² China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹⁷⁹³ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹⁷⁹⁴ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>

¹⁷⁹⁵ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>

¹⁷⁹⁶ UK and EU agree Brexit trade deal, The Guardian (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/24/uk-eu-agree-brexit-trade-deal-agreement>

¹⁷⁹⁷ UK and EU agree Brexit trade deal, The Guardian (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/24/uk-eu-agree-brexit-trade-deal-agreement>

¹⁷⁹⁸ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹⁷⁹⁹ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹⁸⁰⁰ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>

¹⁸⁰¹ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>

On 29 December 2020, Ambassador to Mexico Corin Robertson exchanged notes with the Mexican Secretary of Economy Graciela Colín to confirm the agreement between the UK and Mexico to initiate preferential tariff treatment from 1 January 2021.¹⁸⁰²

On 1 January 2021, UK and Korea implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁸⁰³ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁸⁰⁴

On 1 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss submitted the formal notification of intent letter to initiate the accession process for the CPTPP.¹⁸⁰⁵ The UK accession will extend the CPTPP outside the current Indo-Pacific region.¹⁸⁰⁶

On 8 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss stated jointly with the Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal that the UK and India would formally launch an enhanced trade partnership.¹⁸⁰⁷ They committed to make concrete progress on trade and invest, regularly interact, and quickly identify bilateral deliverables.¹⁸⁰⁸

On 9 February 2021, the UK concluded the 3rd round of negotiations with New Zealand regarding a free trade agreement.¹⁸⁰⁹ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with New Zealand after it departs from the EU.¹⁸¹⁰

On 16 February 2021, High Commissioner Dickson had a conversation with the Commerce Secretary of Bangladesh Jafar Uddin at the inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.¹⁸¹¹ The UK and Bangladesh agreed to continue to work towards developing a bilateral trade partnership.¹⁸¹²

¹⁸⁰² UK-Mexico trade continuity agreement: exchange of notes, UK Government (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-mexico-trade-continuity-agreement-exchange-of-notes>

¹⁸⁰³ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁸⁰⁴ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁸⁰⁵ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, UK Government (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>

¹⁸⁰⁶ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, UK Government (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>

¹⁸⁰⁷ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, UK Government (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>

¹⁸⁰⁸ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, UK Government (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>

¹⁸⁰⁹ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--3>

¹⁸¹⁰ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--3>

¹⁸¹¹ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹⁸¹² Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

On 2 March 2021, the UK granted GBP2.1 million to the Golomoti Solar in Malawi, which will provide 20 megawatts of clean power to local plants with quality batteries.¹⁸¹³ The UK holds a 25 per cent share of the project through InfraCo Africa, one of the UK's Infrastructure Financing Agencies.¹⁸¹⁴

On 2 March 2021, the UK signed a trade partnership agreement with Ghana to secure tariff-free trade and promote further economic cooperation.¹⁸¹⁵ It will support a bilateral trade relationship worth GBP1.2 billion.¹⁸¹⁶

On 4 March 2021, the UK and the US agreed to a four-month tariff suspension regarding the Airbus and Boeing dispute.¹⁸¹⁷ The UK ceased retaliatory tariffs to de-escalate the incident and promote negotiations.¹⁸¹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Jayawardena signed an economic partnership agreement with Cameroon.¹⁸¹⁹ The UK market imports a 12 per cent share of bananas exported from Cameroon.¹⁸²⁰ It will maintain the tariff-free bilateral free trade between the UK and Cameroon.¹⁸²¹

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Kenya Theo Clarke and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development Betty Maina exchanged ratification documents to enter the UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement into the force.¹⁸²² The UK and Kenya signed the deal on 8 December 2020.¹⁸²³ This deal contains the same terms as the deal made between the EU and the East African Community and is a British effort to maintain the same trade status as before Brexit.¹⁸²⁴

On 29 March 2021, Secretary of State Truss and Thailand's Minister of Commerce and Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint

¹⁸¹³ UK supports Malawi's energy diversification drive, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-malawis-energy-diversification-drive>

¹⁸¹⁴ UK supports Malawi's energy diversification drive, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-malawis-energy-diversification-drive>

¹⁸¹⁵ UK signs Trade Partnership Agreement with Ghana, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-trade-partnership-agreement-with-ghana>

¹⁸¹⁶ UK signs Trade Partnership Agreement with Ghana, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-trade-partnership-agreement-with-ghana>

¹⁸¹⁷ Joint UK- US statement on suspension of tariffs in long-running aerospace dispute, UK Government (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-us-statement-on-suspension-of-tariffs-in-long-running-aerospace-dispute>

¹⁸¹⁸ Joint UK- US statement on suspension of tariffs in long-running aerospace dispute, UK Government (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-us-statement-on-suspension-of-tariffs-in-long-running-aerospace-dispute>

¹⁸¹⁹ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹⁸²⁰ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹⁸²¹ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹⁸²² UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force, UK Government (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

¹⁸²³ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹⁸²⁴ UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force, UK Government (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

Economic and Trade Committee that seeks to address the bilateral trade barriers.¹⁸²⁵ It will benefit the UK by deepening its trade relations with Thailand, a key hub for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹⁸²⁶

On 31 March 2021, Secretary of State Truss set the agenda for the UK to work with the G7 Meeting and the World Trade Organization to promote free trade and set the principles for the digital market.¹⁸²⁷ Secretary Truss will chair the upcoming inaugural G7 Trade Track Ministerial meeting.¹⁸²⁸

On 22 April 2021, the UK attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁸²⁹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁸³⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁸³¹

On 26 April 2021, Secretary of State Truss and Indonesian Minister of Trade Muhammad Lutfi signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic Trade Committee to lower the trade barriers and promote a rules-based trade system.¹⁸³² Indonesia is one of the largest economies in Southeast Asia and a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.¹⁸³³

On 29 April 2021, Queen Elizabeth II gave the Royal Assent to the Trade Act to formally make it a law.¹⁸³⁴ It will allow the UK government to sign free trade agreements independently.¹⁸³⁵ It will also incorporate free trade agreements that the UK already signed into British law.¹⁸³⁶

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Joint Statement initiating the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement’s entry into force.¹⁸³⁷ It will cover GBP5.1 billion worth of

¹⁸²⁵ UK and Thailand commit to strengthening trade ties, UK Government (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-thailand-commit-to-strengthening-trade-ties>

¹⁸²⁶ UK and Thailand commit to strengthening trade ties, UK Government (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-thailand-commit-to-strengthening-trade-ties>

¹⁸²⁷ Liz Truss unveils plans to work with G7 to tackle global trading challenges, UK Government (London) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-unveils-plans-to-work-with-g7-to-tackle-global-trading-challenges>

¹⁸²⁸ Liz Truss unveils plans to work with G7 to tackle global trading challenges, UK Government (London) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-unveils-plans-to-work-with-g7-to-tackle-global-trading-challenges>

¹⁸²⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁸³⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁸³¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁸³² UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹⁸³³ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹⁸³⁴ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹⁸³⁵ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹⁸³⁶ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

bilateral trade and promote trade and investment.¹⁸³⁸ It will also seek to gradually remove tariffs from the current level of 65 per cent to 99 per cent within six years.¹⁸³⁹

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Jordan-UK Association Agreement coming into effect.¹⁸⁴⁰ The UK and Jordan signed it on 5 November 2019, but it took until 25 March 2021 for both the UK and Jordan to complete its procedures to enforce it.¹⁸⁴¹ It will expand the bilateral trade further from GBP561 million in 2020.¹⁸⁴²

On 3 May 2021, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Dominic Raab met with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi to discuss the UK's application to enter the CPTPP.¹⁸⁴³ The discussion centred on Japan's support for the UK's entry to CPTPP, which is expected to further the British involvement in the Indo-Pacific region.¹⁸⁴⁴

On 4 May 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced a trade deal of GBP1 billion with India.¹⁸⁴⁵ The deal includes GBP446 million worth of export deals, and is expected to create more than 400 jobs in the UK.¹⁸⁴⁶ In total, the UK would benefit from more than GBP533 million of Indian investments that will create more than 6,000 new jobs.¹⁸⁴⁷ Prime Minister Johnson also had a virtual meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussing the Enhanced Trade Partnership aiming at a free trade agreement and lowering tariffs.¹⁸⁴⁸

On 18 May 2021, the government began its negotiations with Canada and Mexico for an enhanced trade deal.¹⁸⁴⁹ It will focus on sectors in digital, data and services industries.¹⁸⁵⁰ The UK seeks to further its ambition to join CPTPP with the support from the two countries.¹⁸⁵¹

¹⁸³⁷ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹⁸³⁸ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹⁸³⁹ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹⁸⁴⁰ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹⁸⁴¹ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹⁸⁴² UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹⁸⁴³ UK and Japan agree strengthened trade and security partnership ahead of G7 meeting, UK Government (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-strengthened-trade-and-security-partnership-ahead-of-g7-meeting>

¹⁸⁴⁴ UK and Japan agree strengthened trade and security partnership ahead of G7 meeting, UK Government (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-strengthened-trade-and-security-partnership-ahead-of-g7-meeting>

¹⁸⁴⁵ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁶ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁷ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁸ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁹ UK prepares to launch new trade deal negotiations with Canada and Mexico, UK Government (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-prepares-to-launch-new-trade-deal-negotiations-with-canada-and-mexico>

On 14 June 2021, Prime Minister Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to a UK-Australia free trade deal in London.¹⁸⁵² The agreement will eliminate tariffs on the UK's exports and allow increased mobility to citizens under the age of 35.¹⁸⁵³ The UK expects that trade volume with Australia which was worth GBP13.9 billion in 2020 will further expand.¹⁸⁵⁴

On 15 June 2021, Minister for Africa James Duddridge and Ghanaian Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia held the fifth UK-Ghana Business Council.¹⁸⁵⁵ The council has supported more than GBP223 million worth of investment in infrastructure in Ghana.¹⁸⁵⁶ The UK seeks to further extend its involvement in West Africa through the Business Council.¹⁸⁵⁷

On 16 June 2021, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean region Jonathan Knott held virtual meetings with Guatemala's Minister of Economy Antonio Malouf, Viceminister of Economy Edith Flores, and Presidential Commissioner for Competitiveness and Investment Rolando Paiz.¹⁸⁵⁸ All parties agreed that enhanced trade and investment in Guatemala would be mutually beneficial.¹⁸⁵⁹

On 17 June 2021, the UK and New Zealand issued a joint statement concluding their free trade agreement.¹⁸⁶⁰ In their fifth round of talks, the UK and New Zealand reached a consensus and agreed to speed up the finalisation of their negotiations.¹⁸⁶¹ The agreement included provisions regarding transparency and trade equality.¹⁸⁶²

¹⁸⁵⁰ UK prepares to launch new trade deal negotiations with Canada and Mexico, UK Government (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-prepares-to-launch-new-trade-deal-negotiations-with-canada-and-mexico>

¹⁸⁵¹ UK prepares to launch new trade deal negotiations with Canada and Mexico, UK Government (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-prepares-to-launch-new-trade-deal-negotiations-with-canada-and-mexico>

¹⁸⁵² UK agrees historic trade deal with Australia, UK Government (London) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with-australia>

¹⁸⁵³ UK agrees historic trade deal with Australia, UK Government (London) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with-australia>

¹⁸⁵⁴ UK agrees historic trade deal with Australia, UK Government (London) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with-australia>

¹⁸⁵⁵ Government leaders hold fifth UK-Ghana Business Council virtually, UK Government (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leaders-hold-fifth-uk-ghana-business-council-virtually>

¹⁸⁵⁶ Government leaders hold fifth UK-Ghana Business Council virtually, UK Government (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leaders-hold-fifth-uk-ghana-business-council-virtually>

¹⁸⁵⁷ Government leaders hold fifth UK-Ghana Business Council virtually, UK Government (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leaders-hold-fifth-uk-ghana-business-council-virtually>

¹⁸⁵⁸ UK Trade Commissioner for Latin America meets with Minister of Economy of Guatemala, UK Government (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-trade-commissioner-for-latin-america-meets-with-minister-of-economy-of-guatemala--2>

¹⁸⁵⁹ UK Trade Commissioner for Latin America meets with Minister of Economy of Guatemala, UK Government (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-trade-commissioner-for-latin-america-meets-with-minister-of-economy-of-guatemala--2>

¹⁸⁶⁰ Joint statement on UK-New Zealand trade talks, UK Government (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-uk-new-zealand-trade-talks>

¹⁸⁶¹ Press statement on trade talks between UK and New Zealand, UK Government (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/press-statement-on-trade-talks-between-uk-and-new-zealand>

¹⁸⁶² Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--5>

On 21 June 2021, Secretary Raab visited Southeast Asia for high-level meetings in Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore on trade, defence and security.¹⁸⁶³ Secretary Raab expected to strengthen the UK's cooperation with the Indo-Pacific and find a breakthrough towards further partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and membership to CPTPP.¹⁸⁶⁴

On 22 June 2021, the government initiated formal negotiations with CPTPP nations.¹⁸⁶⁵ The government announced on 21 June 2021 that it will begin its negotiations to join CPTPP, which includes 11 countries with a gross trade volume worth of GBP9 trillion.¹⁸⁶⁶ Entry into the CPTPP would grant 99.9 per cent of UK exports tariff-free status and could increase trade by 65 per cent in 2030, to GBP37 billion.¹⁸⁶⁷

On 29 June 2021, Secretary Truss and Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran issued a joint statement on initiating the negotiation for a digital economy agreement and re-examining the free trade agreement.¹⁸⁶⁸ The agreement is expected to further extend the economic openness in several sectors including data and e-commerce.¹⁸⁶⁹

On 30 June 2021, Minister Jayawardena and the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Nayef Falah Al-Hajiraf agreed to lower trade barriers.¹⁸⁷⁰ As a significant trade partner to the UK, Secretary Al-Hajiraf agreed to seek further cooperation and mutual market accessibility.¹⁸⁷¹

On 8 July 2021, Minister Jayawardena signed free trade agreements with Norway's Minister of Trade and Industry Iselin Nybø, Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson and Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport Dominique Hasler.¹⁸⁷² The free trade agreements are expected to reinforce trade relations

¹⁸⁶³ Foreign Secretary visits South East Asia to boost trade and defence links, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-visits-south-east-asia-to-boost-trade-and-defence-links>

¹⁸⁶⁴ Foreign Secretary visits South East Asia to boost trade and defence links, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-visits-south-east-asia-to-boost-trade-and-defence-links>

¹⁸⁶⁵ UK and CPTPP nations launch formal negotiations, UK Government (London) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-cptpp-nations-launch-formal-negotiations>

¹⁸⁶⁶ Britain launches negotiations with £9 trillion Pacific free trade area, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-launches-negotiations-with-9-trillion-pacific-free-trade-area>

¹⁸⁶⁷ Britain launches negotiations with £9 trillion Pacific free trade area, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-launches-negotiations-with-9-trillion-pacific-free-trade-area>

¹⁸⁶⁸ UK Singapore joint statement on the launch of negotiations on a Digital Economy Agreement, UK Government (London) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-singapore-joint-statement-on-the-launch-of-negotiations-on-a-digital-economy-agreement>

¹⁸⁶⁹ UK Singapore joint statement on the launch of negotiations on a Digital Economy Agreement, UK Government (London) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-singapore-joint-statement-on-the-launch-of-negotiations-on-a-digital-economy-agreement>

¹⁸⁷⁰ UK & GCC commit to strengthening trading relationship, UK Government (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-gcc-commit-to-strengthening-trading-relationship>

¹⁸⁷¹ UK & GCC commit to strengthening trading relationship, UK Government (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-gcc-commit-to-strengthening-trading-relationship>

¹⁸⁷² United Kingdom signs free trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, UK Government (London) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-signs-free-trade-deal-with-norway-iceland-and-liechtenstein>

worth GBP21.6 billion in 2020.¹⁸⁷³ The agreements include provisions to lower tariffs on British exports.¹⁸⁷⁴

On 27 July 2021, Secretary Raab announced GBP132 million of investment in Kenya during his meeting with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.¹⁸⁷⁵ He also announced a fund including GBP35 million to support green and affordable housing in Kenya.¹⁸⁷⁶ The investment is expected to strengthen economic ties with Kenya and create more jobs and business opportunities.¹⁸⁷⁷

On 12 August 2021, Chief Executive of UK Export Finance Louis Taylor signed a memorandum of understanding with Executive President of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration Dante Mossi for jointly financed projects on clean energy, infrastructure and construction with the UK's technological supports.¹⁸⁷⁸ The memorandum will enhance economic cooperation between the UK and Central America.¹⁸⁷⁹

On 24 August 2021, Secretary Truss announced the outcome of the 6th round of negotiations with New Zealand over their free trade agreement.¹⁸⁸⁰ In Round 6, the UK and New Zealand made significant progress in areas including express delivery services (Annex), anti-corruption, and assisting developing countries.¹⁸⁸¹ Secretary Truss said that she expects to see the removal of tariffs on exports, including food and drink, clothing, and manufactured goods.¹⁸⁸² She also said to expect the FTA between the UK and New Zealand to open up more opportunities for both countries in the CPTPP negotiations.¹⁸⁸³

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment

¹⁸⁷³ United Kingdom signs free trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, UK Government (London) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-signs-free-trade-deal-with-norway-iceland-and-liechtenstein>

¹⁸⁷⁴ United Kingdom signs free trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, UK Government (London) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-signs-free-trade-deal-with-norway-iceland-and-liechtenstein>

¹⁸⁷⁵ UK announces £132m of new investments in Kenya, UK Government (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-132m-of-new-investments-in-kenya-and-backs-nairobi-as-an-international-financial-centre>

¹⁸⁷⁶ UK announces £132m of new investments in Kenya, UK Government (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-132m-of-new-investments-in-kenya-and-backs-nairobi-as-an-international-financial-centre>

¹⁸⁷⁷ UK mobilises KES 20 billion investment into Kenya's Big Four projects, UK Government (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-mobilises-kes-20-billion-investment-into-kenyas-big-four-projects>

¹⁸⁷⁸ UK signs partnership in Central America to boost trade, UK Government (London) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-partnership-in-central-america-to-boost-trade>

¹⁸⁷⁹ UK signs partnership in Central America to boost trade, UK Government (London) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-partnership-in-central-america-to-boost-trade>

¹⁸⁸⁰ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

¹⁸⁸¹ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

¹⁸⁸² Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

¹⁸⁸³ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

environment. The United Kingdom has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by renegotiating several free trade agreements and lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, the United Kingdom has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by facilitating open, rules-based investing.

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

Analyst: June Young Lee

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment

On 8 December 2020, the US and Ecuador signed a protocol on trade rules and transparency, a move welcomed by business groups in both countries.¹⁸⁸⁴ “The pact updates an earlier agreement with new provisions on customs, regulation, anti-corruption and small and medium-sized companies,” reducing the barriers of trade between the US and Ecuador.¹⁸⁸⁵

On 22 January 2021, President Joseph Biden met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and shared their vision for “strengthening Canada-U.S. supply chain security and resilience.”¹⁸⁸⁶ The leaders agreed to “avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth” to protect the economic relationships between the two countries.¹⁸⁸⁷

On 23 February 2021, President Biden met with Prime Minister Trudeau to begin a “reset in relations with Canada’s largest trading partner and one of its closest allies after four tumultuous years with President Donald Trump.”¹⁸⁸⁸ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.¹⁸⁸⁹ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.¹⁸⁹⁰

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”¹⁸⁹¹ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”¹⁸⁹²

¹⁸⁸⁴ U.S., Ecuador ink mini-deal on trade; U.S. Chamber says more work ahead, Reuters (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-ecuador-idUSKBN28I2OQ>

¹⁸⁸⁵ U.S., Ecuador ink mini-deal on trade; U.S. Chamber says more work ahead, Reuters (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-ecuador-idUSKBN28I2OQ>

¹⁸⁸⁶ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹⁸⁸⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹⁸⁸⁸ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹⁸⁸⁹ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹⁸⁹⁰ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹⁸⁹¹ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

On 1 March 2021, the Office of the US Trade Representative delivered President Biden’s 2021 Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report to Congress, which detailed “a comprehensive trade policy in support of the Administration’s effort to help the US recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build back better.”¹⁸⁹³ President Biden noted his desire for a fair international trading system.¹⁸⁹⁴

On 4 March 2021, the US and the UK released a joint statement announcing a four-month suspension of tariffs related to the ongoing large civilian aircraft dispute.¹⁸⁹⁵ The US suspended retaliatory tariffs in the Airbus dispute from 4 March 2021, for four months.¹⁸⁹⁶ This will benefit a wide range of industries on both sides of the Atlantic and allow for focused settlement negotiations and focus on COVID recovery and other shared goals.¹⁸⁹⁷

On 5 March 2021, the US and the EU agreed on the mutual suspension for four months of the tariffs related to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Aircraft disputes.¹⁸⁹⁸ The suspension will cover all tariffs both on aircraft as well as on non-aircraft products and will become effective as soon as the internal procedures on both sides are completed.¹⁸⁹⁹ This will allow the EU and the US to ease the burden on their industries and workers and focus efforts towards resolving these long running disputes at the WTO.¹⁹⁰⁰

On 19 March 2021, the US notified the Dispute Settlement of its decision to appeal the panel report in the case brought by Korea in “United States — Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties on Certain Products and the Use of Facts Available.”¹⁹⁰¹

¹⁸⁹² What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

¹⁸⁹³ Biden Administration Releases 2021 President’s Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/biden-administration-releases-2021-presidents-trade-agenda-and-2020-annual-report>

¹⁸⁹⁴ Biden Administration Releases 2021 President’s Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/biden-administration-releases-2021-presidents-trade-agenda-and-2020-annual-report>

¹⁸⁹⁵ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹⁸⁹⁶ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹⁸⁹⁷ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹⁸⁹⁸ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹⁸⁹⁹ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹⁹⁰⁰ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹⁹⁰¹ United States appeals panel report regarding US duties on Korean products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ds539apl_19mar21_e.htm

On 20 March 2021, US and Chinese officials had the first high-level talks between the Biden administration and China since last June.¹⁹⁰² This communication improves the trade transparency between the two countries.¹⁹⁰³

On 14 May 2021, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced that Ambassador Katherine Tai will host the inaugural Free Trade Commission (FTC) of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on 17-18 May 2021.¹⁹⁰⁴ The FTC seeks to build an inclusive trade environment in North America that encourages equitable growth.¹⁹⁰⁵

On 12 June 2021, President Biden announced the global infrastructure initiative Build Back Better World in conjunction with G7 partners.¹⁹⁰⁶ The initiative aims to compete with Chinese investment in low- and middle-income countries by offering high-standard, values-driven and transparent investment in infrastructure.¹⁹⁰⁷

On 29 June 2021, the US and Taiwan held the 11th Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council meeting under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.¹⁹⁰⁸

On 6 August 2021, the US and Uruguay completed the 9th TIFA Council meeting in Montevideo.¹⁹⁰⁹ Both countries agreed to review the existing TIFA and develop new instruments to reinforce fair trade between both parties.¹⁹¹⁰

On 12 August 2021, the Protocol to the Trade and Investment Council Agreement with Ecuador entered into force.¹⁹¹¹ Both countries agreed to convene the next Trade and Investment Council meeting before the end of the year.¹⁹¹²

¹⁹⁰² US and China trade angry words at high-level Alaska talks, BBC News (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56452471>

¹⁹⁰³ US and China trade angry words at high-level Alaska talks, BBC News (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56452471>

¹⁹⁰⁴ United States to Host First USMCA Free Trade Commission, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/may/united-states-host-first-usmca-free-trade-commission>

¹⁹⁰⁵ United States to Host First USMCA Free Trade Commission, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/may/united-states-host-first-usmca-free-trade-commission>

¹⁹⁰⁶ President Biden and G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) June 12 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/>

¹⁹⁰⁷ President Biden and G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) June 12 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/>

¹⁹⁰⁸ United States and Taiwan Hold Dialogue on Trade and Investment Priorities, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/june/united-states-and-taiwan-hold-dialogue-trade-and-investment-priorities>

¹⁹⁰⁹ Joint Statement of the United States and Uruguay — Trade and Investment Council, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-uruguay-trade-and-investment-council>

¹⁹¹⁰ Joint Statement of the United States and Uruguay — Trade and Investment Council, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-uruguay-trade-and-investment-council>

On 18 August 2021, the US provided USD600 thousand to support and enhance developing countries and least-developed countries' significance in global trade negotiations.¹⁹¹³ The contribution aims to finance trainings and related activities for governments officials to better understand WTO's work.¹⁹¹⁴

On 24 September 2021, President Biden met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to advance their partnership.¹⁹¹⁵ The leaders affirmed a commitment to developing a trade and investment partnership that benefits working families in both countries.¹⁹¹⁶ The leaders also welcomed the reconvening of the India-US Trade Policy Forum prior to the end of 2021, hoping to address trade concerns between the two countries.¹⁹¹⁷

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The United States has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade in bilateral agreements and including provisions on small and medium sized enterprises. Additionally, the United States has action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive by initiating Build Back Better World.

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

Analyst: Andy Lin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 November 2021, the EU met virtually with Argentina to discuss trade and economics.¹⁹¹⁸ During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new taxation laws

¹⁹¹¹ Joint Statement by the United States and Ecuador, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-ecuador>

¹⁹¹² Joint Statement by the United States and Ecuador, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-ecuador>

¹⁹¹³ United States gives USD 600,000 to boost negotiating capacities in developing countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr885_e.htm

¹⁹¹⁴ United States gives USD 600,000 to boost negotiating capacities in developing countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr885_e.htm

¹⁹¹⁵ U.S.-India Joint Leaders' Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) September 24 2021. Access Date: September 25 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

¹⁹¹⁶ U.S.-India Joint Leaders' Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) September 24 2021. Access Date: September 25 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

¹⁹¹⁷ U.S.-India Joint Leaders' Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) September 24 2021. Access Date: September 25 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

¹⁹¹⁸ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

and interest in varying policy areas.¹⁹¹⁹ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.¹⁹²⁰

On 7 December 2021, the EU announced that it will allow member states to suspend value-added tax (VAT) rates on COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits and related services until 31 December 2022.¹⁹²¹ Member states may also choose to reduce VAT rates for these items.¹⁹²²

On 12 December 2021, the European Commission released a communication agenda with the US which created a framework for transatlantic cooperation.¹⁹²³ The European Commission asked the US to join the Trade and Health Initiative which works to “facilitate trade in essential medical goods and healthcare products.”¹⁹²⁴ The European Commission also asks the United States to review bilateral and multilateral trading to strengthen the systems.¹⁹²⁵

On 30 December 2020, the EU and China announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.¹⁹²⁶ The deal seeks “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”¹⁹²⁷ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.¹⁹²⁸ EU Trade Chief Valdis Dombrovskis believes “the main purpose of this agreement is to address the economic imbalance in our relations...[as] the EU’s market is substantially more open to Chinese companies and investment than China’s market is for EU companies.”¹⁹²⁹

On 19 January 2021, European Parliament added rules to protect EU trading against partners acting “illegally.”¹⁹³⁰ Countermeasures are now allowed to be introduced when the EU “obtains a favourable ruling from a dispute settlement panel of the World Trade Organization or in bilateral and

¹⁹¹⁹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹⁹²⁰ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹⁹²¹ Council Greenlights Temporary VAT Relief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Test Kits, European Council (Brussels) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-greenlights-temporary-vat-relief-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-test-kits/>

¹⁹²² Council Greenlights Temporary VAT Relief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Test Kits, European Council (Brussels) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-greenlights-temporary-vat-relief-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-test-kits/>

¹⁹²³ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹⁹²⁴ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹⁹²⁵ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹⁹²⁶ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹⁹²⁷ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹⁹²⁸ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹⁹²⁹ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹⁹³⁰ EU Will Have Stronger Powers in Trade Disputes, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

regional agreements, when the other party fails to cooperate on the adjudication of the dispute.”¹⁹³¹ The resolution will not act as a protectionist measure, but would be WTO-compatible.¹⁹³² This action furthers the goal of fair, rule-based trading amongst the EU and its trading partners.¹⁹³³

On 18 February 2021, the European Commission released its revised trade policy. It focuses on the openness of the EU’s market both internally and externally, developing cooperative frameworks, increased multilateralism in trade and deepening trade relations with countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries.¹⁹³⁴

On 19 February 2021, the EU and India “expressed hope to forge a host of bilateral cooperation arrangements with a view to boost bilateral trade” by continuing negotiations on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, in which the EU seeks greater market access for its commodities in India.¹⁹³⁵

On 26 February 2021, the EU stated it is committed to “improving access” to vaccines to countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy and beyond through COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access.¹⁹³⁶ The EU also committed to ensuring the unhindered flow of goods and services.¹⁹³⁷

On 5 March 2021, the EU and the US agreed to temporarily remove tariffs on various items including Boeing and Airbus aircrafts as well as non-aircraft products.¹⁹³⁸ The goal is to reduce tariffs on US-EU products, which is a step towards market liberalization.¹⁹³⁹

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament revised InvestEU, a provisional agreement, which focuses on “investments in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies.”¹⁹⁴⁰ The agreement will also focus investments into the EU’s small and medium sized enterprises which were “negatively affected by the pandemic.”¹⁹⁴¹ The agreement allows foreign investment from countries

¹⁹³¹ EU Will Have Stronger Powers in Trade Disputes, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

¹⁹³² MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹⁹³³ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹⁹³⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Europeans Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2021/EN/COM-2021-66-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

¹⁹³⁵ India, EU Express Hope to Forge Host of Bilateral Cooperation Arrangements, Business Standard (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-eu-express-hope-to-forge-host-of-bilateral-cooperation-arrangements-121021901306_1.html

¹⁹³⁶ Statement of the Members of the European Council, European Council (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48625/2526-02-21-euco-statement-en.pdf>

¹⁹³⁷ Statement of the Members of the European Council, European Council (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48625/2526-02-21-euco-statement-en.pdf>

¹⁹³⁸ EU and US Agree to Suspend Tariffs over Airbus-Boeing Dispute, Euronews (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/05/eu-and-us-agree-to-suspend-tariffs-over-airbus-boeing-dispute>

¹⁹³⁹ EU and US Agree to Suspend Tariffs over Airbus-Boeing Dispute, Euronews (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/05/eu-and-us-agree-to-suspend-tariffs-over-airbus-boeing-dispute>

¹⁹⁴⁰ Parliament Adopts InvestEU Programme for Strategic and Innovative Investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments> European Parliament

¹⁹⁴¹ Parliament Adopts InvestEU Programme for Strategic and Innovative Investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments> European Parliament

“that are members of the European Free Trade Association, acceding countries, candidates and potential candidates, countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.”¹⁹⁴² The goal is to increase investments into small and medium sized enterprises to help with the rebuilding of the EU’s economy post COVID-19.¹⁹⁴³

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament created a resolution to carbon leaking which includes creating a carbon price on certain EU imports from countries who are “less climate-ambitious.”¹⁹⁴⁴ The goal would “create a global level playing field as well as an incentive for both EU and non-EU industries to decarbonize” and invest in environmentally conscious laws.¹⁹⁴⁵ This will not act to further EU protectionism but will promote countries to become environmentally aware and meet climate objectives.¹⁹⁴⁶

On 10 March 2021, the European Parliament discussed the importance of creating trade laws which implement a ban on importing from countries who are involved with human rights or environmental breaches.¹⁹⁴⁷ The Parliament adopted the legislative initiative report which called for the adoption of binding due diligence EU law to hold companies accountable for harm done to human rights or the environment at any point of the value chain.¹⁹⁴⁸

On 11 March 2021, the European Commission reinforced their commitment to export COVID-19 vaccines, of which it is currently the largest exporter.¹⁹⁴⁹ Over 34 million doses have been exported to 31 different countries.¹⁹⁵⁰ The new regulation has been set to continue until the end of June 2021.¹⁹⁵¹

On 25 March 2021, the European Parliament defined the strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership.¹⁹⁵² The expectation for the strategy is to encourage African ambitions towards a continental free trade area.¹⁹⁵³

¹⁹⁴² Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1045

¹⁹⁴³ Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1045

¹⁹⁴⁴ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹⁹⁴⁵ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹⁹⁴⁶ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹⁹⁴⁷ MEPs: Companies Must no Longer Cause Harm to People and Planet with Impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>

¹⁹⁴⁸ MEPs: Companies Must no Longer Cause Harm to People and Planet with Impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>

¹⁹⁴⁹ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹⁹⁵⁰ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹⁹⁵¹ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹⁹⁵² Empowering Africa: Parliament defines strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00522/empowering-africa-parliament-defines-strategy-for-a-new-eu-africa-partnership>

On 28 March 2021, the European Parliament announced the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement.¹⁹⁵⁴ The agreement encourages a zero quota and zero tariff arrangement “on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin” and covers investment.¹⁹⁵⁵

On 13 April 2021, the European Parliament’s foreign affairs committee adopted a draft report with recommendations for the EU to improve relations with India.¹⁹⁵⁶ Recommendations have been made to advance trade, investment, effective multilateralism and “appropriate provisions regarding investors’ rights and duties.”¹⁹⁵⁷

On 22 April 2021, delegates from the EU attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁹⁵⁸ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁹⁵⁹ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁹⁶⁰

On 17 June 2021, EU legislators agreed to invest EUR5 billion into the Brexit Adjustment Program, which targets counties, regions and sectors most affected by Brexit.¹⁹⁶¹ The EU will be investing in “job creation and reintegration in the labour market.”¹⁹⁶²

On 24 June 2021, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) approved a deal between Parliament and Council to invest into regions that are being most affected by the transition to climate neutral EU.¹⁹⁶³

On 28 June 2021, MEPs pushed for the farming market to be more transparent as to be better prepare for future crises.¹⁹⁶⁴ The council agreed to include European Union observatories to collect data on imports and exports in addition to other data.¹⁹⁶⁵

¹⁹⁵³ Empowering Africa: Parliament defines strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00522/empowering-africa-parliament-defines-strategy-for-a-new-eu-africa-partnership>

¹⁹⁵⁴ Parliament formally approves EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210423IPR02772/parliament-formally-approves-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹⁹⁵⁵ EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

¹⁹⁵⁶ EU-India: boosting cooperation from trade to climate, European Parliament (Brussels) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/world/20210408ST001627/eu-india-boosting-cooperation-from-trade-to-climate>

¹⁹⁵⁷ Draft Report, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/AFET-PR-689503_EN.pdf

¹⁹⁵⁸ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁹⁵⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁹⁶⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁹⁶¹ Deal reached on EU fund to help regions and businesses adapt to Brexit, European Parliament (Brussels) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210615IPR06211/deal-reached-on-eu-fund-to-help-regions-and-businesses-adapt-to-brexit>

¹⁹⁶² Deal reached on EU fund to help regions and businesses adapt to Brexit, European Parliament (Brussels) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210615IPR06211/deal-reached-on-eu-fund-to-help-regions-and-businesses-adapt-to-brexit>

¹⁹⁶³ MEPs Approve EU Aid to Help Regions Most Hit by Transition to Climate Neutral EU, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06641/meps-approve-eu-aid-to-help-regions-most-hit-by-transition-to-climate-neutral-eu>

On 15 July 2021, the EU set out its goals for a new strategy with China.¹⁹⁶⁶ Emphasis was placed on discussing “human rights, climate change, nuclear disarmament, fighting global health crises and the reform of multilateral organizations.”¹⁹⁶⁷

On 9 September 2021, the EU parliament adopted the InvestEU program which aims to “support strategic investments in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies.”¹⁹⁶⁸ All programs financed by InvestEU must prove a positive environmental climate and social impact.¹⁹⁶⁹ Further investments around the European Union expected to generate approximately EUR400 billion will be allotted to: sustainable infrastructure, research, innovation and digitalization, SMEs, social investment and skills.¹⁹⁷⁰

The EU has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The EU has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free and predictable trade environment by actively lowering barriers to trade and legislating rules-based trading. Additionally, the EU has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by creating investment incentives with consideration for SMEs impacted by COVID-19.

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

Analyst: AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

¹⁹⁶⁴ How to Help Farmers Deal with Risks and Crises, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201019BKG89682/eu-farm-policy-reform-as-agreed-by-the-parliament-and-council/5/how-to-help-farmers-deal-with-risks-and-crises>

¹⁹⁶⁵ How to Help Farmers Deal with Risks and Crises, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201019BKG89682/eu-farm-policy-reform-as-agreed-by-the-parliament-and-council/5/how-to-help-farmers-deal-with-risks-and-crises>

¹⁹⁶⁶ MEPs set out their vision for a new EU strategy for China, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210708IPR08013/meps-set-out-their-vision-for-a-new-eu-strategy-for-china>

¹⁹⁶⁷ MEPs set out their vision for a new EU strategy for China, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210708IPR08013/meps-set-out-their-vision-for-a-new-eu-strategy-for-china>

¹⁹⁶⁸ Parliament adopts InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments>

¹⁹⁶⁹ Parliament adopts InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments>

¹⁹⁷⁰ Parliament adopts InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments>

4. Trade: Open Markets

“[We strive to]...keep our markets open.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | 0 | |
| Australia | | 0 | |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | -1 | | |
| China | | 0 | |
| France | Not applicable | | |
| Germany | Not applicable | | |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | Not applicable | | |
| Japan | | 0 | |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 0 | |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | 0 | |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | 0 | |
| Average | | +0.12 (56%) | |

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.

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.”¹⁹⁷¹ 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 by the G20 economies had reached their historic peaks, with a 37 percent increase, compared to the previous

¹⁹⁷¹ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/yaponskoe-predsedatelstvo-2019/>

period (mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019) and a trade coverage of over USD460 billion.¹⁹⁷² More recently, against the backdrop of declining trade and investment in the wake of COVID-19 crisis the G20 members moderated the number and coverage of regular trade-restrictive measures to around USD36.8 billion.¹⁹⁷³

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.¹⁹⁷⁴ 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.” 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.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member implemented one or more protectionist measures AND did not roll back any existing measures. |
| 0 | 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 | G20 member did not implement any new protectionist measures AND rolled back at least one existing measure. |

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on open markets.

On 24 December 2020, the Executive of Argentina adopted Decree 1040/2020 approving a temporary export ban on several metal scraps and wastes. Prior to the regulation, no export restriction applied to the affected goods.¹⁹⁷⁵

On 11 January 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing of Argentina revoked the temporary export ban on corn replacing it with a temporary export quota. Concretely, the new measure allows the registration of exports of maize under the Advanced Sworn Export Declaration

¹⁹⁷² Trade restrictions among G20 economies remain at historic highs, World Trade Organization (Washington DC) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/trdev_21nov19_e.htm.

¹⁹⁷³ WTO Report on G20 Trade Measures (mid-May to mid-October 2020), WTO (Washington, DC) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/report_trdev_nov20_e.pdf.

¹⁹⁷⁴ A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis, World Trade Organization (Washington DC) 2012. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wto_unctad12_e.pdf.

¹⁹⁷⁵ Decreto 1040/2020, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239141/20201224?busqueda=1>

but limiting the issuance of permits to 30,000 tons per day. Previously, in December 2020, the Argentine authorities suspended the issuance of export permits approving a de facto export ban on this commodity.¹⁹⁷⁶

On 17 March 2021, the Federal Administration for Public Revenue adopted General Resolution 4946/2021 establishing export reference prices on concentrated grape juice. The affected product was classified under tariff subheading 2009.69.00. The new export criterion value was set at Free on Board (FOB) value of USD1 per kilogram and it only applies to exports to Canada, the United States, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Nigeria, South Africa, Israel, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Czechia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Morocco, Bahrain, Australia, The Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong.¹⁹⁷⁷

On 14 April 2021, the Federal Administration for Public Revenue adopted General Resolution 4961/2021 establishing new import criterion values on headstocks classified under tariff line 9209.92.00. The new reference price was decreased from a FOB value of USD35.73 per kilogram to USD14.36 per kilogram. The previous applicable reference prices were established in General Resolution 4372/2018. Notably, the new legislation affected the following jurisdictions: the Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.¹⁹⁷⁸

On 14 April 2021, the Federal Administration for Public Revenue of adopted General Resolution 4963/2021 establishing new import criterion values on artificial teeth classified under tariff line 9021.21.10. For products originating in the Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Germany, the new reference price was established at a FOB value of USD0.60 per unit. Previously, artificial teeth classified under this tariff line imported from these jurisdictions did not face any import criterion value. Notably, the new regulation also refers to other jurisdictions. However, the reference price announced for them does not change from the one announced in 2009. Thus that section of the regulation has not been recorded under this state act.¹⁹⁷⁹

On 25 May 2021, the Federal Public Revenue Administration adopted General Resolution 4998/2021 increasing the export reference prices on different frozen bovine meat cuts. The affected products were classified under tariff subheadings NCM 0202.20.90 and 0202.30.00.¹⁹⁸⁰

During the compliance period Argentina both rolled back several protectionist measures and introduced new ones.

¹⁹⁷⁶ Official communication on foreign sales of corn, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/node/235893>

¹⁹⁷⁷ General Resolution 4946/2021, Federal Administration of Public Revenue General Directorate of Customs (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241947/20210317?busqueda=1>

¹⁹⁷⁸ General Resolution 4961/2021, Federal Administration of Public Revenue General Directorate of Customs (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/345000-349999/348725/norma.htm>

¹⁹⁷⁹ General Resolution 4963/2021, Federal Administration of Public Revenue General Directorate of Customs (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/345000-349999/348727/norma.htm>

¹⁹⁸⁰ Resolución General 4998/2021, Official Gazette of the Republic of Argentina. Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/244734/20210525?busqueda=1>

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its markets open.

On 9 December 2020, the Australia-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement was launched. The agreement, covering such important issues as personal data protection, e-invoicing, paperless customs procedures, and electronic certification for agricultural exports, made it easier for Australian exporters to do business in Singapore.¹⁹⁸¹

On 9 December 2020, the Australian Parliament “adopted the Foreign Investment Reform (Protecting Australia’s National Security) Bill 2020 establishing a “national security test” for foreign direct investment which expands the scope of investments subject to screening controls. With the new regulation, all foreign investments which raise national security concerns will now be subject to the screening from the Foreign Investment Review Board.”¹⁹⁸² In terms of developed land considered sensitive, which includes mines and critical infrastructure, the thresholds have been increased from AUD55 million (USD41.3 million) to AUD61 million (USD46 million).¹⁹⁸³

On 11 December 2020, the Parliament passed the legislation to better assist those Australian exporters trying to enter new markets. The eligible exporters “now receive funding closer to when they incur costs which boosts their marketing and promotional activities.”¹⁹⁸⁴

On 13 December 2020, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus, which “ensures greater market access and lower tariffs” in the region, came into force. Farmers, businesses and investors across Australia and the Pacific will have their trade opportunities boosted.¹⁹⁸⁵

On 1 January 2021, Australia cut export tariffs for some countries on chilled beef, sheep, goat and honey. The cuts were made possible thanks to a network of free trade agreements. Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan said: “Reducing trade barriers will boost export opportunities for Australian farmers and businesses in key export markets which translates to more jobs and economic growth in Australia.”¹⁹⁸⁶

¹⁹⁸¹ Australia-Singapore digital trade agreement kicks-off, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-singapore-digital-trade-agreement-kicks>

¹⁹⁸² Australia: Government modifies the FDI regime, Global Trade Alert (St Gallen) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/46948/australia-government-modifies-the-fdi-regime>

¹⁹⁸³ Australia: Government modifies the FDI regime, Global Trade Alert (St Gallen) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/46948/australia-government-modifies-the-fdi-regime>

¹⁹⁸⁴ Reforms to the Export Market Development Grants scheme pass Parliament, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, (Barton) 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/reforms-export-market-development-grants-scheme-pass-parliament>

¹⁹⁸⁵ Trade agreement with the Pacific enters into force, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/trade-agreement-pacific-enters-force>

¹⁹⁸⁶ Australia’s free trade agreements deliver more tariff cuts, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australias-free-trade-agreements-deliver-more-tariff-cuts>

On 17 March 2021, the Australian government launched export.business.gov.au, a range of digital tools to help Australian businesses to reach new international markets and customers. The website will feature a lot of helpful information (grants, funding, local laws, shipping etc.).¹⁹⁸⁷

Australia implemented some protectionist measures and rolled back several existing measures.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment on open markets.

On 22 March 2021, the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (GECEX) issued Resolution No. 175 increasing the import tariffs on certain X-ray devices of the types used for luggage security inspection, as well as on X-ray devices of the types used for a vehicle safety inspection. The affected products were classified under the tariff subheading NCM 9022.19.99.¹⁹⁸⁸

On 29 March 2021, GECEX adopted Resolution N° 182 adding 65 new products to the list of goods identified as critical to fight the COVID-19 outbreak. These products are temporarily exempted from import tariffs. The affected goods were classified under 42 different eight-digit tariff lines.¹⁹⁸⁹

On 30 March 2021, GECEX adopted Resolution N° 183 removing certain diodes from the annex of GECEX Resolution n° 173. The affected tariff line was NCM 8541.10.32. As a consequence of the changes introduced, the import tariff was increased from 5.4 per cent to 6 per cent.¹⁹⁹⁰

On 30 March 2021, GECEX issued Resolution N° 184 establishing a 4 percent import tariff on polypropylene for a quota of 77,000 tons. The affected product is classified under the tariff subheading NCM 3902.10.20. According to the World Trade Organization tariff download facility, the average import tariff applicable for products imported outside the quota is 14 percent. The new import tariff quota applies for a period of 3 months.¹⁹⁹¹

On 28 May 2021, GECEX issued Resolution No. 210 increasing the temporary tariff-rate quota on palm oil applicable until 31 August 2021. The affected product was classified under tariff line NCM 1513.29.10. The previous import tariff quota was adopted in May 2019 and extended in 2020. The regulation established the total volume of palm oil that can be imported with a 0 per cent import tariff at 59,500 tonnes for a period of 3 months. There was no applicable import tariff quota immediately prior to this announcement.¹⁹⁹²

On 21 June 2021, GECEX issued Resolution No. 212 temporarily eliminating the import tariffs on 251 capital goods. Furthermore, 26 additional ex-tarifários were added to previous regulations also

¹⁹⁸⁷ Digital tools to help Australian businesses, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/digital-tools-help-australian-businesses>

¹⁹⁸⁸ GECEX Resolution No. 175, of 22 March 2021, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-175-de-22-de-marco-de-2021-309992038>

¹⁹⁸⁹ GECEX Resolution No. 182, of 29 March 2021, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/47912/brazil-changes-to-the-list-of-essential-goods-subject-to-duty-free-imports-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>

¹⁹⁹⁰ Resolução No. 183 de 30 de Março de 2021, Official Gazette Diário Oficial da União 30 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-183-de-30-de-marco-de-2021-311543537>

¹⁹⁹¹ Resolução No. 183 de 30 de Março de 2021, Official Gazette Diário Oficial da União 30 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-183-de-30-de-marco-de-2021-311543537>

¹⁹⁹² Resolution No 210, Official Gazette of Brazil: Diário Oficial da União (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-210-de-28-de-maio-de-2021-322992399>

leading to the elimination of duties. In total, the changes introduced affected 21 eight-digit tariff lines. At the same time, Resolution eliminated from the ex-tarifário regime 26 capital goods enclosed in 19 eight-digits tariff lines. The change introduced lead to an increase in the import duties applicable to the affected products.¹⁹⁹³

During the compliance period Brazil both rolled back several protectionist measures and introduced new ones.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: -1

Canada has failed to comply with the commitment to keep markets open.

On 23 December 2020, the Canada Border Services Agency announced the imposition of a provisional duty on imports of wheat gluten from Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Lithuania. The rate of duty imposed on imports from Australia is 26.1 per cent; from Austria 26.1 per cent; from Belgium 26.1 per cent; from France 22.5 per cent; from Germany 26.1 per cent; from Lithuania 26.1 per cent.¹⁹⁹⁴

On 1 January 2021, the Government of Canada announced the amendments to the Investment Canada Act with new thresholds for foreign direct investment. The threshold for direct acquisitions of control by foreign World Trade Organization (WTO) members' investors has been reduced from CAD1.075 billion to CAD1.043 billion; for investors from countries which have preferential trade agreements with Canada – from CAD1.613 billion to CAD1.565 billion, and for WTO members' state-owned investors – from CAD428 million to CAD415 million.¹⁹⁹⁵

In January 2021, it was announced that public consultations were launched on developing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and Canada.¹⁹⁹⁶

On 4 February 2021, the Canada Border Services Agency imposed a provisional duty on imports of certain concrete reinforcing bar from Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam. The rates of Algeria amounted to 13.7 per cent; Egypt 22 per cent; Indonesia 28.4 per cent; Italy 28.4 per cent; Malaysia 28.4 per cent; Singapore 28.4 per cent; Vietnam 15.4 per cent.¹⁹⁹⁷

On 4 March 2021, the Canada Border Service Agency imposed a provisional antidumping duty on imports of certain concrete reinforcing bar from Oman and Russia. Imports from Russia are charged with 45 per cent provisional duties, while imports from Oman are charged with 8 per cent.¹⁹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁹³ Resolution GECEX Nº 212, Official Gazette of Brazil: Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-212-de-21-de-junho-de-2021-327567941>

¹⁹⁹⁴ WG 2020 IN: Wheat gluten, Notice of preliminary determination, Canada Border Service Agency (Ottawa) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/wg2020/wg2020-np-eng.html>

¹⁹⁹⁵ Investment Canada Act, Thresholds, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/h_lk00050.html

¹⁹⁹⁶ Canada, Indonesia Trade Talks Begin for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, ASEAN Briefing 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/canada-indonesia-trade-talks-begin-for-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement/>

¹⁹⁹⁷ RB3 2020 IN: Certain concrete reinforcing bar, Notice of preliminary determination, Canada Border Service Agency (Ottawa) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/rb32020/rb32020-np-eng.html>

¹⁹⁹⁸ RB4 2020 IN: Certain concrete reinforcing bar, Notice of preliminary determination, Canada Border Service Agency (Ottawa) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/rb42020/rb42020-np-eng.html#app2>

On 5 May 2021, the Canada Border Services Agency introduced a temporary (six-months) countervailing duty on upholstered domestic seating imported or originating from China and Vietnam.¹⁹⁹⁹

Canada implemented new protectionist measures while failing to roll back any existing trade restrictive measures.

Thus, Canada receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its markets open.

On 26 November 2020, the Chinese government announced an overhaul of restrictions related to the import and export of certain encryption products. In broad terms, the regulation formally states that the relevant products will be treated similarly to dual-use goods (goods that have military applications as well as civilian).²⁰⁰⁰

On 10 December 2020, a large technology transfer center was opened in Qingdao, Shandong. The center was created as a new platform for technological, economic, cultural etc. exchanges. It is also worth noting that the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization International Youth Entrepreneurship Incubator,” a project that will help to support youth innovation and entrepreneurship in various countries, will also be implemented in the center.²⁰⁰¹

On 10 December 2020, the Chinese government published the annual list of goods that would be subject to automatic import licensing for the subsequent year. Five items were removed from the list.²⁰⁰²

On 19 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce released Order 2020/37, updating the framework of “National Security Review” for inbound foreign investments which expands the scope of investments subject to screening controls. According to the new regulation, the applicability of the screening mechanism has been expanded to cover all investments carried out by foreigners in areas close to any military facility. Previously, this test only applied to certain military facilities.²⁰⁰³

¹⁹⁹⁹ UDS 2020 IN: Certain upholstered domestic seating. Statement of Reasons—preliminary determinations, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/uds2020/uds2020-pd-eng.html>

²⁰⁰⁰ Announcement No. 63 (2020) of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, the State Encryption Administration and the General Administration of Customs, PRC Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/g/202101/20210103033181.shtml>

²⁰⁰¹ China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization Technology Transfer Center opened in Qingdao, Qingdao Daily (Qingdao) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.qingdao.gov.cn/ywdt/zwjw/202012/t20201211_2786769.shtml

²⁰⁰² Announcement No. 67 (2020) of the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs Announces the "Catalogue of Goods Subject to Automatic Import License Administration (2021)", PRC Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/47308/china-2021-automatic-import-licensing-goods-catalogue-announced>

²⁰⁰³ National Development and Reform Commission Order of the Ministry of Commerce No. 37 Measures for the Security Review of Foreign Investment, PRC Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://wzs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/n/202012/20201203024662.shtml>

On 25 December 2020, the Chinese government stated that the supplementary tariffs imposed on certain imports from the US would be suspended for six product lines, including paraffin and polypropene.²⁰⁰⁴

On 30 December 2020, China published the list of goods which require a license before being able to be legally exported. Compared to the previous year, a single product line was removed from the list, meaning it no longer requires a license.²⁰⁰⁵

On 31 December 2020, China released the 2020 negative list for foreign investment access in Hainan. It will come into effect on 1 February 2021 and promote investment liberalization and facilitation in the Hainan free trade port.²⁰⁰⁶

On 1 January 2021, China implemented the “Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement” tariff reduction arrangement with Mongolia. The tariff reduction was mutual and utterly significant.²⁰⁰⁷

On 1 January 2021, import tariffs on 883 products were cut in order to coordinate the utilization of domestic and international resources and continuously improve the quality and level of supply of products on the market. Some examples of the products include medical equipment such as artificial heart valves, hearing aids, milk powder for infants, parts and raw materials required for new infrastructure and high-tech industry etc.²⁰⁰⁸

On 1 January 2021, China allowed the import of recycled iron and steel materials. The change was made because the materials do not constitute solid waste. It has been also proposed that imports that do not meet the national standards for “recycled steel raw materials” will be banned.²⁰⁰⁹

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will further open up to the outside world and better participate in international economic cooperation, improve the customs system, promote the establishment of various open trade platforms, accelerate the opening up of the central, western and northeastern regions, establish important global processing and manufacturing bases, further opening up free trade zones, etc.²⁰¹⁰

On 12 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang announced that one of the main goals for China in 2021 is promoting stable development of imports and exports. The premier listed some of the main actions that should be taken to achieve the goal. The actions include credit support for small and medium foreign trade enterprises, develop cross-border e-commerce, optimization and adjustment of import

²⁰⁰⁴ No. 10 Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on the Second Exclusion and Extension List of Tariffs on the United States and Canada, PRC State Council Tariffs and Tax Standards Commission (Beijing) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/47100/china-tariff-exemptions-on-certain-goods-from-the-united-states>

²⁰⁰⁵ Announcement No. 71 (2020) of the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs Announcement of the Catalogue of Goods Subject to Export License Management (2021) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/c/202012/20201203027824.shtml>

²⁰⁰⁶ China to introduce foreign investment negative list in Hainan, Xinhua (Beijing), 1 January 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/01/content_WS5fee5ce4c6d0f72576943081.html

²⁰⁰⁷ China and Mongolia will mutually implement the tariff reduction arrangement of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement on January 1, 2021, Ministry of Commerce of The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202101/20210103028092.shtml>

²⁰⁰⁸ In order to support the establishment of a new development paradigm, China will adjust import tariffs on some commodities from January 1, 2021, Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/23/content_5572513.htm

²⁰⁰⁹ Five sectors: compliant recycled steel raw materials can be imported freely from 2021, Xinhua (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/fortune/2020-12/31/c_1126934407.htm

²⁰¹⁰ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing), 13 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021.

<http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

tax policies to increase the import of high-quality products and services, improve customs clearance procedures, etc.²⁰¹¹

On 24 March 2021, China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al SAUD in Riyadh; it was reported as an outcome of the meeting that both parties pledged to push forward negotiations on a free trade deal between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.²⁰¹²

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Commerce and other 20 departments issued "Notice on Several Measures to Promote Trade Liberalization and Facilitation of the Hainan Free Trade Port." The Notice clarified 28 policy measures which will help with the liberalization of trade in Hainan Free Trade Port.²⁰¹³

China implemented some protectionist measures and rolled back multiple existing measures.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

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.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

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.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its markets open.

On 22 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Notification No. 49/2015-2020 imposed the requirement of prior registration of coal imports under the Coal Import Monitoring System. The amendment applies to 5 coal products and requires that the importer register online and submit information at least 15 to 60 days before the expected date of arrival of the import goods.²⁰¹⁴

²⁰¹¹ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing), 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

²⁰¹² China eyes free trade agreement with the Gulf states, Arab News (Riyadh) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1831261/business-economy>

²⁰¹³ The Ministry of Commerce and other 20 departments issued a notice on several measures promoting trade liberalization and facilitation of the Hainan Free Trade Port, Ministry of Commerce of The People's Republic of China, 26 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202104/20210403055185.shtml>

²⁰¹⁴ Notification No. 49/2015-2020, Government of India Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department of Commerce (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/575732e8-1449-4a32-80e1-d0cbb8137a0/notification%20no.49%20dated%2022.12.2020%20scanned%20english.pdf>

On 28 December 2020, India allowed export of onions. The export of onions has been made free, with the effect from 1 January 2021. Before that, the export of all kinds of onions was prohibited in India.²⁰¹⁵

On 7 January 2021, India allowed import of fur skins of several animals, including mink, fox, reptiles and other animals. Before that, the import of such items was prohibited in India.²⁰¹⁶

On 31 March 2021, India made import of copper and aluminium subject to compulsory registration under Non-Ferrous Metal Import Monitoring System. The system will require importers to submit advance information in an online system, apply for registration and pay the registration fee.²⁰¹⁷

On 14 June 2021, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade through Notification No. 08/2015-2020 amended the export policy of Remdesivir injections and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) by replacing an export ban with an export licensing requirement. The Notification amended the export policy of these goods from “Prohibited” to “Restricted.” A prohibited policy implies a ban while a restricted policy imposes the requirement of a license. The exports of these goods were earlier banned on 11 April 2021.²⁰¹⁸

On 19 August 2021, the Indian Ministry of Finance through Notification No. 40/2021-Customs reduced the customs duty on imports of certain edible oils temporarily until 30 September 2021. These include: crude soya oil from 15 per cent to 7.5 per cent; crude sunflower oil from 15 per cent to 7.5 per cent; refined soya oil from 45 per cent to 37.5 per cent; and refined sunflower oil from 45 per cent to 37.5 per cent.²⁰¹⁹

India has imposed some protectionist measures and rolled back some existing measures.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Irina Popova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on trade.

On 18 December 2020, it was reported that Indonesia and Korea signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; under the agreement Korea will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods and Indonesia 94.8 per cent of Korean goods – 1.6 percentage points and 3.3 percentage points higher, respectively, greater than the terms of the Regional Comprehensive

²⁰¹⁵ Amendment in Export Policy of Onions, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (New Delhi) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/42ca7128-80d6-447f-bc98-6a64914b5080/Noti%2050%20Eng.pdf>

²⁰¹⁶ Amendment in import policy and condition of items classified under Chapter 41 & 43 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule – I (Import Policy), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (New Delhi) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/b8332978-c197-419b-a33b-e571ba84cd64/Notification%2055%20English.pdf>

²⁰¹⁷ Amendment in Import Policy of Copper and Aluminium under Chapter – 74 and Chapter – 76 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule-I (Import Policy) – reg., Directorate General of Foreign Trade (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date 31 March 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/1b6ab9f3-256f-4a35-a899-6595c4eda5d2/Notification%2061%20English%20PDF.pdf>

²⁰¹⁸ Notification No. 08/2015-2020, Gazette of India (Delhi) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/28f692ab-b541-469f-9fe9-b8e4be0361a0/Noti%208%20Eng.pdf>

²⁰¹⁹ Notification No. 40/2021-Customs, Gazette of India (Delhi) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-tarr2021/cs40-2021-new.pdf>

Economic Partnership; zero tariffs started to be applied immediately or will start to be applied within five years.²⁰²⁰

In January 2021, it was announced that public consultations were launched on developing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and Canada.²⁰²¹

On 1 February 2021, it was reported that activities were to be increased within the negotiations process on the development of trade agreement and free trade zone between Indonesia and the Eurasian Economic Union.²⁰²²

On 12 April 2021, it was reported that Indonesia's parliament approved the draft for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and the European Free Trade Association (comprising Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).²⁰²³

On 6 August 2021, it was reported that the updated Indonesia-Singapore double taxation agreement (DTA) entered into force, strengthening efforts to prevent tax evasion, increase the tax base, and increase investments between the two countries. Updating the DTA can further enhance Singapore's status as a hub for international investments into Indonesia. There were three significant changes to the tax treaty, namely, the introduction of an article that provides capital gains tax protection, the reduction of withholding tax on royalties, and the reduction in branch profit tax (BPT). The treaty issues a new anti-tax avoidance article (Article 28), which means businesses that are unable to satisfy the BPT may not be entitled to treaty benefits under this updated DTA.²⁰²⁴

On 25 August 2021, it was reported that the trade balance of Indonesia showed a widening surplus in July 2021. However, the reason why Indonesia could enjoy a widening trade surplus in July is not really positive as it was a huge drop in imports that allowed the growing surplus, with particularly imports of raw materials and capital goods sliding heavily (which could be a sign that manufacturing and investment experienced a setback after the Indonesian government imposed tighter restrictions – locally known as PPKM Level 3 or 4 – in the economic centers on Java and Bali at the start of July 2021).²⁰²⁵

On 31 August 2021, it was reported that the government is pushing hard to produce medical supplies domestically and cut the exorbitant cost of imports from its COVID-19 budget. Speaking at a webinar on Monday, Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister Luhut Pandjaitan called for more incentives to be given to import-substitution industries in the health sector. Imports of medical supplies take up a big chunk of the COVID-19 response budget. "If it's necessary, we are going to impose tariffs on imported [medical equipment] products that we already produce

²⁰²⁰ S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff-free trade, Pulse (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

²⁰²¹ Canada, Indonesia Trade Talks Begin for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, ASEAN Briefing (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/canada-indonesia-trade-talks-begin-for-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement/>

²⁰²² EAEU to set up free trade zones with Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Belta (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://eng.belta.by/economics/view/eaEU-to-set-up-free-trade-zones-with-egypt-india-indonesia-mongolia-137057-2021/>

²⁰²³ House approves Indonesia-EFTA trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

²⁰²⁴ The Updated Indonesia-Singapore Tax Treaty Enters into Force, ASEAN Briefing (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/the-updated-indonesia-singapore-tax-treaty-enters-into-force/>

²⁰²⁵ Trade Balance of Indonesia: Growing Trade Surplus in July 2021 'Thanks' to Heavily Plunging Imports, Indonesia Investments (Jakarta) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.indonesia-investments.com/news/todays-headlines/trade-balance-of-indonesia-growing-trade-surplus-in-july-2021-thanks-to-heavily-plunging-imports/item9440>

domestically,” said the senior minister, suggesting this would incentivize new investments for local producers.²⁰²⁶

On 2 September 2021, it was published that the Indonesian government has pledged to make the special economic zones a policy priority to attract foreign investment, boost industrial activity, and promote job creation – further facilitated through its tax incentive programs under the Ministry of Finance regulation No. 237/PMK.010/2020 (PMK 237). These tax incentives include exemptions from income tax, value-added tax, import duties, sales tax on luxury goods, and excise duties.²⁰²⁷

On 3 September 2021, it was reported that Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates took the next step in their trade and investment cooperation, when the two countries commenced negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA). The CEPA is Indonesia’s first such deal with a Middle Eastern country and the UAE’s first with a Southeast Asian country. The countries’ respective trade ministers opened the first round of negotiations to address issues including investment, halal products, automotive goods, steel, aluminum, gold and e-commerce. The first round of negotiations is slated to conclude on September 4.²⁰²⁸

During the compliance period, Indonesia has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

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.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 5 January 2021, it was reported that Japan as Chair in Trans-Pacific Partnership for 2021 was willing to work closely with previous chair Mexico to maintain and strengthen the free and open economic framework and was expected to lead talks on expanding the regional FTA membership (pro-open trade).²⁰²⁹

On 29 January 2021, Japan attended the WTO’s videoconference informal meeting; Japan’s inputs at the meeting included the call to start discussions on tariff and non-tariff aspects in order to smoothly disseminate goods and technologies that contribute to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions at a global level, and on enhancement of disciplines on industrial subsidies is necessary in order to

²⁰²⁶ Indonesia threatens tariffs, scaled back imports to spur domestic health industry, the Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/08/31/govt-threatens-tariffs-scaled-back-imports-to-spur-domestic-health-industry.html>

²⁰²⁷ Tax Incentives for Special Economic Zones in Indonesia, ASEAN Briefing (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/tax-incentives-for-special-economic-zones-in-indonesia/>

²⁰²⁸ Indonesia, UAE open talks on comprehensive trade deal, the Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/09/03/indonesia-uae-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

²⁰²⁹ Japan and Mexico agree to expand membership of TPP free trade pact, Kyodo (Tokyo) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/01/05/business/economy-business/japan-mexico-agree-expand-membership-of-tpp/>

prevent government support measures from distorting markets in the post coronavirus era (pro-open trade).²⁰³⁰

During the compliance period, Japan has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to keep its national market open.

On 18 December 2020, it was reported that Indonesia and Korea signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; under the agreement Korea will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods and Indonesia 94.8 per cent of Korean goods – 1.6 percentage points and 3.3 percentage points higher, respectively, greater than the terms of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; zero tariffs started to be applied immediately or will start to be applied within five years.²⁰³¹

On 26 January 2021, Korea announced the introduction of an import tariff quota on fresh and processed eggs to help stabilize domestic egg prices. Under the new scheme, the first 50,000 tons of imported eggs (14,500 tons of fresh eggs and 35,500 tons of processed eggs) will enjoy a 0 percent import tariff duty.²⁰³²

On 22 June 2021, Korea extended and increased the import tariff quota on fresh and processed eggs by 36,000 tons. Under the updated quota, 18,000 tons of fresh eggs and 18,000 tons of processed eggs will enjoy a 0 per cent import tariff duty.²⁰³³

Korea has liberalized its trade regulations and has not introduce any new protectionist measures.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment on open markets.

On 26 December 2020, Mexico adopted an Agreement that updates the lists of products subject to export/import permits from the Secretary of Energy. The norm replaced the time validity of the permits applicable to fuel from 5 years to 20 years.²⁰³⁴

²⁰³⁰ Minister Kajiyama Attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

²⁰³¹ S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff-free trade, Pulse (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

²⁰³² Resolved amendment to the quota regulations for the application of egg-free tariffs, Ministry of Trade (Seoul) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.moef.go.kr/nw/nes/detailNesDtaView.do?searchBbsId1=MOSFBBS_00000000028&searchNttId1=MOSF_00000000053437&menuNo=4010100

²⁰³³ Resolution of amendments to tariff quota regulations for extension of egg duty-free application, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-si) 22 June 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

https://www.moef.go.kr/com/synap/synapView.do;jsessionid=J7GMe1h+dhxIYm+qeMmtAzU3.node30?atchFileId=ATC_H_00000000017843&fileSn=1

On 22 February 2021, Mexico published a decree that modifies the national import and export tariffs, with the objective of creating new national tariff codes for and eliminating the import tariffs of COVID-19 vaccines and oxygen tanks.²⁰³⁵

On 3 March 2021, Mexico published an Agreement that temporarily suspends the modifications made to the list of goods that need prior authorisation for its importation/exportation from the Secretary of Energy. The decision comes in the aftermath of a precautionary measure of the Second District Judge in Mexico City that has national jurisdiction.²⁰³⁶

On 27 April 2021, Mexico published an Agreement that decreased the import tariff quota for beans for the 2021 period. The Agreement only opens a duty-free quota for imports of kidney or black beans under HS code 0713.33.99, effectively closing the quotas for the HS codes 0713.33.02 and 0713.33.03. The previous measure, a 2008 Agreement, established an annual duty-free import quota at 100 000 metric tonnes which were applicable to three codes (0713.33.02, 0713.33.03, and 0713.33.99). In this sense, beans imports under codes 0713.33.02 and 0713.33.03 will not benefit from a free-duty quota for the 2021 period.²⁰³⁷

On 23 June 2021, Mexico adopted an Agreement that establishes a duty-free quota for poultry during 2021. The affected six-digits HS codes are 0207.11; 0207.12; 0207.13; and 0207.14. The total quota was set at 30,000 tonnes, available until 31 December 2021. Notably, there was no duty-free quota for the 2020 period since the last similar Agreement applied only until 31 December 2019.²⁰³⁸

During the compliance period Mexico both rolled back several protectionist measures and introduced new ones.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to keep its national market open.

On 27 November 2020, the Government of Russia increased import quotas of ingredients used in manufacturing painkillers. The quota for oxycodone increased from 50 kg to 126 kilograms, for remifentanil – from 0.5 to 3.67 kilograms and for fentanyl – from 30 to 45 kilograms.²⁰³⁹

On 29 January 2021, the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council reintroduced a zero-import duty on aluminum fluoride used as an electrolyte component in manufacturing aluminum. The measure

²⁰³⁴ Agreement that establishes the merchandise whose import and export is subject to regulation by the Ministry of Energy, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://sidof.segob.gob.mx/notas/5608832>

²⁰³⁵ Decree by which the Rate of the General Import and Export Tax Law is modified, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5611928&fecha=22/02/2021

²⁰³⁶ AGREEMENT by which all the consequences derived from the Agreement that establishes the goods whose import and export are subject to regulation by the Ministry of Energy are suspended, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5612613&fecha=03/03/2021

²⁰³⁷ Agreement disclosing the allocation mechanism for importing beans under tariff-quota, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5050108&fecha=27/06/2008

²⁰³⁸ Agreement announcing the quota for importing chicken meat under the tariff-quota indicated, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5622008&fecha=23/06/2021

²⁰³⁹ Government Lifts Quotas for Painkiller Ingredients, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/40971/>

will be in effect retroactively from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2023. The statutory import duty is 7 per cent.²⁰⁴⁰

On 16 February 2021, the EEU re-introduced a temporary reduction of import duty on carbon graphite products used in aluminum electrolysis, effective from 21 March 2021 to 1 April 2022. The 5 per cent duty on carbon graphite electrodes (tariff line 854519 000 0) was waived, as was the 12.5 per cent duty on carbon graphite brushes (tariff line 8545 90 900 0). Although the items in question seem to be used primarily for the electrolysis of aluminum, the reductions are not sector- or firm-specific.²⁰⁴¹

On 6 July 2021, the EEU issued a regulation imposing a safeguard measure on imports of clothing for women and girls from Vietnam. The products subject to the safeguard measure are classified under HS codes 6104.41.00.00, 6104.42.00.00, 6104.43.00.00, 6104.44.00.00, 6104.49.00.00, 6204.41.00.00, 6204.42.00.00, 6204.43.00.00, 6204.40.00.00, 6204.49.10.00, 6204.49.90.00 and 6110. The rate of duty on imports from Vietnam is equal to the common customs tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union. The rate duty ranges from 1,75 per cent to 10 per cent depending on the product. This follows Article 2.10 of the Vietnam-EEU Free Trade Agreement, in force since 2016. The customs duty is imposed for a period of six months.²⁰⁴²

Russia has liberalized its trade regulations and has not introduce any new protectionist measures.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 24 March 2021, China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh; it was reported as an outcome of the meeting that both parties pledged to push forward negotiations on a free trade deal between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.²⁰⁴³

On 15 April 2021, the Saudi Ports Authority announced an initiative to support international shipping lines stranded at the south end of the Suez Canal on the Red Sea coast, extending the services of Jeddah Islamic Port for ship transfers and container offloading; measures include an extended period of exemption from storage fees for transshipment containers – from 30 days to 60 days – for a duration of three months.²⁰⁴⁴

²⁰⁴⁰ On the establishment of the rate of import customs duty of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in respect of aluminum fluoride, Council of Eurasian Economic Commission (Nur-Sultan) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428591/err_16022021_3

²⁰⁴¹ On setting import customs duties in the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union with respect to certain types of carbon and graphite products for aluminum electrolysis, Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428628/err_19022021_15

²⁰⁴² On the application of a trigger protective measure in relation to certain types of women's clothing and clothing for girls and certain types of knitwear originating from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and imported into the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union, the Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 6 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01429726/err_08072021_85

²⁰⁴³ China eyes free trade agreement with the Gulf states, Arab News (Riyadh) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1831261/business-economy>

²⁰⁴⁴ Saudi Ports Authority to support shipping lines with storage fee exemptions, Construction Business News (Dubai) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cbnme.com/logistics-news/saudi-ports-authority-to-support-shipping-lines-with-storage-fee-exemptions/>

On 5 July 2021, Saudi Arabia amended its rules on imports from other Gulf Cooperation Council countries to exclude goods made in free zones or using Israeli input from preferential tariff concessions, in a bid to challenge the United Arab Emirates' status as the region's trade and business hub.²⁰⁴⁵

On 20 August 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia is looking for more trading partners under free trade agreements as the country aims at increasing non-oil exports share in GDP. The kingdom is resuming negotiations for free trade agreements with 11 countries. Target countries are China, India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the United States of America. Saudi Arabia aims to export services including transport, distribution, professional and financial services, communication services, postal services and many others. The Saudi Exports Development Authority announced on Wednesday, it will identify over 120 international tendering opportunities in a number of target countries.²⁰⁴⁶

During the compliance period, Saudi Arabia has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to keep its national market open.

On 24 December 2020, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) issued Notice R.1408 making an amendment in the import regime by inserting tariff subheadings 3208.20.20, 3906.90.30, and 3906.90.40 into Part 1 of Schedule No. 1. The amendment is made in order to increase the rate of customs duty on acrylic resins to 15 percent.²⁰⁴⁷

On 31 December 2020, SARS issued Notice R.1428 increasing the import duties on aluminum plates, sheets, strips, and aluminum foil from duty-free to 15 per cent. The affected products are classified under the tariff subheadings 7606 and 7607.²⁰⁴⁸

On 5 March 2021, SARS issued Notice R.181 decreasing the import duties on beet and cane sugar from 527,75 c/kg (approximately 0.34 USD/kilogram) to 414,85 c/kg (approximately 0.27 USD/kilogram). The subject product is classified under the tariff subheadings 1701.12, 1701.13, 1701.14, 1701.91, and 1701.99.²⁰⁴⁹

On 10 March 2021, SARS issued Notice R.190 decreasing the import duties on wheat and wheaten flour from 10.27c/kilogram (USD0.0071) and 15.41c/kilogram (USD0.0106) respectively to zero for

²⁰⁴⁵ Saudi Arabia amends import rules from Gulf in challenge to UAE, Reuters (Dubai) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-amends-import-rules-gulf-challenge-uae-2021-07-05/>

²⁰⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia looks for free trade agreement with 11 countries in exports push, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1914176/amp>

²⁰⁴⁷ Government Gazette No. 44029 of 24 December 2020, Notice R.1406, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2020/LSec-CE-TA-2020-66-Notice-R1406-GG44029-Schedule-1P1-acrylic-resins-24-December-2020.pdf>

²⁰⁴⁸ Government Gazette No. 44049 of 31 December 2020, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2020/LSec-CE-TA-2020-68-Notice-R1428-GG44049-Sch1P1-Aluminium-31-December-2020.pdf>

²⁰⁴⁹ Government Gazette No. 44230 of 5 March 2021, Notice R.181, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-CE-TA-2021-16-Notice-R181-GG44230-Sch1-Sugar-5-March-2021.pdf>

both categories. The affected products are classified under the following HS codes subheadings: 1001.91 and 1001.99, as well as 1101.00.10, 1101.00.20, 1101.00.30, and 1101.00.90. This import tariff applies to all countries except for the ones belonging to the Southern African Development Community.²⁰⁵⁰

On 28 May 2021, SARS adopted a notice establishing a full rebate for the importation of warp knit fabrics. Subject products are classified under the tariff subheading 6005.3. In the case of imports originating from the European Union, the import duty was reduced from 13.2 per cent to 0 per cent.²⁰⁵¹

On 18 June 2021, SARS adopted notice R.542 establishing a full rebate facility for the importation of Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic Soda) in aqueous solution for the manufacture of semi-chemical fluting paper. The subject product is classified under the tariff subheading 2815.12. Previously to this decision, the import duty on the subject products was 20 per cent.²⁰⁵²

On 2 July 2021, SARS issued Notice No. R.570 in Government Gazette No.44792, decreasing the import duties on wheat and wheaten flour from 19.17c/kg (USD0.0136) and 28.76c/kg (USD0.0204) respectively to zero for both categories.²⁰⁵³

South Africa introduced some protectionist measures, but also lifted some trade restrictions.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 29 December 2020, Turkey signed Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom, which took effect from 1 January 2021; to the extent possible, the agreement replicates the EU-Turkey trade arrangement that applied in the United Kingdom until the end of the Transition Period following Brexit, and covers all industrial and agricultural products, removes tariffs on industrial products, and scales and reflects existing concessions with the EU on agricultural products in the new trade deal.²⁰⁵⁴

On 1 March 2021, preferential trade agreement between Turkey and Azerbaijan, covering a limited number of areas; further, in April 2021 at the meeting of the two countries' trade and economy ministers it was stated that Turkey and Azerbaijan should be working towards full-scale free trade

²⁰⁵⁰ Government Gazette No.44251. No. R.190, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-CE-TA-2021-17-Notice-R190-GG44251-Sch1-Wheat-10-March-2021.pdf>

²⁰⁵¹ Government Gazette No.44635 Np. R.457, the South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-CE-TA-2021-37-Notice-R457-GG44635-Sch3P1-Rebate-on-fabrics-for-upholstery-furniture-28-May-2021.pdf>

²⁰⁵² Government Gazette No.44426 No. R.542, the South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-TA-2021-48-Notice-R542-GG44426-Schedule-3P1-Caustic-Soda-18-June-2021.pdf>

²⁰⁵³ Government Gazette No., the South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-CE-TA-2021-052-Sch1P1-Wheat-1-July-2021.pdf>

²⁰⁵⁴ Turkey: Turkey Signs Free Trade Agreement With The United Kingdom, Mondaq (Ankara) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/international-trade-investment/1029362/turkey-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-the-united-kingdom>

agreement.²⁰⁵⁵ On 6 April 2021, it was reported that an agreement amending the definition of “originating products” and methods on administrative co-operation within the existing preferential trade agreement between Turkey and Azerbaijan was ratified.²⁰⁵⁶

On 15 March 2021, the United Kingdom-Turkey Joint Committee established under the Agreement adopted a Decision replacing the existing Rules of Origin Protocol with a revised Protocol.²⁰⁵⁷

On 10 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey and Ukraine pledged to deepen cooperation in various spheres, including to accelerate “work to conclude negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement.”²⁰⁵⁸

On 14 July 2021, it was reported that the Turkish and Malaysian trade ministers signed on 13 July a joint declaration to expand the existing free trade agreement between the two countries. The two ministers also highlighted cooperation potential in civil aviation, halal goods sector, and the defense industry.²⁰⁵⁹

On 18 August 2021, it was reported that Turkey is building a new generation of comprehensive free trade agreements to lift exports, strengthen the competitiveness of the industry and attract foreign capital, according to the nation’s trade minister. Comprehensive free trade agreement negotiations are currently ongoing with Japan, Thailand and Indonesia in the Asia-Pacific region,” Mehmet Muş told a closing session of the 34th Foreign Economic Relations Board Ordinary Financial General Assembly. These agreements will include services, investments and public procurement.²⁰⁶⁰

On 26 August 2021, it was reported that London and Ankara will start negotiations on a more comprehensive trade pact next year, a British minister said Thursday, in a move designed to add new areas for stronger bilateral commercial cooperation.²⁰⁶¹

On 8 September 2021, it was reported that Turkey has reduced to zero the import customs duty for wheat, rye, barley, oats and maize, chickpeas and lentils until year-end, according to the country’s Official Gazette.²⁰⁶²

During the compliance period, Turkey has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

²⁰⁵⁵ 'Turkey, Azerbaijan should target free trade agreement', Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-azerbaijan-should-target-free-trade-agreement/219555>

²⁰⁵⁶ Turkey ratifies agreements with Albania, Azerbaijan, Anadolu Agency 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-ratifies-agreements-with-albania-azerbaijan/2199716>

²⁰⁵⁷ UK/Turkey rules of origin protocol update: April 2021, Government of the UK (London) Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukturkey-free-trade-agreement-cs-turkey-no12021/ukturkey-rules-of-origin-protocol-update-april-2021>

²⁰⁵⁸ Turkey, Ukraine vow to strengthen strategic partnership, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/turkey-ukraine-vow-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership/2204901>

²⁰⁵⁹ Turkey, Malaysia resolve to expand free trade agreement, Hurriyet (Ankara) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/turkey-malaysia-resolve-to-expand-free-trade-agreement-166308>

²⁰⁶⁰ Turkey earmarks new generation free trade deals to rev up exports, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/turkey-earmarks-new-generation-free-trade-deals-to-rev-up-exports>

²⁰⁶¹ Turkey, UK to start talks on more comprehensive free trade deal, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/turkey-uk-to-start-talks-on-more-comprehensive-free-trade-deal/news>

²⁰⁶² Turkey cuts grains' import customs duty to zero until year-end, Reuters (Ankara) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkey-cuts-grains-import-customs-duty-zero-until-year-end-2021-09-08/#:~:text=ANKARA%2C%20Sept%20%20\(Reuters\),Official%20Gazette%20said%20on%20Wednesday](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkey-cuts-grains-import-customs-duty-zero-until-year-end-2021-09-08/#:~:text=ANKARA%2C%20Sept%20%20(Reuters),Official%20Gazette%20said%20on%20Wednesday)

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 24 November 2020, the UK temporarily eliminated the import duty on COVID-19 vaccines from non-EU countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, VAT was also eliminated as so far as it relates to the subject goods imported. The goods must be imported by state entities “including state bodies, public bodies and other bodies governed by public law.” Non-state bodies may also be granted duty-free import on the subject goods following the submission of an application to the National Import Relief Unit.²⁰⁶³

On 29 December 2020, Turkey signed Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom, which took effect from 1 January 2021; to the extent possible, the agreement replicates the EU-Turkey trade arrangement that applied in the United Kingdom until the end of the Transition Period following Brexit, and covers all industrial and agricultural products, removes tariffs on industrial products, and scales and reflects existing concessions with the EU on agricultural products in the new trade deal.²⁰⁶⁴

On 31 December 2020, the UK government announced introducing a licensing requirement on the imports of some nuclear materials.²⁰⁶⁵

On 1 January 2021, the UK government abolished the Low-Value Consignment Relief, which provided relief from VAT on imported goods valued at GBP15 or less. For these goods, the standard 20percent VAT rate is currently applied.²⁰⁶⁶

On 15 March 2021, the United Kingdom-Turkey Joint Committee established under the Agreement adopted a Decision replacing the existing Rules of Origin Protocol with a revised Protocol.²⁰⁶⁷

During the compliance period the United Kingdom has implemented several new protectionist measures, while at least two of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with the commitment to keep markets open.

On 10 February 2021, the United States Customs and Border Protection issued a series of rulings, reclassifying certain goods under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. As such, the

²⁰⁶³ Pay no import duty and VAT on medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (COVID-19), UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19>.

²⁰⁶⁴ Turkey: Turkey Signs Free Trade Agreement With The United Kingdom, Mondaq (Ankara) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/international-trade-investment/1029362/turkey-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-the-united-kingdom>

²⁰⁶⁵ Importing ‘relevant’ nuclear materials into the UK: licensing requirements, UK Government (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-relevant-nuclear-materials-from-the-eu-licensing-requirements>

²⁰⁶⁶ Changes to VAT treatment of overseas goods sold to customers from 1 January 2021, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>

²⁰⁶⁷ UK/Turkey rules of origin protocol update: April 2021, Government of the UK (London) Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukturkey-free-trade-agreement-cs-turkey-no12021/ukturkey-rules-of-origin-protocol-update-april-2021>

reclassification of two mandrels with pilot drills resulted in the reduction of import tariff from 5 per cent to 3.9 per cent. The reclassification of automobile organizers and backseat automobile organizers, however, resulted in increase of import tariff from 2.5 per cent to 17.7 percent and from 2.5 percent to 7 percent, respectively. The reclassification of “piggy” banks lead to the introduction of import tariff of 3.4 percent.

On 11 March 2021, the President of the United States signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Act provided for the stimulus package of USD1.9 trillion for the American economy, including direct financial grants to domestic manufacturing companies, agricultural producers, food distributors, and service providers.²⁰⁶⁸ This act supports the economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it can be perceived as distorting international competitive environment.

On 24 June 2021, the United States Customs and Border Protection issued a ruling reclassifying certain mineral stones sanded down and buffed amber stones. The reclassification reduced the import tariff of sanded down and buffed amber stones from 2.7 per cent to 0 per cent.²⁰⁶⁹

On 14 July 2021, the United States Customs and Border Protection issued a ruling, reclassifying textile cover for unsprung mattress foundation as other made-up articles rather than as furniture parts, which resulted in the decrease of import tariff of the subject product from 7 per cent to 0 per cent.²⁰⁷⁰

The United States has implemented new protectionist measures while rolling back any existing trade restrictive measures.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 11 December 2020, the EU published Regulation (EU) 2020/2020 that provides temporary value added tax (VAT) relief to COVID-19 vaccines and in vitro diagnostic medical devices. The objective is to ensure, as soon as possible, the most affordable access to the supply of the medical products necessary to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. For this, the regulation includes two types of tax relief: a VAT exemption for the supply of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines; and a VAT reduction or exemption for in vitro diagnostic medical kits for COVID-19.²⁰⁷¹

²⁰⁶⁸ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, The United States Congress (Washington DC) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

²⁰⁶⁹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection Application for Allowance in Duties, US Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2021-Jun/Vol_55_No_24_complete.pdf

²⁰⁷⁰ U.S. Customs and Border Protection Application to Use Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), US Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2021-Jul/Vol_55_No_27_complete.pdf

²⁰⁷¹ EU: Temporary VAT relief to COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits, Global Trade Alert. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/83779/internal-taxation-of-imports/eu-temporary-vat-relief-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-testing-kits>.

On 28 December 2020, the European Union updated the import tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products applicable during the year 2021. The updates were both restrictive and trade-facilitating.²⁰⁷²

On 7 January 2021, the European Commission imposed a provisional duty on imports of certain iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel hot-rolled flat products from Turkey. The rate of duty is between 4.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent depending on the company.²⁰⁷³

On 8 March 2021, the European Commission issued Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/401 decreasing the import duty applicable to certain husked rice (excluding basmati rice).²⁰⁷⁴

During the compliance period the European Union has implemented several new protectionist measures, while at least two of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Sbeleпов

²⁰⁷² Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2230 of 18 December 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 1388/2013 opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products, EUR-Lex. Official Journal 28 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R2230&qid=1611658181982>.

²⁰⁷³ EU: Provisional antidumping duty on imports of certain hot-rolled flat products from Turkey, Global Trade Alert. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79539/anti-dumping/eu-provisional-antidumping-duty-on-imports-of-certain-hot-rolled-flat-products-from-turkey>.

²⁰⁷⁴ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/401 of 5 March 2021 fixing the import duties applicable to certain types of husked rice from 8 March 2021, EUR-Lex. Official Journal 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.079.01.0007.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A079%3ATOC.

5. Digital Economy: Consumer Rights

“We support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.”

G20 Riyadh 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 | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.80 (90%) | |

Background

For the first time ever the G20 addressed the issues related to digital growth in 2015. During Turkey’s presidency, the 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.”²⁰⁷⁵ 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 and communications and technology (ICT).²⁰⁷⁶

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 effective use of ICT as an important driver for efficiency-enhancing and economic structural

²⁰⁷⁵ Adjusted Growth Strategy: Germany, RANEPА (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/Adjusted-Growth-Strategy-2015-Germany.pdf>

²⁰⁷⁶ G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya Summit 15 – 16 November 2015, RANEPА (Moscow) 16 November 2015.

Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>

optimization.”²⁰⁷⁷ 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.”²⁰⁷⁸ 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).²⁰⁷⁹

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.²⁰⁸⁰ To facilitate implementing commitments on digital growth, the Digital Economy Task Force (DETF) was established following the decision made in Hangzhou in 2016.²⁰⁸¹ 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.²⁰⁸²

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.²⁰⁸³ 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.”²⁰⁸⁴

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, which tackled cyber security.²⁰⁸⁵ In addition, the Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy was adopted in which most G20 members (with exception of India, South Africa and Indonesia) declared the launch of the “Osaka track” to promote discussions on “trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the [World Trade Organization].”²⁰⁸⁶

²⁰⁷⁷ G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-blueprint.html>

²⁰⁷⁸ G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-blueprint.html>

²⁰⁷⁹ G20 Leaders’ Communique: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

²⁰⁸⁰ G20 Initiative “#eSkills4Girls,” RANEPa (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/2017-g20-initiative-eskills4girls-en.pdf>

²⁰⁸¹ G20 Leaders’ Communique: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

²⁰⁸² G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁰⁸³ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration, Salta, Argentina, RANEPa (Moscow) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/g20_detf_ministerial_declaration_salta.pdf

²⁰⁸⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

²⁰⁸⁵ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/G20_OSAKA_LEADERS_STATEMENT_ON_PREVENTING_EXPLOITATION_OF_THE_INTERNET_FOR_TERRORISM.pdf

²⁰⁸⁶ Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/OSAKA_DECLARATION_ON_DIGITAL_ECONOMY_eng.pdf

In 2020 under Saudi Arabia's G20 presidency the ministers responsible for the digital economy adopted the G20 Roadmap toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy. Under the Framework, the ministers proposed "an overarching policy definition of the different elements of the digital economy: The digital economy incorporates all economic activity reliant on, or significantly enhanced by the use of digital inputs, including digital technologies, digital infrastructure, digital services, and data; it refers to all producers and consumers, including government, that are utilizing these digital inputs in their economic activities."²⁰⁸⁷

In 2020, the DETF presented its recommendations on adjusting the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals with more than 30 indicators related to digital jobs, skills and growth in the digital economy. The recommendations were included into the OECD report "Roadmap Toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy" that is said to "complement previous work and proposes a clear step forward for Digital Economy measurement."²⁰⁸⁸

Along with the Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy, the G20 ministers responsible for the digital economy presented three sets of best practices related to ensuring Security in the Digital Economy, advancing the G20 common Principles on the AI and promoting Smart Mobility.²⁰⁸⁹

In 2020 the G20 leaders' summit concluded with the joint Declaration. The leaders' recognized the key role of "connectivity, digital technologies, and policies"²⁰⁹⁰ in "strengthening our response to the pandemic and facilitating the continuation of economic activity."²⁰⁹¹ As an addition to the commitment made on promotion of consumers protection, non-discriminatory environment, intellectual property rights protection and data protection, the G20 leaders noted the importance of working with stakeholders "to connect humanity by accelerating global internet penetration and bridging digital divides."²⁰⁹²

Commitment Features

The commitment focuses on issues related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights; and security. To achieve full compliance, the G20 member shall take steps that cover all three of the abovementioned areas.

Fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment

Fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment is understood as actions taken by a G20 member country aimed at promotion of a business-friendly environment that allows "foreign suppliers to compete in national markets without encountering discriminatory, excessively burdensome or restrictive conditions. It helps firms, domestic and foreign, reap the benefits of trade,

²⁰⁸⁷ G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0722.html>

²⁰⁸⁸ A Roadmap Toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy Chapter 3 'Measuring the Digital Economy: Jobs, Skills, and Growth, OECD (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 20 January 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/sti/roadmap-toward-a-common-framework-for-measuring-the-digital-economy.pdf>

²⁰⁸⁹ G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0722.html>

²⁰⁹⁰ G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁰⁹¹ G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁰⁹² G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

contributing to economic growth.”²⁰⁹³ To promote holistic and joint approaches to openness, and mitigate negative spillovers arising from regulatory heterogeneity, the G20 actions will need to be guided by the good regulatory principles of market openness: be transparent and non-discriminatory. In the decision-making the fundamental aspect of transparency refers to the openness and inclusiveness of the policy-making process, in particular the opportunity for stakeholders to participate in formal or informal public consultations. Thus for the G20 members as policy-makers, “transparency is crucial because it enhances the efficiency of regulations by revealing the costs and benefits of policy decisions, reducing the risk of capture by specialized interests, helping remove economic distortions that might undermine domestic policy objectives, and improving public confidence in governmental and regulatory performance.”²⁰⁹⁴ Non-discrimination means that all like goods and services seeking to enter the national market, irrespective of whether digitally enabled or delivered, should have equal access, regardless of origin.²⁰⁹⁵

Thus, summing up, to comply with this feature of the commitment the G20 actions should be: a) transparent: helping reduce the costs of operating across different markets and clarifying the rules that apply to different products by providing up-to-date information and enabling access for different stakeholders to the policy-making process; and b) non-discriminatory: ensuring that domestic incumbents are not favored over foreign firms, or certain foreign firms over others, when operating in the digital space and selling like products in view of levelling the playing field.²⁰⁹⁶

Protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights

As the OECD notes in its relevant policy brief, “with the increasing complexity of the online environment, consumers may be vulnerable to actual or potential risks and challenges, which may affect their ability to participate effectively in the digital transformation.”²⁰⁹⁷ Key objectives include but not limited to “targeted policies, investment in ICT access and competencies, and education and awareness campaigns.”²⁰⁹⁸

Examples of a state-run policies that are designed to protect and empower consumers in the digital age are as follows:

- Improvement of market monitoring and law enforcement to detect and tackle against unfair commercial practices;
- Developing targeted education and awareness programs referring to ICT literacy and ICT skills;
- Encourage consumer organizations and businesses to take into account unique issues faced by vulnerable consumers, etc.²⁰⁹⁹

²⁰⁹³ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

²⁰⁹⁴ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

²⁰⁹⁵ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

²⁰⁹⁶ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

²⁰⁹⁷ Challenges to Consumer Policy in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/topics/digital-consumers/challenges-to-consumer-policy-in-the-digital-age.pdf>

²⁰⁹⁸ Challenges to Consumer Policy in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/topics/digital-consumers/challenges-to-consumer-policy-in-the-digital-age.pdf>

²⁰⁹⁹ Challenges to Consumer Policy in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/topics/digital-consumers/challenges-to-consumer-policy-in-the-digital-age.pdf>

This aspect also requires actions by the G20 members to tackle the challenges related to privacy and data protection and intellectual property rights.

Privacy and data protection

Following the OECD works on privacy and data protection such as the OECD Guidelines Governing the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data,²¹⁰⁰, we consider that these aspects should not be treated separately.

The notion of “privacy protection” is inseparable from the notion of “laws protecting privacy” that is “national laws or regulations, the enforcement of which has the effect of protecting personal data.”²¹⁰¹

Against the context of the commitment under consideration, ‘data protection’ refers to the notions of “consumer data” and “personal data” that are closely intertwined but do not completely overlap. The term “consumer data” is intended to capture data concerning consumers, where such data have been collected, traded or used as part of a commercial relationship.²¹⁰² “Personal data” refers to “any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual (data subject).”²¹⁰³

The OECD Privacy Framework suggests the following actions that could be taken by a state to promote privacy and data protection:

- Develop national privacy strategies that reflect a co-ordinated approach across governmental bodies;
- Adopt laws protecting privacy;
- Establish and maintain privacy enforcement authorities with the governance, resources and technical expertise necessary to exercise their powers effectively and to make decisions on an objective, impartial and consistent basis;
- Encourage and support self-regulation, whether in the form of codes of conduct or otherwise;
- Provide for reasonable means for individuals to exercise their rights;
- Provide for adequate sanctions and remedies in case of failures to comply with laws protecting privacy;
- Consider the adoption of complementary measures, including education and awareness raising, skills development, and the promotion of technical measures which help to protect privacy;
- Consider the role of actors other than data controllers, in a manner appropriate to their individual role; and

²¹⁰⁰ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecdguidelinesontheprivacyandtransborderflowsdatapersonaldata.htm>

²¹⁰¹ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecdguidelinesontheprivacyandtransborderflowdatapersonaldata.htm>

²¹⁰² Consumer Data Rights and Competition – Background note, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

[https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP\(2020\)1/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP(2020)1/en/pdf)

²¹⁰³ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecdguidelinesontheprivacyandtransborderflowsdatapersonaldata.htm>

- Ensure that there is no unfair discrimination against data subjects.²¹⁰⁴

The OECD also specifies the notions of “data controller” and “privacy enforcement authority” that are mentioned in the list of suggested actions.

“Data controller” means a party who, according to national law, is competent to decide about the contents and use of personal data regardless of whether or not such data are collected, stored, processed or disseminated by that party or by an agent on its behalf.²¹⁰⁵

“Privacy enforcement authorities” means any public body that is responsible for enforcing laws protecting privacy, and that has powers to conduct investigations or pursue enforcement proceedings.²¹⁰⁶

Intellectual property rights

Following the World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) Handbook, we understand the “intellectual property rights” (IPR) as “the legal rights which result from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary and artistic fields.”²¹⁰⁷ WIPO also specifies that these laws “aims at safeguarding creators and other producers of intellectual goods and services by granting them certain time-limited rights to control the use made of those productions.”²¹⁰⁸

Against this background, the G20 actions may refer but not limited to facilitating better legal protection of:

- Patents;
- Copyrights and related rights;
- Trademarks;
- Industrial designs and integrated circuits;
- Geographical indicators;
- IPR proprietors against unfair competition.²¹⁰⁹

Security

According to the OECD “digital security” refers to “economic and social aspects of cybersecurity as opposed to purely technical aspects and those related to criminal law enforcement and national and international security.”²¹¹⁰ Addressing security risks is essential for economic and social prosperity. Regarding “digital security risks” the OECD notes the following:

²¹⁰⁴ The OECD Privacy Framework, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecd_privacy_framework.pdf

²¹⁰⁵ The OECD Privacy Framework, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecd_privacy_framework.pdf

²¹⁰⁶ The OECD Privacy Framework, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecd_privacy_framework.pdf

²¹⁰⁷ WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook, WIPO (Geneva) 2004. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_489.pdf

²¹⁰⁸ WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook, WIPO (Geneva) 2004. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_489.pdf

²¹⁰⁹ WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook, WIPO (Geneva) 2004. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_489.pdf

²¹¹⁰ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

“Digital security risk as a category of risk related to the use, development and management of the digital environment in the course of any activity. This risk can result from the combination of threats and vulnerabilities in the digital environment. They can undermine the achievement of economic and social objectives by disrupting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the activities and/or the environment. Digital security risk is dynamic in nature. It includes aspects related to the digital and physical environments, the people involved in the activity and the organizational processes supporting it.”²¹¹¹

Ensuring the digital security requires cooperation of all “stakeholders” considered as “the governments, public and private organizations, and the individuals, who rely on the digital environment for all or part of their economic and social activities.”²¹¹²

Accordingly to comply with this commitment feature the G20 should lead by example in implementation of a holistic public policy approach to digital security risk management and establishing co-ordination mechanisms at the domestic, regional and international levels, which ensure that all stakeholders understand digital security risk and how to manage it, take responsibility for the management of digital security, manage digital security risk in a transparent manner; cooperate, including across borders.

To foster trust and confidence in the digital environment at the national level the G20 members may implement strategies which include measures such as:

- Adopting a comprehensive framework to manage digital security risk to the government’s own activities;
- Establishing co-ordination mechanisms among all relevant governmental actors to ensure that their management of digital security risk is compatible and enhances economic and social prosperity;
- Ensuring the establishment of one or more Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), also known as Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), at national level and, where appropriate, encourage the emergence of public and private CSIRTs working collaboratively, including across borders;
- Using their market position to foster digital security risk management across the economy and society, including through public procurement policies, and the recruitment of professionals with appropriate risk management qualification;
- Encouraging the use of international standards and best practices on digital security risk management, and promoting their development and review through open, transparent and multi-stakeholder processes;
- Adopting innovative security techniques to manage digital security risk in order to assure that information is appropriately protected at rest as well as in transit, and taking into account the benefits of appropriate limitations on data collection and retention;
- Coordinating and promoting public research and development on digital security risk management with a view to fostering innovation;

²¹¹¹ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

²¹¹² Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

- Supporting the development of a skilled workforce that can manage digital security risk, in particular by addressing digital security risk management in broader skills strategies. This could include fostering the development of in-service risk management training and certification and supporting the development of digital skills across the population through national education programs, notably in higher education;
- Adopting and implementing a comprehensive framework to help mitigate cybercrime, drawing on existing international instruments;
- Allocating sufficient resources to effectively implement the strategy.²¹¹³

Cooperation at the international level may include:

- Participating in relevant regional and international fora, and establishing bilateral and multilateral relationships to share experience and best practices; and promoting an approach to national digital security risk management that does not increase the risk to other countries;
- Providing, on a voluntary basis as appropriate, assistance and support to other countries, and establishing national points of contacts for addressing cross-border requests related to digital security risk management issues in a timely manner;
- Working to improve responses to domestic and cross-border threats, including through CSIRTs²¹¹⁴ co-operation, coordinated exercises and other tools for collaboration.²¹¹⁵

The commitment requires the G20 members to support “fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.”²¹¹⁶ To achieve full compliance (+1 score), a G20 member should demonstrate strong willingness to fulfil the task that implies taking actions in all three spheres that go beyond mere verbal support or participation in a discussion on a topic without further implementation in a legislative form, resources allocation, etc. Partial compliance (0 score) could be given if a G20 member takes actions either matching only one or two key areas or even all three key areas but at least one area out of three is not supported with a strong action. Also, a 0 score could be given if a G20 member takes an action matching any of three key areas, but this action could not be regarded as a strong one. We consider lack of any actions as a prerequisite for giving a G20 member a –1 score.

²¹¹³ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

²¹¹⁴ Recommendations of the Council on Digital Security of Critical Activities, OECD (Paris). Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0456>

²¹¹⁵ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

²¹¹⁶ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does no action aimed at fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; or addressing digital security risks. |
| 0 | G20 member takes actions in ONE or TWO of the areas: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks. |
| +1 | G20 member takes strong actions that match all THREE areas: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks. |

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 18 January 2021, the Public Tender 0005/2020 was opened, the bidding process for the Preventive and Corrective Maintenance of the Digital Document Management System (former GDE, Electronic Document Management), the integrated system of labeling, unique numbering, monitoring and recording of movements of all actions and files of the entire National Public Sector, which allows the complete digital processing of electronic files and is administered by the Undersecretariat of Administrative Innovation of the Ministry of Public Innovation, dependent on the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers of the Nation.²¹¹⁷

On 28 January 2021, National Director of Personal Data Protection Eduardo Cimato participated in the event for the “International Day for the Protection of Personal Data,” 40th anniversary of Convention 108, carried out by the Council of Europe and the Ibero-American Data Protection Network, where the policies adopted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of the role of control authorities in the protection of personal data were discussed.²¹¹⁸

On 24 February 2021, the Access to Public Information Agency released a series of criteria on how the data of those people who have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 should be treated. In this sense, some of the fundamental principles of the current regulation regarding the protection of personal data and access to public information are indicated. In a context of health crisis, both in the country and worldwide, and the general shortage of vaccines, there is great public interest in knowing how they are distributed, as well as if the distribution is being carried out in accordance with the “Strategic Plan for Vaccination against COVID-19 in the Argentine Republic,” published on the website of the Ministry of Health of the Nation.²¹¹⁹

²¹¹⁷ Avanza la licitación de la plataforma integral de Gestión Documental Digital [The tender for the comprehensive Digital Document Management platform advances], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-la-licitacion-de-la-plataforma-integral-de-gestion-documental-digital>

²¹¹⁸ Día Internacional de la Protección de Datos Personales [International Day for the Protection of Personal Data], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dia-internacional-de-la-proteccion-de-datos-personales>

²¹¹⁹ Access to information, personal data and vaccination, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acceso-la-informacion-datos-personales-y-vacunacion>

On 23 March 2021, Secretary of Planning and Policies of Science, Technology and Innovation Diego Hurtado representing the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, participated in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum whose central theme was the “Association for the Innovation and Digital Inclusion” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea. Secretary Hurtado “celebrated the organization of this forum, the purpose of which is to consolidate efforts to share experiences in the face of digital transformation and promote Korea-Latin America cooperation in the areas of digital infrastructure, digital government, smart city and cybersecurity.”²¹²⁰

On 4 May 2021, national director of Consumer Defense Sebastián Barocelli chaired the meeting of the Technical Committee No. 7 for the Defense of the Consumer of Mercosur, on the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Asunción. The participating authorities highlighted the central axes of the future agenda, “focused on the status of citizenship, the problem of hypervulnerable consumers, the over-indebtedness of consumers, good commercial practices among suppliers, and the need to involve civil society through academia and consumer associations. The member countries highlighted collaboration and joint work to respond to the needs of consumers.”²¹²¹

On 2 July 2021, National Directorate for Personal Data Protection participated in the “VIII International Data Protection Congress.” organized by the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce (SIC) of Colombia and the Ibero-American Data Protection Network, with the aim of sharing opinions, experiences and recommendations of national and international experts on the protection of personal data.²¹²²

On 3 August 2021, National Directorate for the Protection of Personal Data participated in a meeting of the Internal Security Council that was held by videoconference from Paraná, Entre Ríos, with the aim of analyzing the processing of geolocation data in emergency calls.²¹²³

Argentina has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 9 December 2020, the Australia-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement launched. The agreement, covering such important issues as personal data protection, e-invoicing, paperless

²¹²⁰ Argentina participó del Foro de Cooperación Digital Corea-Latinoamérica 2021 [Argentina participated in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 March 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-participo-del-foro-de-cooperacion-digital-corea-latinoamerica-2021>

²¹²¹ Argentina encabezó el Comité Técnico de Defensa del Consumidor en los 30 años del Mercosur [Argentina headed the Technical Committee for the Defense of the Consumer in the 30 years of Mercosur], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-encabezo-el-comite-tecnico-de-defensa-del-consumidor-en-los-30-anos-del-mercosur>

²¹²² Addressing the cross-border flow of personal data, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 21 September 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/abordaje-del-flujo-transfronterizo-de-datos-personales>

²¹²³ Emergencias and personal data, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 August 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/emergencias-y-datos-personales>

customs procedures, and electronic certification for agricultural exports, made it easier for Australian exporters to do business in Singapore.²¹²⁴

On 6 May 2021, the Australian Government unveiled its AUD1.2 billion Digital Economy Strategy 2030, providing an outline of its policies and actions in regards to digital transformation. The strategy provided for: supporting digital skills of Australians; strengthening digital government services, including consumer protection and safety mechanisms (such as Consumer Data Act); investing in cybersecurity (over AUD50 million); supporting digital small and medium sized enterprises through tax incentives; promoting data availability and transparency.²¹²⁵

Australia has taken actions in all three issue areas related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 2 December 2020, Federal Government published the decree of the regulatory structure of the National Data Protection Authority (ANPD), as an organ of the Presidency of the Republic, with the objective of complying with and giving effect to the General Law for the Protection of Personal Data, thus enabling adequate level of protection of the personal data of natural persons in Brazil.²¹²⁶

On 25 February 2021, Brazilian Government affiliated technology intelligence company Serpro launched an educational platform, which offers professional training and certification for the public and private sectors in subjects related to privacy and protection of personal data.²¹²⁷

On 22 March 2021, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, through the National Consumer Secretariat (Senacon), signed a technical cooperation agreement with the ANPD. The union of the bodies aims at the inspection and data protection of all consumers in the country.²¹²⁸

On 30 March 2021, Law No. 14,129, which brings together the principles, rules and tools for Digital Government, was sanctioned with vetoes by President Jair Bolsonaro and published in the Official Gazette. The text establishes rules and instruments for the digital provision of public services, which

²¹²⁴ Australia-Singapore digital trade agreement kicks-off, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-singapore-digital-trade-agreement-kicks>

²¹²⁵ Digital Economy Strategy 2030, Australian Government (Canberra) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://digitaleconomy.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/digital-economy-strategy.pdf>

²¹²⁶ Federal Government publishes the regulatory structure of the National Data Protection Authority, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-publica-a-estrutura-regimental-da-autoridade-nacional-de-protecao-de-dados>

²¹²⁷ Federal Government Launches Educational LGPD Platform, Serpro (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.serpro.gov.br/menu/noticias/noticias-2021/serpro-lancamento-plataforma-lgpd>

²¹²⁸Data protection bodies come together to strengthen security, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/justica-e-seguranca/2021/03/orgaos-de-protecao-de-dados-se-unem-para-reforcar-seguranca>

should also be accessible in mobile applications. Access to the Digital Government platforms is free.²¹²⁹

On 5 April 2021, the Brazilian government launched system for security control in compliance with data protection law. A tool developed by the Digital Government Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy allows the investigation of security and privacy flaws in the systems, contracts and processes in which the personal data of any citizen needed to be analyzed. Fourteen different levels of risk are ascertained automatically. It is sufficient for the citizen's data protection officer within the federal government to complete a questionnaire on the specific case online.²¹³⁰

On 8 April 2021, the National Consumer Secretariat determined the registration of companies on the Consumidor.gov.br platform. Ordinance No. 12 was published in the Federal Official Gazette. The initiative was motivated by the significant increase in consumer demand during the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to the need for social distance in this period of exceptionality. The obligation only applies to companies or their respective economic groups if they have gross revenues of at least one hundred million reais in the last fiscal year; have reached a monthly average of 1,000 or more complaints in their customer service channels in the last fiscal year; or are sued in more than five hundred lawsuits that discuss consumer relationships. In case of non-compliance with the ordinance, false or misleading data in fulfilling the requirements, the supplier may be investigated for an infraction against the consumer protection and defense rules.²¹³¹

On 10 May 2021, the Ministries of Tourism and Justice launched courses on consumer rights. Tourism service providers and tourists from all over the country can enroll for free in one of the courses offered by the federal government related to consumer protection. The qualifications aim to offer legal certainty to companies and the citizen, in addition to improving the quality of consumer relations between the parties.²¹³²

On 28 May 2021, the National Data Protection Authority (ANPD) published the "Guidelines for the Definitions of Personal Data Processing Agents and Supervisors." The document seeks to establish guidelines that are not binding on treatment agents and explain who can exercise the functions of controller, operator and supervisor; the legal definitions; the respective liability regimes; concrete cases that exemplify ANPD's explanations and frequently asked questions on the subject.²¹³³

On 2 June 2021, Director-President of the National Data Protection Authority Waldemar Gonçalves Ortunho Júnior and the President of the Administrative Council for Economic Defense Alexandre Barreto de Souza signed Technical Cooperation Agreement destined the fight against activities that

²¹²⁹ Digital Government Law is sanctioned to increase public efficiency, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/lei-do-governo-digital-e-sancionada-para-aumentar-eficiencia-publica>

²¹³⁰ Government launches system for security control in compliance with data protection law, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-lanca-sistema-para-controle-de-seguranca-em-atendimento-a-lei-de-protecao-de-dados>

²¹³¹ National Consumer Secretariat determines the registration of companies on the Consumidor.gov.br platform, Brazilian government (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/secretaria-nacional-do-consumidor-determina-o-cadastro-de-empresas-na-plataforma-consumidor-gov.br>

²¹³² Ministries of Tourism and Justice offer courses on consumer rights, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/turismo/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerios-do-turismo-e-da-justica-ofertam-cursos-sobre-direitos-dos-consumidores>

²¹³³ ANPD Publishes Guidelines On Treatment Agents And Guardians, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-publica-guia-orientativo-sobre-agentes-de-tratamento-e-encarregado>

are harmful to the economic order and the promotion and dissemination of the culture of free competition in services that claim the protection of personal data.²¹³⁴

On 10 September 2021, ANDP and the National Consumer Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security launched the Guide “How to protect your personal data,” which focuses on consumer awareness of the importance of personal data. The material has a simplified language, in order to elucidate the themes that have great relevance, aiming to raise awareness and clarify the whole society, as it gathers information on Law No. 13,079 - the General Law for the Protection of Personal Data, with basic concepts and guidelines on consumer relations, governed by the Consumer Defense Code.²¹³⁵

Brazil has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, protect and empowering consumers, and address the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 2 December 2020, Minister of Justice David Lametti introduced a Charter Statement on the Bill C-11: An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act and the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, also known as Digital Charter Implementation Act 2020.²¹³⁶ The bill, if passed by Parliament, would introduce Consumer Privacy Protection Act, which will modernize Canada’s existing private sector privacy law, and will also create the new Personal information and Data Protection Tribunal Act, which will create the Personal Information and Data Tribunal, an entity that can impose administrative monetary penalties for privacy violations. Finally, the Act will repeal Part 2 of the existing Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act and turn it into stand-alone legislation, the Electronic Documents Act.²¹³⁷ A number of provisions under the proposed digital charter relate to transparency, accountability, and oversight by public institutions, attempting to limit the regulatory impact on privacy interests of citizens and businesses.²¹³⁸

²¹³⁴ ANPD and CADE sign Technical Cooperation Agreement, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/anpd-e-cade-assinam-acordo-de-cooperacao-tecnica>

²¹³⁵ National Data Protection Authority and National Consumer Secretariat launch guide "HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL DATA", Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/autoridade-nacional-de-protecao-de-dados-e-secretaria-nacional-do-consumidor-lancam-201ccomo-protoger-seus-dados-pessoais201d>

²¹³⁶ Bill C-11: An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act and the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 23 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/charter-charte/c11.html>.

²¹³⁷ Bill summary: Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2020, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/062.nsf/eng/00120.html>.

²¹³⁸ Bill C-11: An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act and the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020 23 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/charter-charte/c11.html>

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne launched the Cyber Security Innovation Network program. Canada pledged to support the program's implementation with an investment of CAD80 million over four years, funding the creation of a national network of centers of expertise on cyber security, affiliated with post-secondary institutions, in collaboration with private sector, non-profit organizations, provincial/territorial/municipal governments and other Canadian post-secondary institutions.²¹³⁹

On 14 May 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Darren Fisher announced the Federal Government's CAD750,000 investment to Ignite Fredericton, a non-profit business counselling organization, to "implement a provincial cybersecurity talent development strategy."²¹⁴⁰

Canada has taken actions in all three issue areas related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 24 November 2020, Xinhua announced the release of "Implementation Plan on Effectively Solving the Difficulties of the Elderly in Using Intelligent Technology." The plan insists on deploying new, more comprehensive and more straight-forward services for the elderly. The plan also proposes that in the future the elderly should not encounter any problems in using their smartphones. The technologies should meet all the basic needs of the elderly.²¹⁴¹

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will enhance the merger of digital economy with the «real» economy. Also, the "new infrastructure" (5G, data centers, software etc.) will see enhanced investments. Moreover, artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, cloud computing and cybersecurity were mentioned as digital industries to be fostered. The government will invest in the industries and create a good and safe environment for the development of digital economy.²¹⁴²

On 1 May 2021, "Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions" came into effect. The document was created in response to the issue of supervision of e-commerce. The

²¹³⁹ Government of Canada investing to position Canada as a global leader in cyber security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-investing-to-position-canada-as-a-global-leader-in-cyber-security.html>.

²¹⁴⁰ Federal Government Supports Growth in Cybersecurity Sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/federal-government-supports-growth-in-cybersecurity-sector.html>.

²¹⁴¹ The General Office of the State Council issued the "Implementation Plan on Effectively Solving the Difficulties of the Elderly in Using Intelligent Technology," Xinhua (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/24/content_5563861.htm

²¹⁴² The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

measures map out a series of standardized transaction behaviors and list operators' main responsibilities. The measurers will make it easier to protect the rights, interests and security of consumers.²¹⁴³

China has addressed digital security tasks, issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights but has not taken any steps to foster open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights; and security.

In December 2020, France resumed collection of its digital tax on tech companies; starting from July 2019 the 3 per cent digital services tax applies to revenues deemed to have been generated in France by digital companies, wherever they are established, which make annual supplies of taxable services of more than EUR25 million in France and EUR750 million worldwide; in February 2020, the French tax administration confirmed that companies liable for digital tax could postpone to December 2020 the payment of the instalments due in April and October 2020; the final 2020 amount due will be paid in 2021.²¹⁴⁴

On 21 January 2021, the French National Assembly adopted a draft amendment to the draft bill "Consolidating the principles of the Republic," which would have the consequence of modifying the French Law for Trust in the Digital Economy of 21 June 2004; the new obligations will apply to all platforms, whether established in France or abroad; (i) which list, rank or share content uploaded by third parties (such as social media platforms and search engines); and (ii) whose activity in France exceeds a threshold of user connections. The law is called to be in place before European-wide Digital Service Act is put in place, and will put platform operators under more onerous obligations in relation to online harmful content (including apologies of crimes or terrorism, incitement to racial or religious hatred), including cooperation with authorities in the fight against the dissemination of harmful content, implementation of reporting tools and notice action, complaint and redress mechanism, transparency reporting and risk-auditing mechanism.²¹⁴⁵

On 15 February 2021, it was reported that France was pushing for the EU's upcoming regulations on Big Tech (Digital Services Act) to be changed so that member states could individually wield more power to punish bad behavior, police more types of content and force tech companies to remove illegal content (currently, only countries where tech companies have their headquarters can enforce the EU's laws).²¹⁴⁶

On 31 March 2021, it was reported that according to the French highest administrative court Council of State ruling organizations can deploy legal and technical safeguards to meet their obligations under

²¹⁴³ The "Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions" will come into effect on May 1 this year, Xinhua (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/16/content_5593218.htm

²¹⁴⁴ France to resume collection of digital tax, Pinsent Masons (Paris) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/france-to-resume-collection-of-digital-tax>

²¹⁴⁵ Ahead of time, online platforms may have to anticipate the Digital Service Act in France, Lexology (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=1174ed22-9390-40a9-8fdd-366680580810>

²¹⁴⁶ France pushes for big changes to proposed EU tech regulation, Financial Times (London) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/5e41d0cf-a83c-4817-997e-a353858137ab>

EU data protection law when seeking to prevent US authorities from accessing personal data stored with their outsourcing providers; the ruling was made in relation to data processing operations subject to the US surveillance framework concerning the data hosting arrangements (on Amazon's affiliate's servers in Europe) within the French vaccination program for COVID-19.²¹⁴⁷

On 1 April 2021, transition period ended with respect to application of the revised French data protection supervisory authority (CNIL) guidance on the practical procedures for collecting consent concerning cookies and other trackers (issued in October 2020) – making the guidance mandatory; the Revised Guidelines provide the CNIL's guidance on how to read and comply with the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act.²¹⁴⁸

On 5 April 2021, it was reported that CNIL questioned Apple's privacy compliance, having indicated that Apple may not be obtaining proper consent when using first-party tracking methods such as cookies, which may be characterized as a potential major breach of regulations.²¹⁴⁹

On 16 April 2021, it was reported that the Council of State was to decide whether to allow the widespread retention of connection data; several decrees put forward by the French government request operators to store data such as identifiers, IP addresses, names and associated addresses, and lists of telephone antennas used, for criminal investigations or national security purposes, which is assessed as breach of the EU regulation.²¹⁵⁰

On 20 April 2021, it was reported that France starting from 29 April 2021 would become the first EU country to start testing digital COVID-18 travel certificates as part of a Europe-wide scheme that Brussels hopes will allow people to travel more freely within the bloc by the summer.²¹⁵¹

In February 2021, it was reported that President Emmanuel Macron pledged to allocate new investment (in different sources from EUR500 million to EUR1 billion for development of France's national security strategy and assisting companies and public authorities boost their cyber defense capabilities; it was further reported that President Macron set the goal to triple the annual sales of French cyber-security companies to EUR25 billion in 2025 from EUR7.3 billion in 2019, and double the number of jobs in the sector by 2025.^{2152, 2153} In the same month, France launched the ExpertCyber initiative that certifies French companies that both install and maintain security products, as well as provide incident response services; organizations in any sector can use the ExpertCyber directory to check whether a particular company is certified, or to search for providers that meet their specific requirements; dozens of service providers have apparently been convinced

²¹⁴⁷ French GDPR ruling addresses US surveillance powers, Pinsent Masons (Paris) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/french-gdpr-ruling-addresses-us-surveillance-powers>

²¹⁴⁸ France: The cookies transition period will end in a few days – starting April 1st, organizations must comply with the CNIL's revised guidelines on cookies and trackers, Lexology (London) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f10f5a9a-46aa-407b-9616-6a09a057d14a>

²¹⁴⁹ France's Data Protection Authority Has Questions About Apple's Privacy Compliance, CPO Magazine (Singapore) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-protection/frances-data-protection-authority-has-questions-about-apples-privacy-compliance/>

²¹⁵⁰ France to decide whether to allow widespread retention of connection data, Euractiv (Brussels) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/data-protection/news/france-to-decide-whether-to-allow-widespread-retention-of-connection-data/>

²¹⁵¹ France is first EU member state to start testing digital Covid travel certificate, The Guardian (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/20/france-is-first-eu-member-state-to-start-testing-digital-covid-travel-certificate>

²¹⁵² France to Boost Cyber Security Defenses After Attacks, Insurance Journal (San Diego) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2021/02/18/601658.htm>

²¹⁵³ Emmanuel Macron pledges €1bn for cybersecurity after hospital ransomware attacks, Healthcare IT News (Portland) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/emea/emmanuel-macron-pledges-1bn-cybersecurity-after-hospital-ransomware-attacks>

that the ExpertCyber label might give them an edge when pitching for business from organizations contending with surging ransomware attacks and an attack surface enlarged for COVID-19-related reasons.²¹⁵⁴

On 6 May 2021, it was reported that French Expertise Centre for Digital Regulation and the Directorate General for Enterprise signed a scientific partnership agreement for digital regulation. The move provides an opportunity to take stock of the needs of government departments in this area, and to focus on the development of methods and algorithms to support them in their monitoring of the practices of these digital platforms.²¹⁵⁵

On 7 June 2021, the French Autorité de la Concurrence delivered the first-ever decision in the world establishing that Google's ad tech practices are in breach of EU competition law. The decision resulted from an investigation launched after Geradin Partners filed a complaint before the Autorité on behalf of News Corp (owner of among others The Wall Street Journal and The Times) in summer 2019. The decision was adopted within the context of a so-called "transaction procedure" available in France, according to which Google agreed not to contest the charges of the Autorité. The decision imposed on Google a fine of EUR220 million and rendered binding a series of commitments proposed by Google.²¹⁵⁶

On 18 June 2021, Secretary of State for the Digital Economy Cédric O announced more regulation was needed to control a tech industry that is "evolving as an oligopoly." Speaking at the VivaTech 2021 conference in Paris, he said national governments were beginning to realize that big tech companies were not putting the public interest first and that more regulation is needed "both on competition and on the economic side, but also on the content regulation side."²¹⁵⁷

On 22 July 2021, CNIL published its decision, of 20 July 2021, whereby it imposed a fine of EUR1.75 million on AG2R La Mondiale, a mutual insurance group company, for violations of right to be informed and storage limitation principle, following an audit carried out in 2019. In particular, the decision outlines that AG2R La Mondiale had stored the data belonging to millions of prospective and current clients for an excessive period as it had not complied with the required time periods.²¹⁵⁸

On 29 July 2021, it was reported that the CNIL fined the SOCIÉTÉ DU FIGARO EUR50,000 for depositing advertising cookies on the lefigaro.fr website without obtaining the prior consent of Internet users. The CNIL, after receiving a complaint, carried out several checks between 2020 and 2021 on the news website lefigaro.fr. These checks revealed that when a user visited this site, cookies were automatically placed on his computer by the company's partners, without any action on his part

²¹⁵⁴ French certification scheme for infosec service providers off to promising start, The Daily Swig (Manchester) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/french-certification-scheme-for-infosec-service-providers-off-to-promising-start>

²¹⁵⁵ The regulation of digital platforms: French government takes the lead, Inria (Rocquencourt) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021 <https://www.inria.fr/en/regulation-digital-platforms-pere-regalia>

²¹⁵⁶ Google fined € 220 million by French competition authority over abusive ad tech practices, Geradin partners acting for complainant news corp, Geradin Partners (Brussels) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September. <https://www.geradinpartners.com/google-fined-e-220-million-by-french-competition-authority-over-abusive-ad-tech-practices-geradin-partners-acting-for-complainant-news-corp/>

²¹⁵⁷ VivaTech 2021: Cédric O says tech 'oligopoly' must be regulated to defend the public interest, Euronews (Lyon) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/next/2021/06/18/vivatech-2021-cedric-o-says-tech-oligopoly-must-be-regulated-to-defend-the-public-interest>

²¹⁵⁸ France: CNIL imposes €1.75M fine to AG2R La Mondiale for violations of right to be informed and storage limitation principle, DataGuidelines (Atlanta) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://www.dataguidance.com/news/france-cnil-imposes-%E2%82AC175m-fine-ag2r-la-mondiale>

or despite his refusal. Several of these cookies were used for advertising purposes and should have been subject to the user's consent.²¹⁵⁹

France has taken actions in all three issue areas related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, France is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 16 December 2020, Germany passed a draft bill for a “Second Bill To Increase The Security of Information Technology Systems.” The purpose was to implement proceedings to avert threats to cyber and information security for the state, the economy and society including Significant extension of the powers of the Federal Office for Information Security and Expansion of obligations affecting operators of critical infrastructures and companies of special public interest.²¹⁶⁰

On 19 January 2021, the 10th Amendment of the German Competition Act entered into force. It was implemented to provide the German Federal Cartel Office with an efficient instrument against alleged digital monopolists to keep digital markets open. The Amendment also introduced changes to the German Competition Act concerning antitrust investigations procedure cartel damage claims.²¹⁶¹

On 19 January 2021, the German government announced initiative on the rolling out gigabit capable internet connections nationwide by 2025 and to ensure across-the-board mobile communications coverage.²¹⁶²

On 19 January 2021, Germany unveiled another coronavirus stimulus package, with EUR50 billion for a raft of projects addressing climate change, innovation, solar and wind power, and digitization.²¹⁶³

Germany has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergei Vasilkovsky

²¹⁵⁹ Cookies: 50.000 euro GDPR-fine against SOCIÉTÉ DU FIGARO by the French CNIL, CNIL (Paris) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.cnil.fr/en/cookies-penalty-50000-euros-against-societe-du-figaro>

²¹⁶⁰ Regulatory Pressure For Cybersecurity Increases: Key Aspects of the German Federal Government's Draft Bill for an IT Security Act 2.0 and Next Steps in the Legislative Process (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=b3fc4c47-2835-44d0-9775-fb8ffe2dee0a>

²¹⁶¹ “Digitalization Act”: Significant Changes to German Antitrust Rules, Gibson Dunn (Berlin) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gibsondunn.com/digitalization-act-significant-changes-to-german-antitrust-rules/>

²¹⁶² Resolving the crisis, progressing with structural transformation, the Federal Government (Berlin) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/annual-economic-report-2021-1845890>

²¹⁶³ Resolving the crisis, progressing with structural transformation, the Federal Government (Berlin) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/annual-economic-report-2021-1845890>

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 24th November 2020, India released the list of 43 mobile apps, deemed a threat to public and national security, that will be blocked in India, including e-commerce apps.²¹⁶⁴

On 9th December 2020, India, together with Better Than Cash Alliance, co-organized a joined Peer Exchange in order to promote digital payments and to work jointly towards the goal of “Digital India for all.”²¹⁶⁵

On 21 June 2021, India proposed Amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules adopted in 2020. Proposed amendments aim to bring transparency in e-commerce platforms and further strengthen the regulatory regime.²¹⁶⁶

India has addressed digital security tasks, issues related to fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, but has not taken any steps to fight the issue of privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Irina Popova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 29 December 2020, the Central Bank issued Regulation No. 22/23/PBI/2020 pertaining to the restructuring of the regulatory framework of payment systems, including the reclassification of the activities of payment service operators, and shifting the regulatory framework from an entity-based approach to activity and risk-based approach, enabling Central Bank to better mitigate potential risks in the country’s financial system; the regulation also issues new requirements with regards to share ownership and capital, which could impact foreign investors in the payment services industry. The regulation is part of the Indonesia 2025 Payment System Blueprint aimed at supporting banking digitalization, integration of the digital economy and interlink between fintech and the banking sector, as well as ensuring innovation, consumer protection, and healthy business competition, and safeguarding national interests in cross-border digital economy and finance transactions.²¹⁶⁷

On 16 February 2021, it was reported that the Financial Services Authority (OJK) was to release the guidelines for digital banks operations by the middle of 2021; instead of detailed regulation OJK

²¹⁶⁴ Government of India blocks 43 mobile apps from accessing by users in India, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1675335>

²¹⁶⁵ India and UN-Based Better Than Cash Alliance organized a joint Peer learning exchange on fintech solutions for responsible digital payments at the last mile, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679436>

²¹⁶⁶ Proposed Amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1729201>

²¹⁶⁷ Bank Indonesia Issues Regulation on Payment Systems, ASEAN Briefing (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/bank-indonesia-issues-regulation-on-payment-systems/>

made a choice for the set of guiding principles on how banks operate digitally and mitigate any of their risks that may occur.²¹⁶⁸

On 13 April 2021, President Joko Widodo issued a presidential executive order to augment the institutional authority of the National Cyber and Crypto Agency as an agency reporting directly to the president, enhancing both its agility and authority outside individual ministry, and coordinating ministry frameworks, and to strengthen the agency's structure, functions, responsibilities and funding base, thereby boosting its efficiency and enhancing national security, sovereignty, and data protection. The above decree is expected to be followed by three related decrees pertaining to the release of Indonesia's first national cybersecurity strategy 2020-24, the management of national cyber crises, and vital national information infrastructure.²¹⁶⁹

On 3 May 2021, it was reported that the Commodity Futures Trade Regulatory Agency proposed imposing a final income tax on any transaction involving a digital currency on licensed exchanges; the proposal was at the time under review by other regulators.²¹⁷⁰

On 12 July 2021, the Directorate General of Taxes (DGT) has revealed that USD114 million (IDR1.65 trillion) was recouped in the first half of 2021 as a result of the VAT rules that apply to the cross-border supply of digital services. The figures released by the DGT show a 125 per cent increase since the second half of 2020 as well as a significant increase in the number of additional digital businesses that had been nominated as VAT collectors by the DGT.²¹⁷¹

On 30 July 2021, it was reported that the Indonesian Business Competition Supervisory Commission (KPPU) issued a regulation at the end of May 2021 on the enforcement of fines for monopolistic practices and unfair business competition. KPPU Regulation No. 2 of 2021 aims to provide certainty in the enforcement of administrative fines regulated under Government Regulation No. 44 of 2021 regarding the Implementation of the Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices and Unfair Business Competition to conform with the provisions in the Omnibus Law.²¹⁷²

On 11 August 2021, it was reported that the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information Communications Technology for Development conducted a virtual seminar on Data Protection and Privacy for Indonesia. The event was co-organized with the Ministry of Communications and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia. The webinar's aim was to enhance understanding among policymakers, regulators and civil servants on the importance of data privacy and protection; emphasize the role of data privacy legislation; and share information on international frameworks. Sessions also discussed the data privacy laws and regimes of the Republic of Korea, Singapore and other selected countries, and contributed to Indonesia's efforts for strengthening data protection and privacy in the country.²¹⁷³

²¹⁶⁸ Guidelines for digital banks in Indonesia to be released by mid-year, The Straits Times (Singapore) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/guidelines-for-digital-banks-in-indonesia-to-be-released-by-mid-year>

²¹⁶⁹ Indonesia responds to the cyber dark side, Lowy Institute (Sydney) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/indonesia-responds-cyber-dark-side>

²¹⁷⁰ Indonesia proposes tax on digital currency transactions, Coingeek (Montreal) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/indonesia-proposes-tax-on-digital-currency-transactions/>

²¹⁷¹ Indonesia tax on digital services raises USD114m in first half of 2021, TAXAMO (Kerry) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://blog.taxamo.com/insights/indonesia-tax-digital-services>

²¹⁷² Indonesia: Indonesia's Business Competition Body Issues New Regulation On Enforcement Of Fines, Mondaq (New York) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/antitrust-eu-competition-/1097666/indonesia39s-business-competition-body-issues-new-regulation-on-enforcement-of-fines>

²¹⁷³ Indonesia Webinar on Data Protection and Privacy, APCICT (Inchon) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unapcict.org/news/indonesia-webinar-data-protection-and-privacy>

On 17 August 2021, it was published that Indonesia's digital economy expanded by 11 per cent to USD44 billion in 2020 from USD40 billion in 2019, showing resilience amid the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Mrs Hastin Dumadi, Head of the Economic Department in the Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore. The digital economy contributed 4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product in 2020. By 2030, Indonesia's digital economy is projected to be accelerating at over 23 per cent compound annual growth rate.²¹⁷⁴

On 24 August 2021, the Indonesian government set a target that the country's digital economic growth may account for around 40 per cent of the digital economy market in ASEAN by 2025. Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi made the remark during a meeting with the Commission VI of the House of Representatives of Indonesia.²¹⁷⁵

Indonesia has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, protect and empowering consumers, and address the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 25 April 2021, the Government of Italy presented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament. The plan is a part of the European Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic-induced crisis. EUR40.32 billion of the EUR191.5 billion Italian package (around 27 per cent) are to be spent on the digitalization priorities. Among them are: migration to the cloud of central and local public administrations; creating a national infrastructure and supporting administrations in the transformation path; enhanced interoperability between government data; digitization of key procedures/user interfaces; state-of-the-art digital services for citizens; strengthening cybersecurity; enhancing citizens' basic digital skills; introducing new regulatory framework to speed up procurement of information and communications technologies and encourage interoperability by administrations; supporting justice reform interventions through investments in digitization and management of the backlog of cases.

On 30 April 2021, the Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition put forward the "Italia Digitale 2026" program to support the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.²¹⁷⁶ The five goals under the program are: spread digital identity, ensuring it is used by 70 per cent of the population; close the digital skills gap, with at least 70 per cent of the population being digitally skilled; bring about 75 per cent of Italian public administration offices to use cloud services; achieve at least 80 per cent of essential public services delivered online; ensure universal

²¹⁷⁴ Indonesia's digital economy grows to US\$44 billion, The Business Times (Singapore) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/hub/indonesia-76th-independence-day/indonesias-digital-economy-grows-to-us44-billion>

²¹⁷⁵ Indonesian aims for 40 per cent of Asean's digital economy market share by 2025, The Star (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/08/24/indonesian-aims-for-40-per-cent-of-asean039s-digital-economy-market-share-by-2025>

²¹⁷⁶ Next Generation Italia, the government plan approved, Italian Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/next-generation-italia-approvato-il-piano-del-governo/>

access to ultra-wideband networks.²¹⁷⁷ “Italia Digitale 2026” also provided for the implementation of the National Cyber Security Perimeter framework over the upcoming five years. Its objectives include increasing cyber protection of public administration offices and critical infrastructure; strengthening technical capabilities for the continuous assessment and audit of the security of electronic equipment and applications used for the provision of critical services; and enhancing skills of law enforcement and public security personnel.²¹⁷⁸

Italy has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 24 November 2020, an appeal for opinions was announced on a draft revision to the Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field.²¹⁷⁹

On 18 December 2020, another appeal for opinions was announced on draft revision to the Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field. On the same date, guidelines based on previously shared opinions were released with an ordinance to four telecommunications carrier-related associations to start complying with them.²¹⁸⁰

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications announced establishment of the Internet Traffic Study Group to discuss and study various issues on the Internet route from an overall perspective to ensure the quality of internet services and appealed for public proposals on various issues on the Internet route and countermeasures.²¹⁸¹

On 4 December 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications announced appeal for opinions on draft revision to Commentary for Guidelines for Protection of Personal Information in Telecommunications Business, a draft of the Guidelines for Issuance of a Business Improvement

²¹⁷⁷ Digital Italy 2026, Italian Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://innovazione.gov.it/dipartimento/focus/italia-digitale-2026/#gli-obiettivi-italia-digitale-2026>

²¹⁷⁸ The strategic role of Cybersecurity, Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/il-ruolo-strategico-della-cybersecurity/>

²¹⁷⁹ Appeal for Opinions on Draft Revision to Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/11/24_04.html

²¹⁸⁰ Appeal for Opinions on Draft Revision to Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field, Release of Revised Guidelines, and Request for Compliance with Guidelines, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/18_09.html

²¹⁸¹ Appeal for Proposals to Ensure the Quality of Internet Services in New Daily Lives, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/02_02.html

Order to Prevent Hindrance in Ensuring the Secrecy of Communications, and a draft Reference Document on How to Obtain Consent.²¹⁸²

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released Master Plan 3.0 on the Regional Development of Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Infrastructure, providing for infrastructure development in disadvantaged areas for ICT and accelerated development of 5G infrastructure.²¹⁸³

On 3 June 2020, the Act to Improve the Transparency and Fairness of Specified Digital Platforms was promulgated. The act brings significant effect on the business practices of certain digital platform operators active in the Japanese market as it requires them to: (i) disclose information such as terms and conditions of their transaction with counter parties (such as merchants operating online stores on the digital platforms); (ii) develop fair procedures and systems; and (iii) submit an annual report on their business operations to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.²¹⁸⁴ It also empowers the government to assess compliance, publicize the results of its assessment, and take necessary actions to enforce compliance, including issuing fines for violations. The act provides that it will become effective on or before 2 June 2021.²¹⁸⁵ The act's enforcement date was later stipulated by Japan's Cabinet as 1 February 2021.²¹⁸⁶

On 15 January 2021, Japan signed its first of such kind Comprehensive Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India, which contains among others provisions on cyber security.²¹⁸⁷

On 22 January 2021, the State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications presented the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2021 on cooperation and collaboration in the ICT field between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEANS), which contains among others provisions on cyber security.²¹⁸⁸

On 26 January 2021, the Cabinet in its order defined categories and scales of businesses to designate "specified digital platforms" under the Act to Improve the Transparency and Fairness of Specified Digital Platforms; in particular, (i) businesses operating comprehensive online shopping malls selling goods and having sales of 300 billion yen or more per fiscal year in Japan, and (ii) businesses

²¹⁸² Appeal for Opinions on Draft Revision to Commentary for Guidelines for Protection of Personal Information in Telecommunications Business, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/04_03.html

²¹⁸³ Release of Master Plan 3.0 on the Regional Development of ICT Infrastructure, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/25_01.html

²¹⁸⁴ Global competition around the world: Japan, Lexology (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=76fd2569-c913-466c-af3c-83d5f570cd71>

²¹⁸⁵ Japanese Legislature Passes Act to Regulate Big Tech Platforms, Winston and Strawn LLP (Chicago) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.winston.com/en/competition-corner/japanese-legislature-passes-act-to-regulate-big-tech-platforms.html#!/closed_state

²¹⁸⁶ Cabinet Decisions Made on Two Cabinet Orders for the Act on Improving Transparency and Fairness of Digital Platforms, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0126_003.html

²¹⁸⁷ Signing of the First Comprehensive Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/1/15_07.html

²¹⁸⁸ Result of First ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting with Japan, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 22 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/1/25_01.html

operating application stores and having sales of 200 billion yen or more per fiscal year in Japan were defined as those subject to the act.²¹⁸⁹

On 1 February 2021, new measures by Japanese government became effective to improve the transparency and fairness of digital platforms. It sets out principles for certain digital platform providers identified according to the size of their sales in Japan (JPY300 billion for B-to-C shopping malls and JPY200 billion for B-to-C application stores).²¹⁹⁰

On 4 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) established a study group on the “digital industry” to discuss ways to accelerate digital transformation in business, and achieve growth by providing new value to society while coping with changes in the global competitive environment.²¹⁹¹ Further, on 1 March 2021, METI established a study group on international taxation in the digital economy to elaborate ideal approaches to fair international taxation that contributes to enhancement of Japanese companies’ competitiveness and vitalization of the Japanese economy amid the acceleration of economic digitalization.²¹⁹²

On 24 February 2021, the 26th EU-Japan ICT dialogue meeting took place: Japan presented its efforts to improve 5G security, and the Smart City Information Security Guidelines, while the EU expressed interest in Japan’s call for cooperation through the activities of the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre; the parties agreed to continue exchanging opinions in the field of cybersecurity.²¹⁹³

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 2021 recipients of Cybersecurity Encouragement Prizes of Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications; the Ministry has been recognizing individuals and organizations showing outstanding achievements in the forefront fields of cybersecurity since 2017.²¹⁹⁴

On 4 March 2021, the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry jointly released the Report on the Status of the Occurrence of Acts of Unauthorized Computer Access and the Progress of Research and Development on Technology Relating to Access Control Features, as part of their efforts to develop environments that hinder unauthorized computer access in order to prevent crimes.²¹⁹⁵

From 8 to 12 March 2021, METI and the Industrial Cyber Security Center of Excellence under the Information-technology Promotion Agency, in collaboration with the government of the United States hosted the Japan-US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Week; as an integral part of the

²¹⁸⁹ Cabinet Decisions Made on Two Cabinet Orders for the Act on Improving Transparency and Fairness of Digital Platforms, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0126_003.html

²¹⁹⁰ WTO Report on G20 Trade Measures (mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021), WTO OMC (Washington DC) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/report_trdev_jun21_e.pdf

²¹⁹¹ Study Group on Creation of Digital Industry to be Inaugurated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0204_001.html

²¹⁹² “Study Group on International Taxation in the Digital Economy” to be Inaugurated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0301_001.html

²¹⁹³ Result of 26th Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/2/26_07.html

²¹⁹⁴ Announcement of Recipients of Cybersecurity Encouragement Prizes of Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/2/26_08.html

²¹⁹⁵ Report Compiled on the Status of the Occurrence of Acts of Unauthorized Computer Access and the Progress of Research and Development on Technology Relating to Access Control Features, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0304_004.html

Cybersecurity Week, Japan, the US, and the European Union have for the first time launched the Japan-US-EU seminars on cybersecurity in the post-COVID environment.²¹⁹⁶

On 1 April 2021, METI formulated the Cyber/Physical Security Guidelines for the Safety and Security of Smart Homes. The guidelines organize matters regarding cyber/physical security measures in smart homes and the minimum necessary measures that each stakeholder should consider. In order to meet the needs of stakeholders with diverse knowledge and backgrounds, the guidelines group the security measures into stages, from simple countermeasure guides to specific countermeasure requirements and comparisons with international standards.²¹⁹⁷

On 30 April 2021, METI presented the results of its examination of measures to ensure the sustainability of Japanese filmmaking, including improving the business and working environment for freelancers. Detailed studies of the issues involved in enhancing fairness at film production worksites were conducted from August 2020 to March 2021 through various bodies created for the purpose. Specifically, a preparatory committee was set up for establishing an Organization for Enhancing Fair Film Production (provisional name), and this was accompanied by working groups formed to study the following specialized areas: system design; formulating certification standards; and measures for human resource development, etc.²¹⁹⁸

On 21 June 2021, it was reported that recognizing the need for standards aimed at ensuring the safety and security of an IoT society being recognized internationally, Japan had proposed a standard based on the IoT Security Guidelines, etc. and a standard based on the IoT Security Guidelines, General Framework for Secure IoT Systems, and the IPA's "IoT" series. The former was proposed to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 (Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection), and the latter to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC41 (Internet of things and digital twin).²¹⁹⁹

On 3 August 2021, Japan's Personal Information Protection Commission published its long-awaited Guidelines to amendments enacted in 2020 (the "2020 amendments") to Japan's Act on the Protection of Personal Information (APPI). While many of the 2020 amendments do not take effect until 1 April 2022, they aim of APPI, among other things, is to strengthen penalties (these amendments took effect in 2020), introduce mandatory reporting of certain breaches, strengthen the extraterritorial application of the APPI, and expand the scope of data that is protected under the APPI.²²⁰⁰

On 6 August 2021, it was reported that Japan issued the outline for its "Next Cyber Strategy" on the 7 July 2021, to be approved by Cabinet within 2021. This strategy has a three-year planning period and has been prepared in the backdrop of increasing cyber-attacks from China stemming from deteriorating relations over Taiwan. This strategy has been formalized after soliciting public comments by the special task force on cybersecurity strategies headed by Chief Cabinet Secretary

²¹⁹⁶ Japan-US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Week for the Indo-Pacific Region in FY2020, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0315_001.html

²¹⁹⁷ Cyber/Physical Security Guidelines for the Safety and Security of Smart Homes Formulated, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_004.html

²¹⁹⁸ Report Compiled on Enhancing Fairness at Film Production Worksites, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0430_002.html

²¹⁹⁹ New International Standard for Safe Use of IoT Products and Systems Issued, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0621_003.html

²²⁰⁰ Official Guidelines issued for Japan's upcoming data privacy law amendments, JDSupra (San Francisco) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/official-guidelines-issued-for-japan-s-8097428/>

Katsunobu Kato, with the goal to “enhance defense, deterrence and assessment capabilities and strengthen cooperation among relevant bodies to protect security interests”.²²⁰¹

On 19 August 2021, it was reported that a total of six meetings of the “Study Group on International Taxation in the Digital Economy” had been held since March this year. The outcomes have now been compiled into an interim report, which is to be published later in 2021. ²²⁰²

Japan has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 7 December 2020, the Financial Services Commission unveiled its plans to introduce a routine inspection of personal data protection at financial institutions to ensure consistency in data protection and improve accountability. The plans include establishing specific inspection standards according to the data lifecycle, providing feedbacks on a regular basis through Financial Security Institute and setting up self-inspection guidelines for financial institutions.²²⁰³

On 6 January 2021, the Government of Korea presented the 2021 Action Plan for Digital New Deal. The Digital New Deal is a national innovation project that invests a total of KRW58.2 trillion (approximately USD51.6 billion) into advance data, network and AI-based economic structure, digital infrastructure and regulatory reform. The government aims to create 900,000 new jobs in information communications and technology (ICT)-related spheres by 2025.²²⁰⁴

On 25 February 2021, the Government of Korea presented the 4th Basic Plan for Nurturing and Supporting Scientific Talents for 2021 – 2025 period. The Plan outlines three main policy goals: attract talents with capabilities to respond to future changes; sustain and expand the scientific talent pool; and advance ecosystem for “transforming into a country that attracts talented workforce.” The Ministry of Science and ICT estimated a total of more than KRW25 trillion (approximately USD22.2 billion) would be invested from relevant departments and local governments to support 180

²²⁰¹ Japan’s new cyber security strategy: Significant dimensions, The Times of India (Mumbai) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/ChanakyaCode/japans-new-cyber-security-strategy-significant-dimensions/>

²²⁰² Interim Report of “Study Group on International Taxation in the Digital Economy” Compiled, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0819_002.html

²²⁰³ FSC to Introduce Routine Inspection of Personal Data Protection at Financial Institutions, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 07 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/22547>

²²⁰⁴ 2021 Action Plan for Digital New Deal, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://english.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=2&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=483&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

thousand future researchers in promising areas such as Artificial Intelligence technologies, biotechnologies and renewables.²²⁰⁵

On 23 March 2021, Secretary of Planning and Policies of Science, Technology and Innovation Diego Hurtado representing Argentina's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, participated in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum whose central theme was the "Association for the Innovation and Digital Inclusion" organized by Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Secretary Hurtado celebrated the organization of this forum, the purpose of which is to consolidate efforts to share experiences in the face of digital transformation and promote Korea-Latin America cooperation in the areas of digital infrastructure, digital government, smart city and cybersecurity.²²⁰⁶

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-Yong Chung invited Mexico's National Digital Strategy Coordination of Mexico to participate virtually in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum. The head of the National Digital Strategy Coordination Carlos Emiliano Calderón Mercado "highlighted the importance of digital sovereignty for information security, since each country must maintain control of its technological operation and strengthen technical measures to reduce cybersecurity risks, under a continuous improvement model. Likewise, he explained that technological autonomy offers countries the opportunity to define the training areas for their public servants, as well as the possibility of implementing focused strategies and tools compatible with the infrastructure, the reuse of source code and a greater use of standards. open. He pointed out that information security management implies carrying out institutional evaluations to make a timely detection of vulnerabilities, mitigate risks against possible threats and coordinate between institutions, the implementation of a protocol for incident management. cybernetics, with the aim of standardizing the actions of identification, protection, detection, response and recovery of information in the event of a cybersecurity incident."²²⁰⁷

On 13 May 2021, the Ministry of Science and Technology presented the Strategy to realize trustworthy artificial intelligence. The Strategy will be implemented step by step until 2025. Among the Strategy's goals – "set the criteria for high-risk artificial intelligence which may pose a potential threat to the citizens" safety or basic rights and make service providers "notify" users of whether the risky artificial intelligence will be used."²²⁰⁸

Korea has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

²²⁰⁵ Establish the 4th Basic Plan for Nurturing and Supporting Scientific Talents (2021 – 2025), Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://english.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=490&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

²²⁰⁶ Argentina participó del Foro de Cooperación Digital Corea-Latinoamérica 2021, Government of Argentina 23 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-participo-del-foro-de-cooperacion-digital-corea-latinoamerica-2021>

²²⁰⁷ Soberanía digital, estrategia clave para la seguridad de la información, plantea la CEDN ante Ministerios de TIC de Corea y Latinoamérica [Digital sovereignty, a key strategy for information security, raises the CEDN before ICT Ministries of Korea and Latin America], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/cedn/es/articulos/soberania-digital-estrategia-clave-para-la-seguridad-de-la-informacion-plantea-la-cedn-ante-ministerios-de-tic-de-corea-y-latinoamerica>

²²⁰⁸ MSIT announced Strategy to realize trustworthy artificial intelligence, the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-Si) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://english.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=509&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 19 January 2021, “the Tax Administration Service (SAT) reiterated its commitment to taxpayers to safeguard their confidential information, which is provided when they carry out procedures on the Portal with the use of the Password or the e.signature.”²²⁰⁹ The SAT constantly carries out “actions to identify situations that put taxpayers’ operations at risk: Identifies atypical behaviors in the issuance of invoices; sends messages through the Tax Mailbox informing about operations that need to be corrected in order to avoid fines or other more severe measures; disables passwords at risk or passwords of taxpayers who have been reported by the health and public registry authorities as deceased to avoid identity theft and the improper use of their data.”²²¹⁰

On 25 January 2021, “in order to reduce risk situations for students and teachers as Internet users, in addition to contributing to making girls, boys, adolescents and young people less vulnerable to harmful content of the digital age, the National College of Technical Professional Education and Microsoft, presented the e-Book Digital Security Essentials... This joint action seeks to generate in the student community a culture of digital coexistence, raise awareness about habits and behaviors in risk situations, as well as good practices, in addition to helping to protect privacy, increase security and teach how to be a good digital citizen.”²²¹¹

On 25 March 2021, General Guidelines for the Protection of Personal Data for the Public Sector entered into force. It obligated subjects to enable on its institutional Internet portal, a section called “Protection of Personal Data.”²²¹²

On 7 April 2021, Carlos Emiliano Calderón Mercado, head of the National Digital Strategy Coordination, was invited by Korea’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-Yong Chung to participate virtually in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum. He “highlighted the importance of digital sovereignty for information security, since each country must maintain control of its technological operation and strengthen technical measures to reduce cybersecurity risks, under a continuous improvement model. Likewise, he explained that technological autonomy offers countries the opportunity to define the training areas for their public servants, as well as the possibility of implementing focused strategies and tools compatible with the infrastructure, the reuse of source code and a greater use of standards. open. He pointed out that information security management implies carrying out institutional evaluations to make a timely detection of vulnerabilities, mitigate risks against possible threats and coordinate between institutions, the implementation of a protocol for incident management. cybernetics, with the aim of standardizing

²²⁰⁹ Seguridad y protección de datos del contribuyente [Taxpayer data security and protection], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sat/prensa/seguridad-y-proteccion-de-datos-del-contribuyente-011-2021>

²²¹⁰ Seguridad y protección de datos del contribuyente [Taxpayer data security and protection], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sat/prensa/seguridad-y-proteccion-de-datos-del-contribuyente-011-2021>

²²¹¹ Boletín SEP no. 20 Fortalece CONALEP la formación de alumnos y profesores con una nueva herramienta para fomentar la Seguridad Digital [SEP Bulletin no. 20 CONALEP strengthens the training of students and teachers with a new tool to promote Digital Security], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 25 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-sep-no-20-fortalece-conalep-la-formacion-de-alumnos-y-profesores-con-una-nueva-herramienta-para-fomentar-la-seguridad-digital>

²²¹² Personal data protection, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/cenetec/acciones-y-programas/proteccion-de-datos-personales-267758>

the actions of identification, protection, detection, response and recovery of information in the event of a cybersecurity incident.”²²¹³

On 23 April 2021, Cyber Incident Response Center of the National Guard’s Scientific Directorate issued Responsible digital identity recommendations. It explained what information can be stolen, what situations are the riskiest and gave advice on how to protect the data and what to do in case of fraud.²²¹⁴

On 3 May 2021, Federal Consumer Prosecutor’s Office issued the Code of Ethics in Electronic Commerce. It is a set of values and principles that all member suppliers must observe in activities related to electronic commerce, in order to: respect and promote the rights of the consumer population, promote a culture of responsible consumption, promote human rights of consumers, promote ethical and responsible digital advertising, protect vulnerable groups, encourage self-regulation.²²¹⁵

On 1 September 2021, Federal Consumer Prosecutor's Office launched the call for suppliers of goods, products or services to participate in obtaining of the Profeco Digital Distinction, for promoting and strengthening security, transparency and confidentiality in electronic commerce. The recognition will be granted to those providers that stand out for providing the consumer with the proper information, greater reliability and legal certainty in transactions through the use of electronic, optical or any other technology.²²¹⁶

Mexico has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation promulgated the Order No. 777 “On Implementation of Recommendations on Certification of Communication Devices Used in Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning

²²¹³ Soberanía digital, estrategia clave para la seguridad de la información, plantea la CEDN ante Ministerios de TIC de Corea y Latinoamérica [Digital sovereignty, a key strategy for information security, raises the CEDN before ICT Ministries of Korea and Latin America], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/cedn/es/articulos/soberania-digital-estrategia-clave-para-la-seguridad-de-la-informacion-plantea-la-cedn-ante-ministerios-de-tic-de-corea-y-latinoamerica>

²²¹⁴ Identidad digital responsable [Responsible digital identity], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/gncertmx/articulos/105224>

²²¹⁵ Código de Ética en materia de Comercio Electrónico [Code of Ethics in Electronic Commerce], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/profeco/es/articulos/codigo-de-etica-en-materia-de-comercio-electronico>

²²¹⁶ Profeco launches call for suppliers to obtain Digital Badge, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 1 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/profeco/prensa/lanza-profeco-convocatoria-a-proveedores-para-obtener-distintivo-digital?idiom=es>

of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure.”²²¹⁷ The Recommendations are a restricted circulation document that has never been presented for public discussion.

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation promulgated the Order No. 779 “On Technical and Organizational Measures to Promote Information Security of Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure.”²²¹⁸

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation promulgated the Order No.780 “On Detecting Threats to Stability, Security and Integrity of the Internet and public access networks in the Russian Federation.”²²¹⁹ The list of threat to stability, security and integrity of information networks in Russia hasn’t been presented for public consideration.

On 15 February 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation declared starting of the federal project “Cadres for the Digital Economy” aimed at wider spread of digital skills among administrative personnel, governmental officials and education specialists.²²²⁰

On 18 February 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation initiated the “KLIK” program that is designed to facilitate digital transformation of Russia’s economy by wider spread of digital skills, especially data-related competencies. Vice Minister Eugeny Kislyakov said that the program would contribute to further improvement of the effectiveness of business and government bodies’ performance.²²²¹

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation presented amendments to the Federal Law “On Personal Data.” The Ministry proposed to introduce several restrictions on personal data operators to limit their capability to identify an information owner with exceptions implying threats to a subject’s health and security.²²²²

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation and the Internet Initiatives Development Fund launched a joint initiative to accelerate development of Russian IT start-ups. The program is designed to promote skills and

²²¹⁷ Order №777 “On Implementation of Recommendations on Certification of Communication Devices Used in Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/documents/7446/>

²²¹⁸ Order №789 “On Technical and Organizational Measures to Promote Information Security of Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/documents/7442/>

²²¹⁹ Order №780 “On Detecting Threats to Stability, Security and Integrity of the Internet and public access networks in the Russian Federation,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/documents/7450/>

²²²⁰ Start of the “Digital Economy” educational program, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40374/>

²²²¹ Selection for Digital Economy Training Started, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40394/>

²²²² Ministry of Digital Development of Russia to Discuss Amendments to the Federal Law “On Personal Data,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40498/>

competencies development among information technology entrepreneurs along with boosting start-ups investment attractiveness.²²²³

On 27 July 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development announced the launch of a new digital education platform “Gotov k Cifre” (“Ready for Digital”). The platform will aggregate digital educational resources to facilitate spread of digital skills and competences.²²²⁴

On 14 September 2021, Russia approved the set of measures to facilitate the national IT industry. These measures are designed to promote demand on Russia-made digital solutions, accelerate the digital transformation and create open environment for IT-businesses. The package includes 62 measures that involve lifting of legal restrictions on implementation of cut-edge solutions and new digital standards, financial support for establishment of new national digital platforms and training of personnel.²²²⁵

Russia has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 30 December 2020, Saudi Arabia approved the launch of new digital economy policy to encourage investment, accelerate local technical leadership and to attract international partnerships based on transfer of expertise and cooperation in the field of innovation and technical and digital transformation.²²²⁶

On 10 March 2021, Saudi Arabia approved the establishment of the Digital Government Authority. The Authority is tasked with preparing the national eGovernment strategy; overseeing digital government platforms, websites, services and networks; establishing technical standards for government digital transformation models; and regulating Saudi Arabia’s government cloud. The launch of the Authority is expected to further accelerate digital transformation and the provision of e-government services in the Kingdom.²²²⁷

On 30 May 2021, the Communications and Information Technology Commission announced the implementation of a regulatory framework to beef up cybersecurity in Saudi Arabia. The

²²²³ Ministry of Digital Development of Russia Invites Russian IT Strat-Ups to Participate in Acceleration Program, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40934/>

²²²⁴ A New Online Service “Ready for Digital” Launched in Russia, the Ministry of Digital Development of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 27 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/41195/>

²²²⁵ The Government approved the second package for promotion of IT-industries, the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <http://government.ru/news/43255/>

²²²⁶ Saudi Arabia launches digital economy policy to become competitive, diversify, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/601959>

²²²⁷ Access Alert: Saudi Arabia’s New Digital Government Authority, Access Partnership (Riyadh) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.accesspartnership.com/access-alert-ksas-new-digital-government-authority/>

“cybersecurity regulatory framework” for service providers in the communications, IT, and postal services sector aims to raise the security levels of service providers. It seeks to ensure the implementation of adequate cybersecurity measures compliant with the best international practices.²²²⁸

On 6 August 2021, it was reported that Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah Alswaha, during his speech to the G20 digital economy ministers’ meeting, said that Saudi Arabia topped the list of leading countries in the digital economy. According to minister, NEOM City, the largest global platform for innovators, is an ideal example of harmonizing regulation and innovation, to achieve well-being through the adaptation of technology and innovation.²²²⁹

On 15 September 2021, the Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia approved the Personal Data Protection Law, which will take effect on 13 March 2022. In a statement, Saudi Data and AI Authority President Abdullah bin Sharaf Alghamdi said the law would accelerate Saudi Arabia’s digitization efforts while helping to create an information-based society. The law protects the rights related to processing personal data, regulates their sharing between entities, and prevents their misuse, and will therefore enhance the local economy and build trust in the data sector.²²³⁰

Saudi Arabia has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 19 January 2021, South Africa launched a new educational program for public servants to promote digital skills. Another aim of the program is to teach public officials necessary crisis management and leadership skills. The program is a joint venture in partnership with the Ecole Nationale d’Administration of France.²²³¹

On 25 February 2021, the National Treasury announced allocation of ZAR217 billion (approximately USD14 billion) to promote economic growth. The sum is said to be spent over the next three years. Over the medium term, ZAR5.3 billion (approximately USD3.6 billion) would be set aside for the Department of Science and Innovation to scale up interventions supporting the local production of

²²²⁸ Saudi Arabia implements cybersecurity framework, The Arab News (Riyadh) 30 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1867196/business-economy>

²²²⁹ Saudi Arabia leads in global digital economy, minister says, the Arab News (Riyadh) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1906631/business-economy>

²²³⁰ Saudi Arabia approves law to protect personal data, India TV (Riyadh) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world/saudi-arabia-approves-law-protect-personal-data-latest-international-news-updates-734006>

²²³¹ Public servants to get training on digital transformation, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/public-servants-get-training-digital-transformation>

ventilators, nano satellites, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, and renewable energy research development and pilots.²²³²

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the Department of Basic Education had submitted amendments to the national school curriculum. Some schools in South Africa were said to incorporate the new coding and robotics curriculum in 2021. The new curriculum was submitted for consideration by the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training.²²³³

On 11 March 2021, South Africa decided to relocate extra funds to fulfil the obligations under the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. Further reprioritization is considered as a part of the Medium-Term Budget process that would take place later this year.²²³⁴

On 15 June 2021, the Government Communication and Information System and the Ministry of Communication and Digital Technologies hosted a masterclass on digital skills development for the youth. Representatives of the governmental authorities and private entities including Google joined to younger generations for the fast-changing technological landscape.²²³⁵

South Africa takes steps to promote digital security and empower consumers by means of skills development. However, no actions aimed at fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory have been founded within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 4 December 2020, Regulation 31324 on the Processing of Personal Data and Protection of Privacy in the Electronic Communication Sector was published in the Official Gazette; the Regulation has been developed in accordance with the general personal data protection rules established in the Electronic Communication Law and the Personal Data Protection Law, and is aimed to ensure the protection and privacy of personal data in the communications sector and the regulation of procedures and principles regarding operators' relevant data protection obligations. The Regulation defines the minimum technical and administrative measures that must be taken by operators to ensure the safety of their services and personal data, including establishing required security policies; protection of personal data against data breaches such as unauthorized or unlawful access to, or the damage, loss, or disclosure of such data; ensuring the security of systems storing

²²³² R217 billion allocated for economic growth programmes, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r217-billion-allocated-economic-growth-programmes>

²²³³ Some schools to start piloting coding, robotics curriculum, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/some-schools-start-piloting-coding-robotics-curriculum>

²²³⁴ NSFAS to release funds for new qualifying students, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/nsfas-release-funds-new-qualifying-students>

²²³⁵ Government hosts Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities, 15 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-25-jun-11-jun>

personal data. The Regulation further clarifies the procedures and principles that apply to the obligation to obtain consent.²²³⁶

On 22 December 2020, the Data Protection Authority published a new decision, numbered 2020/966, which highlights the importance of the general principles that personal data processed must be accurate and up-to-date. The Decision emphasizes that the data controller has an active duty of care and that it is crucial to verify that personal data is accurate and up to date. The Decision states that in order to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data, the channels for collecting personal data must be clearly defined. In addition, reasonable measures must be taken, such as checking through verification codes, to avoid harm to the data owner due to the inaccuracy of personal data.²²³⁷

On 30 December 2020, it was reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan signed the country's new national cyber security plan (2020-2023) prepared by Turkey's Transport and Infrastructure Ministry in coordination with the non-governmental organizations, universities, public and private sectors; Turkey's National Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan include 40 actions and 75 implementation steps in relation to strategic objectives, including to protect the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, to develop national technological tools for operational needs and to enhance the competencies of teams fighting cyber threats.²²³⁸

On 12 January 2021, it was reported that the Data Protection Authority launched an investigation into WhatsApp over its new data-sharing rules (sharing of more personal data with Facebook), while the Competition Authority opened a probe into Facebook and WhatsApp and suspended the messenger's new data collection rules in the country. The investigations will look into such issues, as general compliance with personal data protection legislation, data processing conditions and data transfer abroad.²²³⁹

On 12 March 2021, Turkey unveiled the details of a major new economic reform package as pledged by the president last November; as a part of the reform a digital tax office will be established which will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to enable the public to carry out transactions in the digital environment without personally visiting a tax office.²²⁴⁰

On 15 March 2021, it was reported that Turkey promoted the establishment of a "cyber security cluster," made up of local companies that produce software and hardware, aiming to make indigenous products dominant in the country; the cluster currently comprises 180 Turkish companies.²²⁴¹

²²³⁶ The Regulation on the Processing of Personal Data and Protection of Privacy in the Electronic Communication Sector Published | Turkey, ICLG (Ankara) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://iclg.com/briefing/15242-the-regulation-on-the-processing-of-personal-data-and-protection-of-privacy-in-the-electronic-communication-sector-published-turkey>

²²³⁷ Turkey: New decision of the Turkish Data Protection Authority, Lexology (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9add5710-ca4f-445a-93c7-ff73c73a913e>

²²³⁸ Turkey reveals its three-year cybersecurity plan, TRT World (Istanbul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/turkey-reveals-its-three-year-cybersecurity-plan-42820>

²²³⁹ Turkish watchdog opens WhatsApp probe over new rules, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/turkish-watchdog-opens-whatsapp-probe-over-new-rules/2107212>

²²⁴⁰ Turkey announces landmark new economic reform package, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkey-announces-landmark-new-economic-reform-package/2173910>

²²⁴¹ Turkey promotes indigenous 'Cyber Security Cluster': Defense industries head, Hurriyet (Ankara) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-promotes-indigenous-cyber-security-cluster-defense-industries-head-163129>

On 5 April 2021, it was reported that Turkish Data Protection Authority launched a direct investigation into Facebook over a user data leak.²²⁴²

On 21 June 2021, the Personal Data Protection Authority published a summary of its decision 2021/426, dated 27 April 2021, in which it fined a software company TRY400,000 (approx. EUR38,695) for data security and breach notification failures under the Law on Protection of Personal Data No. 6698. In particular, it was highlighted that the company had failed to take the necessary technical and administrative measures pursuant to Article 12(1) of the Law and failed to notify the Authority within the prescribed time frame pursuant to Article 12(5) of the Law.²²⁴³

On 10 August 2021, it was reported that in July 2021, the Turkish Personal Data Protection Board published nine decisions and announced five data breach notifications. The insurance industry came under particular scrutiny, as four of the nine published decisions relate to insurance companies. Another important data protection development in July was the publication in the Official Gazette of the Constitutional Court's decision on an individual application regarding the right to request the protection of personal data.²²⁴⁴

On 3 September 2021, the Personal Data Protection Authority fined WhatsApp nearly EUR200,000 for violating privacy rules. The Facebook-owned messaging platform had “not clearly stated” how it would process its users’ data and for what purpose. The Authority ordered the app to bring its privacy policy in line with Turkey’s laws.²²⁴⁵

On 14 September 2021, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of Azerbaijan held a meeting with a delegation headed by the Chairman of the Digital Transformation Office of the Turkish Presidential Administration, Ali Taha Koc. Issues of implementing the concept of digital transformation of Azerbaijan, cybersecurity, personal data protection, the “government cloud”, as well as other issues of upcoming cooperation were discussed. The “Roadmap of the Azerbaijani-Turkish Working Group on Digital Transformation between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of Azerbaijan and the Digital Transformation Office of the Turkish Presidential Administration” was signed.²²⁴⁶

Turkey has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

²²⁴² Turkey launches probe into Facebook over data leak, Hurriyet (Ankara) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-launches-probe-into-facebook-over-data-leak-163708>

²²⁴³ Turkey: KVKK fines software company TL 400,000 for data breach, DataGuidelines (Atlanta) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/turkey-kvkk-fines-software-company-tl-400000-data>

²²⁴⁴ Turkey: Two-minute Recap Of Recent Developments In Turkish Personal Data Protection Law – July 2021, Mondaq (New York) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/data-protection/1100144/two-minute-recap-of-recent-developments-in-turkish-personal-data-protection-law-july-2021>

²²⁴⁵ Turkey fines WhatsApp €197,000 over controversial privacy update, Euronews (Lyon) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/09/03/turkey-fines-whatsapp-197-000-over-controversial-privacy-update>

²²⁴⁶ Azerbaijani-Turkish Working Group develop roadmap on digital transformation, Turkic World (Antalya) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://turkic.world/en/articles/economy/12807>

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 16 March 2021, the UK published the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. It stated the bearing of new capabilities for the National Cyber Force. Learning from the pandemic, it bolstered national resilience with a new Situation Centre at the heart of government, improving use of data and the ability to anticipate and respond to future crises.²²⁴⁷

On 30 April 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office published the UK/EU and Eurasian Economic Community: Trade and Cooperation Agreement, there were fixed the existing levels of liberalisation in UK and EU markets, confirming both sides' leadership in this area and commitment to openness, as well as obligations on net neutrality, which fulfilled the UK's dual aims of securing commitments towards an open internet and protecting the safety of users online.²²⁴⁸

On 10 May 2021, the fourth annual report on the National Cyber Security Centre's Active Cyber Defence programme was released. It disclosed it had taken down more scams in the last year than in the previous three years combined as the organization moved to further protect the UK public and critical services such as the National Health Service during the COVID-19 pandemic.²²⁴⁹

The United Kingdom has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

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

Analyst: Sergei Vasilkovsky

United States: 0

United States has partially complied with the commitment to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, protect and empowering consumers, and address the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 14 December 2020, the Federal Trade Commission, in cooperation with 19 federal, state, and local law enforcement partners announced a “nationwide crackdown on scams that target consumers with fake promises of income and financial independence that have no basis in reality,” nicknamed “Operation Income Illusion.” The crackdown encompassed more than 50 law enforcement actions

²²⁴⁷ Integrated Review sets vision for stronger, more secure, prosperous and resilient nation, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/975077/Global_Britain_in_a_Competitive_Age_the_Integrated_Review_of_Security_Defence_Development_and_Foreign_Policy.pdf

²²⁴⁸ UK/EU and EAEC: Trade and Cooperation Agreement [TS No.8/2021], Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>

²²⁴⁹ Active Cyber Defence – The fourth Year, the National Cyber Security Centre (London) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/files/Active-Cyber-Defence-ACD-The-Fourth-Year.pdf>

targeting work-from-home and employment scams, pyramid schemes, investment scams, bogus coaching courses, and other schemes.²²⁵⁰

On 3 February 2021, the Federal Trade Commission announced that it had sent refunds totaling around USD4.7 million to 10,249 victims of the Digital Altitude business coaching scheme.²²⁵¹

On 22 February 2021, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency announced seven grant awards to the Secure and Resilient Mobile Network Infrastructure project. The awards, totaling USD9.75 million, were aimed at “developing protections for legacy cellular networks — 2G, 3G and 4G, building security into the newly launched 5G network, and developing end-to-end protection of network traffic, including a standardized secure voice capability for unclassified government communications.”²²⁵²

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency announced two additional grant awards to the Secure and Resilient Mobile Network Infrastructure project. The two awards, USD915,000 and USD1.2 million, respectively, are focused on developing solutions designed to “improve the government’s visibility into mobile device network traffic to identify malware, attacks or attempts to extract data from or through mobile devices.”²²⁵³

On 12 May 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the Executive Order on Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity. The Order aims to: remove barriers to threat information sharing between government and the private sector; modernize and implement stronger cybersecurity standards in the federal government; improve software supply chain security; establish a cybersecurity safety review board; create a standard playbook for responding to cyber incidents; improve detection of cybersecurity incidents on federal government networks; and improve investigative and remediation capabilities.²²⁵⁴

The United States has taken actions in two of the three issue areas related to digital growth: empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

²²⁵⁰ As Scammers Leverage Pandemic Fears, FTC and Law Enforcement Partners Crack Down on Deceptive Income Schemes Nationwide, Federal Trade Commission (Washington, DC) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2020/12/scammers-leverage-pandemic-fears-ftc-law-enforcement-partners>

²²⁵¹ FTC Sends Nearly \$4.7 Million to Victims of Digital Altitude Business Coaching Scheme, Federal Trade Commission (Washington, DC) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2021/02/ftc-sends-nearly-47-million-victims-digital-altitude-business>

²²⁵² News Release: DHS Announces Seven R&D Awards to Help Secure Nation’s Mobile Network Infrastructure, Department of Homeland Security (Washington, DC) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2021/02/22/news-release-dhs-announces-rd-awards-help-secure-mobile-network-infrastructure#>

²²⁵³ News Release: DHS Announces Two R&D Projects to Enhance Mobile Network Traffic Security, Department of Homeland Security (Washington, DC) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2021/03/08/news-release-dhs-announces-two-rd-projects-enhance-mobile-network-traffic-security>

²²⁵⁴ Executive Order on Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity, the White House (Washington, DC) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/12/executive-order-on-improving-the-nations-cybersecurity/>

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

In December 2020, the European Commission proposed the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act. One of the main goals of the two initiatives is to create a safer digital environment and ensure the fundamental rights of all users of digital services are protected. The Acts include a set of rules to improve consumer safety across online platforms in the EU, including online marketplaces, to make consumers equally safe when shopping online or offline. Platforms are obliged to step up efforts to tackle traders selling fake or unsafe products and to stop fraudulent companies using their services.²²⁵⁵

On 16 December 2020, was adopted the new EU's Cybersecurity Strategy in the Digital Decade. It stated that the EU should boost the security of essential services and strength collective capabilities and international stability in cyberspace.²²⁵⁶

On 2 March 2021, the Agency for Cybersecurity and the Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU Institutions, Bodies and Agencies announced the signature of a memorandum of understanding to enhance the cybersecurity.²²⁵⁷

On 23 April 2021, the European Union's lead data protection supervisor called for remote biometric surveillance in public places to be banned outright under incoming AI legislation.²²⁵⁸

On 12 May 2021, the Commission proposed new rules and actions aiming to turn Europe into the global hub for trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI). The combination of the first-ever legal framework on AI and a new Coordinated Plan with Member States would guarantee the safety and fundamental rights of people and businesses, while strengthening AI uptake, investment and innovation across the EU.²²⁵⁹

On 12 May 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the formulation of a set of principles to promote and uphold EU values in the digital space. These principles aimed to guide the EU and Member States in designing digital rules and regulations that deliver the benefits of digitalisation for all citizens.²²⁶⁰

The EU has taken strong actions that match all three areas: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

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

Analysts: Sergei Vasilkovsky and Andrey Shelepov

²²⁵⁵ The Digital Services Act package, European Commission (Brussels) December 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-services-act-package>

²²⁵⁶ The EU's Cybersecurity Strategy in the Digital Decade (Brussels) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/eus-cybersecurity-strategy-digital-decade>

²²⁵⁷ ENISA and CERT-EU sign Agreement to start their Structured Cooperation (Brussels) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/news/enisa-news/enisa-and-cert-eu-sign-agreement-to-start-their-structured-cooperation>

²²⁵⁸ EU's top data protection supervisor urges ban on facial recognition in public (Brussels) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://techcrunch.com/2021/04/23/eus-top-data-protection-supervisor-urges-ban-on-facial-recognition-in-public>

²²⁵⁹ Europe fit for the Digital Age: Commission proposes new rules and actions for excellence and trust in Artificial Intelligence (Brussels) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/europe-fit-digital-age-commission-proposes-new-rules-and-actions-excellence-and-trust-artificial>

²²⁶⁰ Europe's Digital Decade: Commission launches consultation and discussion on EU digital principles (Brussels) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2288

6. International Taxation: Tax Systems

“We will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | 0 | |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | | +1 |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.90 (95%) | |

Background

International taxation has been a longstanding item of importance on the G20’s agenda. As early as the first G20 leaders’ summit in 2008, G20 leaders committed to medium-term actions to promote tax information exchange and transparency through the work of tax authorities and under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).²²⁶¹ In the Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy adopted in 2008, G20 leaders recognized the importance of tax cooperation to promoting integrity in financial markets.

At the subsequent summit in London in 2009, G20 leaders pledged to “take action against non-cooperative jurisdictions, including tax havens,” which do not meet international standards of tax transparency.²²⁶² In an annexed summit outcome document, the Declaration on Strengthening the Financial System, G20 leaders committed to facilitating the access of developing countries to “the benefits of a new cooperative tax environment.”²²⁶³

²²⁶¹ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Washington DC) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

²²⁶² London Summit – Leaders’ Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.pdf>

²²⁶³ Declaration on Strengthening the Financial System – London Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009ifi.pdf>

In September 2009, G20 leaders convened at the ensuing summit in Pittsburgh and noted collective progress in fighting non-cooperative jurisdictions. In the leaders' statement, G20 leaders committed to advancing "momentum in dealing with tax havens, money laundering, proceeds of corruption, terrorist financing, and prudential standards."²²⁶⁴

At the Seoul summit in 2010, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to "preventing non-cooperative jurisdictions from posing risks to the global financial system and welcomed the ongoing efforts by the FSB, Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information (Global Forum), and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), based on comprehensive, consistent and transparent assessment."²²⁶⁵ Furthermore, the leaders pledged to "build sustainable revenue bases for inclusive growth and social equity by improving developing country tax administration systems and policies and highlighting the relationship between non-cooperative jurisdictions and development."²²⁶⁶

In November 2011, G20 leaders convened in Cannes, France, and adopted outcome documents that contained unilateral commitments on tax reform. G20 members such as the United States, France, Japan, India, Italy, and Germany individually committed to policy actions such as growth-friendly reduction of tax expenditures and other employment-friendly tax reforms.²²⁶⁷ In the summit declaration, G20 leaders collectively reaffirmed their commitment to protecting "public finances and the global financial system from the risks posed by tax havens and non-cooperative jurisdictions," with an emphasis on supporting tax systems in Least Developed Countries.²²⁶⁸

At the Los Cabos Summit in 2012, G20 leaders renewed their "commitment to strengthen transparency and comprehensive exchange of information" and welcomed the "OECD report on the practice of automatic information exchange," reaffirming the leaders' intention to implement this practice.²²⁶⁹ Moreover, G20 leaders highlighted "the need to prevent base erosion and profit shifting," also under the framework of the OECD.²²⁷⁰ At the same summit, G20 leaders adopted the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, which contains a commitment to engage in tax and expenditure reforms to improve debt-to-GDP ratios and strengthen medium-term foundations for growth.²²⁷¹

At the St. Petersburg Summit in 2013, G20 leaders dedicated a section of the leaders' declaration to "Addressing Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Tackling Tax Avoidance, and Promoting Tax Transparency and Automatic Exchange of Information."²²⁷² This includes a commitment to improve "rules to tackle tax avoidance, harmful practices, and aggressive tax planning" and "ensure confidentiality and the proper use of information exchanged" under the proposed "new single

²²⁶⁴ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html

²²⁶⁵ The Seoul Summit Document, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-doc.html>

²²⁶⁶ The Seoul Summit Document, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-doc.html>

²²⁶⁷ 2011 G20 Cannes Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2011cannes.html>

²²⁶⁸ 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: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

²²⁶⁹ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html

²²⁷⁰ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

²²⁷¹ The Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos-actionplan.html>

²²⁷² G20 Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

standard for automatic exchange of information.”²²⁷³ Other summit commitments from 2013 elucidated the need to share expertise, build the capacity of developing countries, and tackle tax crimes.²²⁷⁴

At the Brisbane Summit in 2014, G20 leaders welcomed “progress on the G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan to modernize international tax rules.”²²⁷⁵ They also committed to enhancing tax transparency, combating cross-border tax evasion, building tax administration capacity and other tax-related areas of work.²²⁷⁶

In 2015, at the Antalya Summit in Turkey, G20 leaders reaffirmed “previous commitments to information exchange on-Request as well as to automatic exchange of information.”²²⁷⁷ They also pledged to “strengthen developing economies’ engagement in the international tax agenda.”²²⁷⁸

At the Hangzhou Summit hosted by China in September 2016, G20 leaders committed to continue their “support for international tax cooperation to achieve a globally fair and modern international tax system and to foster growth, including advancing on-going cooperation on base erosion and profits shifting,” exchange of tax information, capacity-building for developing countries, growth-promoting tax policies, tax certainty, and taxation-based channels of terrorist financing.²²⁷⁹ In addition, the Hangzhou Action Plan attributed a section to “Tax for Growth,” which included commitments on coordinated tax policies for a “fair and efficient international tax system.”²²⁸⁰

At the 2017 summit hosted by Germany in Hamburg, G20 leaders reiterated their pledge to a “globally fair and modern international tax system” and the BEPS package.²²⁸¹ The leaders emphasized the implementation of agreed international standards on tax transparency, tax certainty, capacity-building, tax evasion, and emerging tax challenges from a digitalized economy.²²⁸² The spotlight on tax cooperation was further advanced by the Hamburg Action Plan, which inscribed a commitment to enhancing international tax cooperation, automatic exchange of information, and tax aid effectiveness, among other areas.²²⁸³

²²⁷³ G20 Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

²²⁷⁴ G20 Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

²²⁷⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>

²²⁷⁶ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>

²²⁷⁷ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

²²⁷⁸ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

²²⁷⁹ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

²²⁸⁰ Hangzhou Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-action.html>

²²⁸¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸³ G20 Hamburg Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-hamburg-action-plan.html

At the 2018 summit hosted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, G20 leaders emphasized the importance of secure sustainable tax systems.²²⁸⁴ They also recognized the tax implications of digitalization of the economy and the importance of tax capacity-building for developing countries. The leaders echoed previous pledges on the BEPS package and committed to “a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system based in particular on tax treaties and transfer pricing rules.”²²⁸⁵

In 2019, G20 leaders convened in Osaka, Japan, and reiterated their commitment to “a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.”²²⁸⁶ They further echoed previous pledges to tax capacity-building in developing countries, as well as the Inclusive Framework on BEPS and its efforts to address tax challenges arising from digitalization.²²⁸⁷ They noted the importance of enhanced cooperation through tax treaties, exchange of financial account information, implementation of OECD and tax transparency standards, tax capacity-building, and the BEPS package.²²⁸⁸

The consistent prominence of international taxation as an agenda item at the G20 leaders’ level reflects the breadth and depth of this issue area. In the G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration adopted on 21 November 2020, G20 leaders continued their track record of emphasis on international taxation by committing that “we will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.”²²⁸⁹

Commitment Features

The present commitment is situated in the following paragraph of the G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration on International Taxation:

“We will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system. We welcome the Reports on the Blueprints for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 approved for public release by the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS. Building on this solid basis, we remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021. We welcome the report approved by the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the tax policy implications of virtual currencies. We welcome the progress made on implementing the internationally agreed tax transparency standards and on the established automatic exchange of information. We will continue our support to developing countries in strengthening their tax capacity to build sustainable tax revenue bases.”²²⁹⁰

To define the key terms in this commitment, “cooperation” is understood to mean “the action or process of working together to the same end.”²²⁹¹ “Fair” is defined as treating one “in a way that is

²²⁸⁴ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸⁵ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸⁷ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²²⁸⁹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²²⁹⁰ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²²⁹¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

right or reasonable” or as one expects or deserves.²²⁹² In the context of taxation, “fair” is understood in the context of individuals and corporations paying their due share of taxes.²²⁹³ As an objective, fair taxation can be facilitated by policies that seek to address tax avoidance through the designation of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, or other measures to prevent base erosion and profit shifting practices that undermine the integrity of taxation systems.²²⁹⁴

“Sustainable” is understood to mean the ability to continue over a long time or be maintained with momentum.²²⁹⁵ “Modern” means designed and made using “recently developed ideas, methods or styles.”²²⁹⁶ For example, efforts to strive for a modern tax system may include adjusting the design and administration of tax systems and international rules to respond to digital transformations in the global economy.²²⁹⁷ Other elements of a modern tax system may include e-invoicing and voluntary compliance and self-assessment procedures, which seek to remove obstacles for growth, mitigate cyclical volatility, and improve the re-distributional aspects of taxation.²²⁹⁸

The concept of the “international tax system” refers to the architecture of rules, controls, and instruments that govern cross-border taxation, striving to ensure stability, certainty and consistency as the underpinning principles of this international regulatory regime.²²⁹⁹ The international tax regime predominantly focuses on individual and corporate income tax, addressing issues such as the allocation of taxing rights between source and resident countries. International taxation and effective governance thereof are essential for business activities, investment attraction, comparative advantages in international trade, curbing crime and corruption, and a range of distributional and growth-related domestic political economy issues. Hence, the importance of policy coordination between G20 economies in the issue area of international taxation cannot be understated.

To contextualize the scope of actions that constitute “cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system,” one may draw upon fifteen actions developed under the OECD/G20 BEPS Project. Actions by G20 governments in line with the areas provided below may be considered to fall within the parameters of the present commitment. The indicative list constitutes a set of rules and instruments to address tax evasion and improve domestic and international taxation architectures:

“Action 1 Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation: dealing with the large range of tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy to develop a consensus-based solution by mid-2021

Action 2 Neutralising the Effects of Hybrid Mismatch Arrangements: preventing hybrid mismatch arrangements from being used for BEPS while minimising impact on cross-border trade and investment

²²⁹² Fair, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fair>

²²⁹³ Fair Taxation: EU updates list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_262

²²⁹⁴ Joint Action for Efficient and Fair Taxation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 20 July 2013. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/joint-action-efficient-fair-taxation.htm>

²²⁹⁵ Sustainable, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sustainable>

²²⁹⁶ Modern, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/modern>

²²⁹⁷ Tax and Digitalization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/tax-and-digitalisation.pdf>

²²⁹⁸ Modern Tax Systems, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) n.d. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Tax_and_Revenue/Taxpayerengagement/Report_1/section?id=committees%2Freportrep%2F024169%2F25967

²²⁹⁹ Global Taxation, International Chamber of Commerce (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://iccwbo.org/global-issues-trends/competitive-markets/global-taxation/>

Action 3 Controlled Foreign Company: reducing the incentive of taxpayers to shift income from a market country into foreign subsidiaries in a low-tax jurisdiction

Action 4 Limitation on Interest Deductions: establishing rules that link an entity's net interest deductions to its level of economic activity within the jurisdiction

Action 5 Harmful Tax Practices: countering harmful tax practices with a focus on improving transparency

Action 6 Prevention of Tax Treaty Abuse: developing model tax treaty provisions and recommendations to prevent treaty abuse

Action 7 Permanent Establishment Status: preventing artificial avoidance of permanent establishment status in tax treaties through commissionaire structures and more

Actions 8-10 Transfer Pricing: guidance for applying the arm's length principle

Action 8 Intangibles

Action 9 Risks and Capital

Action 10 High-Risk Transactions

Action 11 BEPS Data Analysis: collecting and analyzing data on the economic and fiscal effects of tax avoidance behaviours and on the impact of measures proposed under the BEPS Project

Action 12 Mandatory Disclosure Rules: requiring taxpayers and advisors to disclose aggressive tax planning arrangements to tax authorities

Action 13 Country-by-Country Reporting: improving tax transparency

Action 14 Mutual Agreement Procedure: making dispute resolution between jurisdiction more timely, effective, and efficient

Action 15 Multilateral Instrument: implementing the tax treaty-related BEPS recommendations to address vulnerabilities in existing tax treaties²³⁰⁰

In the context of the commitment's paragraph (reproduced above) and previous commitments made by G20 leaders on international taxation, the scoring of this commitment is divided into two pillars of cooperation: 1) bilateral or plurilateral cooperation and 2) cooperation through multilateral frameworks. While the former refers to state-to-state cooperation, often ad hoc in nature or based on "coalitions of the willing" arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding, the latter form of cooperation takes place through channels of established multilateral institutions. Such multilateral institutions may include, but are not limited to, the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS, United Nations agencies, and other summits such as the G7 and BRICS.²³⁰¹

The depth dimension, or the strength of the action required to demonstrate compliance, is qualified by the phrase "continue our cooperation." This is interpreted to mean the G20 leaders are building on already existing work.

²³⁰⁰ BEPS Actions, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/>

²³⁰¹ About the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-about.htm/>

Full compliance, or a score of +1, is assigned to G20 members that demonstrate substantial policy action in both pillars of the commitment by working with other governments. The G20 member must cooperate through both bilateral/plurilateral inter-state channels and multilateral frameworks to demonstrate they have continued to cooperate on this issue. This can include financial pledges, legislative and legal action, the establishment of partnerships, high-level meetings and summits, draft proposals, technical assistance projects, signature and ratification of international agreements etc. Members that take strong action in one of the two dimensions, but slightly less than strong action in the other will still receive a score for full compliance.

Partial compliance includes all actions that are less than strong. This includes verbal reaffirmations of the commitment through a public statement, simply attending a meeting with no evidence of the members' individual contribution etc. A member receives a score of 0 if it demonstrates less than strong compliance across the commitment. In other words, full compliance necessitates strong policy action on at least one of the dimensions of cooperation at the inter-state level. If the G20 member introduced reforms to its domestic tax policies with no cross-border implications, yet the policy actions align with the objectives of the OECD/G20 BEPS Project, such actions would still fall within the scope of partial compliance.

Non-compliance, denoted by -1, is scored by G20 members that did not engage in any cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member did NOT continue its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system. |
| 0 | G20 member PARTIALLY continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system through bilateral/plurilateral arrangements OR multilateral institutions. |
| +1 | G20 member FULLY continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system through bilateral/plurilateral arrangements AND multilateral institutions. |

*Compliance Director: Angela Min Yi Hou
Lead Analyst: Chan Wai Suet Gi Gi*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.

On 28 January 2021, Argentina signed an agreement with the US to exchange country-by-country reporting on the tax affairs of large multinational groups, allowing assessments of multinational companies' tax avoidance activities through inappropriate transfer pricing or other means.²³⁰²

On 12 March 2021, Argentina enacted Law No. 27613, which introduced tax incentives for real estate investment and a voluntary disclosure program on the possession of national and/or foreign currency.²³⁰³

²³⁰² US, Argentina agree to exchange country-by-country reports on large multinationals, MNE Tax (Washington, DC) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://mnetax.com/us-argentina-agree-to-exchange-country-by-country-reports-of-large-multinational-42276>

On 20 March 2021, the government presented a proposal to change individual and corporate income tax laws. It proposed to raise income tax bracket rates for large companies to compensate for the shortfall created by the pandemic. It further proposed to maintain a 25 per cent tax rate on small companies and create a 7 per cent tax on the distribution of profits for companies.²³⁰⁴

On 20 May 2021, the Central Bank and the National Securities Commission issued a joint statement warning investors and users about “the risks and implications involved in using and investing in crypto-assets” and recommended a prudent approach.²³⁰⁵

On 16 June 2021, Argentina enacted Law 27630 to amend its corporate income tax law. This created a progressive range of tax from 25 per cent to 35 per cent, up from the previous flat rate of 25 per cent.²³⁰⁶

On 18 June 2021, Argentina issued General Resolution 5010/2021, which extended the due dates for transfer pricing filings and introduced a simplified regime for transfer pricing information reporting.²³⁰⁷ It also amended General Resolution 4717 to state that unless specific conditions are satisfied, taxpayers cannot use an entity with operating losses as a comparable for transfer pricing purposes.²³⁰⁸

On 21 June 2021, Argentina extended the deadline for multinational corporations to submit transfer pricing reports for tax purposes to accommodate for delays and difficulties caused by the pandemic.²³⁰⁹

On 28 June 2021, Finance Minister Martin Guzman expressed support for the idea of a global minimum tax, which was proposed by the G7. He agreed that such an idea could be useful for developing countries but proposed that the global minimum corporate tax rate be higher, citing 21 per cent and 25 per cent as potential minimum rates.²³¹⁰

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Argentina joined the OECD’s statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will “re-allocate some taxing rights over multinational enterprises (MNEs) from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence

²³⁰³ Argentina: National Executive Branch enacts Law No. 27,613 that provides tax benefits for real estate projects and the voluntary declaration of national or foreign currency in Argentina and abroad, Global Compliance News (Frankfurt) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://globalcompliancenews.com/argentina-national-executive-branch-enacts-law-no-27613-that-provides-tax-benefits-for-real-estate-projects-and-the-voluntary-declaration-of-national-or-foreign-currency-in-argentina-and-abroad-120320/>

²³⁰⁴ Argentina will raise income tax for large companies, Rio Times (Rio de Janeiro) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/mercosur/mercosur-latin-america-caribbean/argentina-will-raise-income-tax-for-large-companies/>

²³⁰⁵ The joint statement of the Argentina’s Central Bank and the National Securities Commission about crypto-assets, Dentons (Buenos Aires) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021.

<https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2021/may/28/the-joint-statement-of-the-argentinas-central-bank>
²³⁰⁶ Amendments to the Corporate Income Tax rate, PricewaterhouseCoopers (Buenos Aires) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://taxsummaries.pwc.com/argentina/corporate/significant-developments>

²³⁰⁷ Argentina establishes simplified transfer pricing reporting regime, MNE Tax (Washington D.C.) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/argentina-establishes-simplified-transfer-pricing-reporting-regime-44778>

²³⁰⁸ Argentina issues new transfer pricing regulations, Ernest & Young (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2021-1269-argentina-issues-new-transfer-pricing-regulations>

²³⁰⁹ Argentina Extends Deadlines for Transfer Pricing Reports, Law360 (New York) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.law360.com/tax-authority/articles/1395692/argentina-extends-deadlines-for-transfer-pricing-reports>

²³¹⁰ Argentina says 15% global minimum corporate tax rate ‘too low’, Reuters (Berlin) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/argentina-says-15-global-minimum-corporate-tax-rate-too-low-2021-06-28/>

there.”²³¹¹ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²³¹²

On 3 September 2021, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that restricted the ability of certain subsidiaries to enjoy the benefits of double taxation treaties. The ruling rejected Molinos Argentina's appeal, where the court found that the company used its Chilean branch as a “vehicle company” to shift profits.²³¹³

Argentina has pursued bilateral arrangements with the US to facilitate exchange of information on large MNEs. It has also pursued domestic reforms in the monitoring of foreign currency possession, investing in digital currencies, reporting of transfer pricing information and more. Furthermore, Argentina demonstrated continued cooperation in multilateral institutions through supporting the OECD's two-pillar framework on international tax reform.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 3 December 2020, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) released an updated Practice Statement Law Administration (PSLA) 2015/4 pertaining to Advance Pricing Arrangements (APA).²³¹⁴ This Practice Statement intends to clarify the practice and procedures to ATO staff when working with APAs and promote transparency by helping taxpayers understand the approval and review process.²³¹⁵

On 10 December 2020, the ATO announced updates to Practical Compliance Guideline (PCG) 2017/4, a document concerning cross-border financing agreements and transactions.²³¹⁶ The updated version contains Schedule 3, which concerns interest-free loans between parties and outlines the risk assessment of international related-party dealings to ensure compliance with transfer pricing rules.^{2317,2318}

²³¹¹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³¹² 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³¹³ The Supreme Court of Argentina confirms the understanding of the tax authorities on the absence of “substance” of certain subsidiaries to enjoy the benefits of a treaty to prevent double taxation, Canosa (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://canosa.com/the-supreme-court-of-argentina-confirms-the-understanding-of-the-tax-authorities-on-the-absence-of-substance-of-certain-subsidiary-to-enjoy-the-benefits-of-a-treaty-to-prevent-doubl/>

²³¹⁴ Practice Statement Law Administration, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=PSR/PS20154/NAT/ATO/00001&PiT=99991231235958#LawTimeLine>

²³¹⁵ Practice Statement Law Administration, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=PSR/PS20154/NAT/ATO/00001&PiT=99991231235958#LawTimeLine>

²³¹⁶ Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2017/4, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?docid=COG/PCG20174/NAT/ATO/00001#H193>

²³¹⁷ Australia: Updated ATO guidance, cross-border related-party financing arrangement, KPMG (Amstelveen) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2020/12/tnf-australia-updated-ato-guidance-cross-border-related-party-financing-arrangements.html>

On 17 December 2020, Australia passed the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.²³¹⁹ The amendment strengthens the anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework through enhancing customer identification, restricting shell banks, requiring stricter bank due diligence and expanding allowances of tip-off to external auditors.²³²⁰

On 3 March 2021, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Australia and Belgium took effect. The MOU established an arbitration process provided in Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).²³²¹ This MOU was signed in accordance with Article 25 of the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion between Australia and Belgium.²³²²

On 12 March 2021, Member of Parliament Josh Frydenberg announced that the government reaffirms its commitment to support the OECD in addressing harmful tax practices. Specifically, the government plans to introduce legislation in Parliament which will reform the Offshore Banking Unit.²³²³

On 1 April 2021, the ATO released a synthesized text to facilitate understanding of the Agreement between the government of Australia and the government of Indonesia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income as modified by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent BEPS.²³²⁴

On 21 April 2021, the ATO released the Draft PCG 2021/D3, which outlines the ATO's assessment of risk associated with hybrid mismatch rules, as well as the level of supporting information the Commissioner of Taxation expects taxpayers to have in order to demonstrate compliance.²³²⁵

On 3 August 2021, Australia achieved an upgraded OECD transfer pricing profile via actions taken in March to remove its long-standing offshore banking unit (OBU) regime, and through actions taken earlier in the summer to withdraw a host of accommodations for OBUs.²³²⁶

²³¹⁸ Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2017/4, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?docid=COG/PCG20174/NAT/ATO/00001#H193>

²³¹⁹ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r6431

²³²⁰ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r6431

²³²¹ Memorandum of Understanding on the Mode of Application on the Implementation of Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting between the competent authorities of Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/view.htm?docid=%22MOU%2FBelgium%22>

²³²² Memorandum of Understanding on the Mode of Application on the Implementation of Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting between the competent authorities of Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/view.htm?docid=%22MOU%2FBelgium%22>

²³²³ Amending Australia's Offshore Banking Unit Regime, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/amending-australias-offshore-banking-unit-regime-0>

²³²⁴ Synthesized Text of the MLI and The Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=MLI/MLI-Indonesia-agreement>

²³²⁵ Draft Practical Compliance Guideline, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=DPC/PCG2021D3/NAT/ATO/00001>

On 25 August 2021, the Parliament introduced legislation to require online marketplace operators to report seller identification and payment details to the ATO.²³²⁷ The proposed legislation amends the Taxable Payments Reporting System to mandate that operators share information regarding participating sellers for the ATO's data matching purposes and enable the ATO to identify entities that do not meet tax obligations.²³²⁸

Through bilateral arrangements with Belgium and Indonesia, domestic legislative actions, and cooperation under the framework of multilateral institutions, Australia has demonstrated full commitment to advancing cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jessica Johnson

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 18 December 2020, the Federal Region Court of the 3rd Region judged in Resp 1.759.081-SP that payments for engineering and administrative assistance services should not be considered as royalties in the context of the Brazil-Spain double taxation treaty.²³²⁹

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy clarified that cryptocurrency transactions may entail reporting requirements to tax authorities. This clarification on tax reporting was prompted by a consultation request submitted by the Board of Trade of the State of São Paulo, which inquired how cryptocurrencies could be used by corporations under domestic laws and the relevant regulations therein.²³³⁰

On 25 February 2021, the Senate approved three new treaties for the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance, respectively signed with Switzerland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates in alignment with the base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) framework.²³³¹

²³²⁶ OECD updates transfer pricing country profiles to include new fields on financial transactions and permanent establishments, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/transfer-pricing/oecd-updates-transfer-pricing-country-profiles-to-include-new-fields-on-financial-transactions-and-permanent-establishments.htm>

²³²⁷ Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 7) Bill 2021, Parliament of Australia (Sydney) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22legislation%2Fbillhome%2F6760%22>

²³²⁸ Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 7) Bill 2021, Parliament of Australia (Sydney) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22legislation%2Fbillhome%2F6760%22>

²³²⁹ New outlook for Brazil on withholding tax on service remittances abroad, International Tax Review (London) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1rhrj2q325cd1/new-outlook-for-brazil-on-withholding-tax-on-service-remittances-abroad>

²³³⁰ Cryptocurrency or digital currency in the integralization of corporate capital, JD Supra (New York) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/cryptocurrency-or-digital-currency-in-9487408/>

²³³¹ Brazilian Senate approves three new treaties for the avoidance of double taxation, Ernst and Young (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/brazilian-senate-approves-three-new-treaties-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation

On 11 March 2021, the Financial Activities Control Council published Resolution No. 36/2021, which regulates the adoption of policies, procedures and internal controls to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and the financing of weapons of mass destruction.²³³²

On 16 March 2021, as part of a national campaign to combat domestic tax evasion, Brazil issued 35 arrest warrants for companies in the coffee industry accused of evaded taxes. The national campaign extends across 39 cities in four states.²³³³

On 16 March 2021, Brazil's double taxation treaty with Switzerland entered into force. This treaty protects cross-border workers from double taxation, includes an anti-abuse clause, and establishes exchange of information according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's BEPS framework.²³³⁴

On 27 May 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro ratified the statute confirming the double taxation treaty between Brazil and the United Arab Emirates. The treaty, previously signed in November 2018 and ratified by the national congress, includes 32 articles on topics including double taxation, tax evasion, and information sharing.²³³⁵

On 9 June 2021, Brazil promulgated the treaty for the avoidance of double taxation between Brazil and Switzerland.²³³⁶ This treaty will come into effect after 1 January 2022 and allow Brazilian taxpayers to receive neutral foreign withholding tax on their investments in Switzerland.²³³⁷

On 25 June 2021, the government submitted phase two of its tax reform proposal to the national congress. The proposal includes a general tax rate of 20 per cent on distributed profits and dividends for individuals and non-resident investors, as well as an increased rate of 30 per cent for investors located in low-tax jurisdictions. The proposal states that capital reductions and business reorganizations should be carried out at fair market value. It also taxes the capital gain resulting from the indirect disposal of assets located in Brazil.²³³⁸

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Brazil joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²³³⁹ Pillar Two will introduce

²³³² New Brazilian AML Regulation, Almeida Advogados Corporate law (Sao Paulo) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.almeidalaw.com.br/en/midia/2021/03/new-brazilian-aml-regulation/>

²³³³ Brazil cracks down on coffee firms for alleged tax fraud, NASDAQ (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/brazil-cracks-down-on-coffee-firms-for-alleged-tax-fraud-2021-03-16>

²³³⁴ Switzerland – Double Taxation Treaty with Brazil Entering into Force, KPMG (Zurich) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2021/04/flash-alert-2021-119.html>

²³³⁵ Bolsonaro ratifies statute confirming Brazil-U.A.E. agreement ending double taxation, The Rio Times (Rio De Janeiro) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/brazil/bolsonaro-enacts-brazil-u-a-e-agreement-ending-double-taxation/>

²³³⁶ Brazil and Switzerland: The treaty for the avoidance of double taxation between the countries has been ratified by the Brazilian President's sanction, Ernst & Young (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/brazil-and-switzerland--the-treaty-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation-between-the-countries-has-been-ratified-by-the-brazilian-presidents-sanction

²³³⁷ The new double tax treaty (DTT) between Switzerland and Brazil, Kendris (Zurich) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.kendris.com/en/news-insights/2021/08/18/new-double-tax-treaty-dtt-between-switzerland-and-brazil/>

²³³⁸ Brazil: Federal Government presents second phase of the tax reform project, Baker McKenzie (New York) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://insightplus.bakermckenzie.com/bm/viewContent.action?key=Ec8teaJ9VaqwZhtdOoNtl7eOOGbnAEFKCLORG72fHz0%2BNbpi2jDfaB8lgiEY1JAvAvaah9f1P4Yhmok33cA%3D%3D&nav=FRbANEucS95NMLRN47z%2BeeOgEFct8EGQ0qFfoEM4UR4%3D&emailtofriendview=true&freeviewlink=true>

²³³⁹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021.

a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²³⁴⁰

On 13 July 2021, Deputy Celso Sabino presented a series of amendments to the 25 June 2021 tax reform proposal. Key amendments included changing the rate of taxation on corporate income from 15 per cent to 5 per cent in 2022 and 2.5 per cent in 2023 and removing dividends from tax-exempt status.²³⁴¹

On 26 August 2021, President of the Central Bank Roberto Campos Neto revealed discussions with the local securities regulator to adapt a new framework to regulate digital currencies and allow them to co-exist with digital payment platforms such as Pix, which is backed by the government.²³⁴²

On 8 December 2021, the Federal Police launched Operation Compliance to combat money laundering conducted through cryptocurrencies. 150 federal police carried out 34 search and seizure warrants, and identified a hacker involved in electronic fraud online.²³⁴³

On 10 September 2021, the Federal Revenue Service announced, “the release of an updated digital bookkeeping system to report tax information for corporate income taxes and social contribution on net income.”²³⁴⁴

Brazil has demonstrated bilateral efforts in signing double taxation treaties with Switzerland, Singapore, and the UAE. It has also demonstrated domestic actions to improve its taxation system by addressing emerging developments in financial assets such as cryptocurrencies, adopting policies against terrorist financing, reforming corporate income tax, and combatting tax evasion in alignment with the BEPS framework. Finally, Brazil has continued cooperation with multilateral institutions by agreeing to the OECD’s two-pillar framework for international tax reform.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, along with Ministers of Finance from Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Jamaica and the UK, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax

Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³⁴⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021.

Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³⁴¹ Corporate income tax changes ahead for Brazil, International Tax Review (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1sw0lvs9c935p/corporate-income-tax-changes-ahead-for-brazil>

²³⁴² Brazil’s central bank eyes regulation for digital currencies, Coingeek (Montreal) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://coingeek.com/brazil-central-bank-eyes-regulation-for-digital-currencies/>

²³⁴³ PF fights money laundering through cryptocurrencies, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/08/pf-combate-lavagem-de-dinheiro-atraves-de-criptomoedas>

²³⁴⁴ Brazil Tax Agency Updates Digital Tax Bookkeeping System, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/brazil-tax-agency-updates-digital-tax-bookkeeping-system-46>

solution at the public meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework.²³⁴⁵

On 19 April 2021, Canada's 2021 budget announced a digital service tax as an interim measure towards reaching a multilateral agreement on digital taxation under the base erosion and profit shifting.²³⁴⁶ The digital service tax will levy 3 per cent revenue from online marketplaces, social media, online advertising and the sale of user data.²³⁴⁷

On 19 April 2021, Canada's 2021 budget announced limitations on excessive interest deductions by large companies, proposed to eliminate the tax benefits of hybrid mismatch arrangements and enhance mandatory disclosure rules on income tax.²³⁴⁸ The budget proposed CAD304 million to strengthen the Canada Revenue Agency's ability to increase cooperation with international partners and combat tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance.²³⁴⁹ It also proposed improving transfer pricing rules to prevent inappropriate shifting of corporate income out of Canada.²³⁵⁰

On 19 April 2021, Canada's 2021 budget proposed CAD4.6 million to enable the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada to develop its expertise on virtual currencies and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing activities. The budget also proposed to "address legislative gaps and streamline the revocation process to prevent abuse of charitable status" by terrorist entities.²³⁵¹

On 1 June 2021, the Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Financing Act came into force. The Act aims to close loopholes in Canada's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist funding regimes, such as those caused by technological developments.²³⁵²

On 5 June 2021, Canada joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which MNEs operate and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²³⁵³

On 1 July 2021, the Canada Revenue Agency announced new rules for digital economy businesses, which pertains to issues including charging and collecting the Goods and Services Tax and the Harmonized Sales Tax, offering a simplified tax registration and reporting system for cross-border

²³⁴⁵ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, *International Tax Review* (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

²³⁴⁶ Budget 2021, Annex 7: Consultations on Other Tax Measures: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx7-en.html>

²³⁴⁷ Budget 2021, Annex 7: Consultations on Other Tax Measures: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx7-en.html>

²³⁴⁸ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

²³⁴⁹ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

²³⁵⁰ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

²³⁵¹ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

²³⁵² Regulatory amendments in force as of June 1, 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/covid19/2021-06-01-eng>

²³⁵³ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

digital products and services, supplying qualifying goods in Canada, and platform-based short-term accommodations.²³⁵⁴

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Canada joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²³⁵⁵ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²³⁵⁶

On 2 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland issued a statement to recognize the OECD's international tax reform statement signed by 130 countries as a tremendous achievement. The statement read, in relevant part: "the next step in the global effort to end the race to the bottom in corporate taxation and to ensure that multinational corporations pay their fair share of taxes."²³⁵⁷

On 26 July 2021, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) rescinded the Guideline for Detering and Detecting Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing after consulting Federally Regulated Financial Institutions (FRFIs).²³⁵⁸ This is part of OSFI and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada's efforts to eliminate duplication and redundancy in the application of anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regulatory requirements to FRFIs.²³⁵⁹

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, Canada joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²³⁶⁰

Canada has contributed to multilateral negotiations on digital tax solutions and proposed financial resources domestically to increase cross-border cooperation and combat hybrid mismatch, tax evasion and terrorist financing activities. However, Canada has not continued its tax cooperation on a bilateral basis.

Thus, Canada received a score of 0.

²³⁵⁴ GST/HST for digital economy businesses: Overview, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/gst-hst-businesses/digital-economy.html>

²³⁵⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³⁵⁶ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³⁵⁷ Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister on new framework for international tax reform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/07/statement-by-the-deputy-prime-minister-on-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.html>

²³⁵⁸ Detering and Detecting Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (Ottawa) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/fi-if/rg-ro/gdn-ort/gl-ld/Pages/b8.aspx>

²³⁵⁹ OSFI's activities on anti-money laundering/anti-terrorist financing (AML/ATF) supervision, Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (Ottawa) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/fi-if/in-ai/Pages/aml-let.aspx>

²³⁶⁰ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 5 February 2021, the State Taxation Administration (STA) reaffirmed that China will strengthen its cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on global taxation issues, after a meeting between the Director of the STA Wang Jun and the Director of the OECD's Center for Tax Policy and Administration Pascal Saint-Amans.²³⁶¹ China stated that it will “participate in the global tax governance for the digital economy,” “help developing countries enhance tax collection and management capabilities,” and “keep pushing forward for bilateral taxation cooperation.”²³⁶²

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Finance Liu Kun stated that China will support the efforts of the G20 to forge an international deal on digital taxation.²³⁶³

On 5 March 2021, China stated that it “will actively participate in the formulation of international rules and technical standards on data security, digital currency and data tax” in a draft of the 14th Five-Year Plan and long-term objectives for 2035.²³⁶⁴

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, China joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will “re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there.”²³⁶⁵ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²³⁶⁶

On 18 May 2021, the government announced that bank and payment institutions cannot conduct business related to cryptocurrencies. This reiterated the 2017 cryptocurrency ban and further prohibited financial institutions from “accepting or using cryptocurrencies in payments or settlements, developing digital currency exchange services and offering any such services to clients.”²³⁶⁷

²³⁶¹ China, OECD to boost cooperation on taxation, China Internet Information Center (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2021-02/06/content_77193417.htm

²³⁶² China, OECD to boost cooperation on taxation, China Internet Information Center (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2021-02/06/content_77193417.htm

²³⁶³ Global digital tax efforts get China boost, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/03/content_WS603ee8a5c6d0719374af9db1.html

²³⁶⁴ China to actively take part in formulating int'l rules on data security, digital currency, China Internet Information Center (Beijing) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2021-03/05/content_77277336.htm

²³⁶⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³⁶⁶ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²³⁶⁷ China Cracks Down On Crypto Business, Saying ‘Speculative’ Trading ‘Seriously Infringing’ On Financial Order, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jonathanponciano/2021/05/18/china-bans-banks-from-crypto-business-saying-speculative-trading-seriously-infringing-on-financial-order/?sh=57aa793a7898>

On 22 June 2021, the STA released the Announcement about Policies for Collecting Corporate Income Tax, which clarified the corporate income tax treatment on six items, including cross-border hybrid investments.²³⁶⁸ The announcement added two restrictive conditions to prohibit hybrid investment from being regarded as debt investment.²³⁶⁹

On 1 August 2021, China brought into effect the Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing of Financial Institutions. The measures “expand the scope of applicable entities, provide specific details of internal control and risk management requirements and increase People’s Bank of China’s supervision and administration powers.”²³⁷⁰

On 3 August 2021, China and the United Arab Emirates agreed to exchange information on “investigations into money laundering, terrorist financing and the persons or entities involved.”²³⁷¹

On 23 August 2021, the State Council published guidelines to state that it will tighten the supervision of accounting firms, increase the frequency of inspections, strengthen punishment and co-operate on cross-border supervision of accounting and auditing.

On 1 September 2021, the STA implemented a simplified version of the process of unilateral advance pricing to avoid double taxation and profit shifting. The system is based on enterprises submitting an advanced application to the STA to reach an agreement on a set of criteria for transfer pricing.²³⁷²

On 7 September 2021, China chaired the 2nd Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum, attended by 61 countries and 12 international organizations. In his opening speech, Head of the STA Wang Jun shared with delegates the practices and experiences of Chinese tax authorities, particularly on digitizing tax administration.²³⁷³ On 8 September 2021, he further proposed “more opportunities for cooperation and tax-related knowledge-sharing among Belt and Road Initiative jurisdictions.”²³⁷⁴

China made verbal commitments to the OECD and the G20 to facilitate a multilateral digital tax agreement and formulate international rules on digital currency. China has further engaged in bilateral actions of cross-border tax cooperation with the UAE, in addition to creating domestic policies that facilitate the BEPS framework in relation to transfer pricing. Domestically, China has also advanced

²³⁶⁸ Announcement of the State Administration of Taxation on Issues Concerning the Collection and Administration of Certain Corporate Income Tax Policies, State Taxation Administration (Beijing) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/chinatax/n362/c5165844/content.html>

²³⁶⁹ China’s Latest Corporate Income Tax Update for Six Items: Q&A, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-2021-corporate-income-tax-update-six-items/>

²³⁷⁰ China: China expands anti-money laundering obligations with Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing of Financial Institutions, Global Compliance News (Hong Kong) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://www.globalcompliancenews.com/2021/08/20/china-expands-anti-money-laundering-obligations-with-measures-for-the-supervision-and-administration-of-anti-money-laundering-and-counter-terrorist-financing-of-financial-institutions090821/>

²³⁷¹ UAE, China to cooperate against money laundering, terrorism financing, Reuters (London) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021 <https://www.reuters.com/world/uae-china-cooperate-against-money-laundering-terrorism-financing-2021-08-03/>

²³⁷² Transfer pricing to be a breeze for MNCs, China Daily (Beijing) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202108/07/content_WS610dce21c6d0df57f98de264.html

²³⁷³ Virtual Meeting of the Second Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum Was Held, State Taxation Administration of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/eng/c101269/c5168852/content.html>

²³⁷⁴ China mulls better BRI tax cooperation, China Daily (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS6137f47cc6d0df57f98dfd48.html

policies on digital currencies, corporate income tax, anti-money laundering, auditing and oversight and more.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Finance sent notices to major technological companies, such as Facebook and Amazon, “to pay the 2020 instalment” of the digital service tax.²³⁷⁵ The goal of this measure is to ensure that digital services are taxed in the same places where they profit.²³⁷⁶

On 25-26 November 2020, France attended the 2020 Intra-European Organisation of Tax Administrations (IOTA) Forum to identify best practices in combating value-added tax (VAT) fraud.²³⁷⁷ The goal of this forum is to increase awareness of emerging trends in VAT fraud and build a multilateral network to address the problem.

On 2 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Germany, which entered into force on 13 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²³⁷⁸ The goal of the agreement is to avoid double taxation of cross-border workers who worked from home, rather than in the country where they would otherwise work if not for COVID-related travel restrictions.

On 2 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Switzerland, which entered into force on 13 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²³⁷⁹

On 2 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Belgium, which entered into force on 15 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²³⁸⁰

On 2 December 2020, the General Directorate of Public Finances authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Italy, which entered into force on 16 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²³⁸¹

²³⁷⁵ France Orders Tech Giants to Pay Digital Tax, Reuters (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-usa-tax-idUKKBN28522M>

²³⁷⁶ Taxing Tech, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2021/03/taxing-big-tech-and-the-future-of-digital-services-tax-christie.htm>

²³⁷⁷ 2020 IOTA Forum on Combating VAT Fraud, IOTA-Tax (Budapest) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.iota-tax.org/news/2020-iota-forum-combating-vat-fraud>

²³⁷⁸ Amicable Agreement with Germany for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/allemande/allemande_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

²³⁷⁹ Amicable Agreement with Switzerland for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/suisse/suisse_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

²³⁸⁰ Amicable Agreement with Belgium for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/belgique/belgique_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

On 7 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Luxembourg, which entered into force on 16 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²³⁸²

On 9 December 2020, France attended the annual meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes to recognise the progress made in the implementation of the standard on tax transparency and support the provision of capacity-building technical assistance to developing countries.²³⁸³ The goal of the three-day event was to encourage greater fairness and transparency in international tax systems.²³⁸⁴

On 11 December 2021, the Administrative Supreme Court overturned a Paris Court of Appeal decision, dated 1 March 2018, which concluded an absence of permanent establishment under the France-Ireland Tax Treaty.²³⁸⁵ This decision marks the first time that the Administrative Supreme Court used the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development comments to “expand its definition of a dependent agent constitutive of a permanent establishment.”²³⁸⁶

On 25 February 2021, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Agnès Pannier-Runacher supported the public country-by-country reporting initiative proposed by the Portuguese Presidency of the Competitiveness Council (COMPET).²³⁸⁷ This initiative aims to improve tax transparency and “ensure that all economic actors contribute in a fair and equitable manner to the economy of the various countries where they conduct their business.”²³⁸⁸

On 4 March 2021, the Ministry of Economics and Finance removed the Bahamas from the list of non-cooperative states and territories in tax matters, which is published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.²³⁸⁹ The Ministry seeks to promote cooperation with the Bahamas to “eradicate

²³⁸¹ Amicable Agreement with Italy for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/italie/accord_covid-19_fr_it_2020_12_28.pdf

²³⁸² Amicable Agreement with Luxembourg for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/luxembourg/accord_covid-19_fr_lux.pdf

²³⁸³ 2020 Global Forum Plenary Meeting, Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/transparency/documents/2020-gf-plenary-meeting-statement-of-outcomes.pdf>

²³⁸⁴ International Community Reaches Important Milestone in Fight Against Tax Evasion, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/exchange-of-tax-information/international-community-reaches-important-milestone-in-fight-against-tax-evasion.htm>

²³⁸⁵ France Tax Developments: Key Permanent Establishment Decision, PWC Law Firm (Paris) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pwcavocats.com/fr/ealertes/ealertes-international/2020/france-tax-developments-key-permanent-establishment-decision.html>

²³⁸⁶ French Administrative Supreme Court Expands its Definition of a Dependent Agent Constitutive of a Permanent Establishment, Ernst and Young Tax News (Paris) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2020-2905-french-administrative-supreme-court-expands-its-definition-of-a-dependent-agent-constitutive-of-a-permanent-establishment>

²³⁸⁷ Ministers Discuss Public Country-by-Country Reporting Proposal, KPMG Euro Tax Flash (Amstelveen) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2021/02/etf-443-ministers-discuss-public-country-by-country-reporting-proposal.html>

²³⁸⁸ Informal Video Conference of Internal Market and Industry Ministers, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/compet/2021/02/25/>

²³⁸⁹ The Bahamas Removed from the French List of Non-Cooperative States and Territories in Tax Matters, Bahamas Financial Services Board (Nassau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/PressRelease/67584/The-Bahamas-Removed-From-The-French-List-Of-Non-Cooperative-States-And-Territories-In-Tax-Matters>

harmful tax practices” and foster a “commitment to the international regulatory standards on tax cooperation and exchange of information for tax purposes.”²³⁹⁰

On 6 April 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire welcomed US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen’s pledge to work on a global corporate minimum tax.²³⁹¹

On 8 April 2021, Minister Le Maire supported a US proposal to resume international talks on taxing major digital multinational corporations.²³⁹² The goal of these talks is to prevent multinationals from shifting their profits to low-tax jurisdictions.²³⁹³

On 27 April 2021, Minister Le Maire and Finance Minister of Germany Olaf Scholz declared their support for the US’ proposed 21 per cent minimum corporate tax rate.²³⁹⁴ Subsequently, on 21 May 2021, the US lowered its proposed rate to 15 per cent, which Minister Le Maire called “a good compromise.”²³⁹⁵

On 5 June 2021, France joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises operate, and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²³⁹⁶

On 9 June 2021, Minister Le Maire insisted that Amazon be included in the minimum corporate tax scheme.²³⁹⁷ Since the tax only applies to multinationals that have a profit margin of over 10 per cent, Amazon’s 6.3 per cent profit margin excludes it from the eligible tax bracket.²³⁹⁸ The goal of including Amazon in the tax scheme is to increase fiscal accountability across digital platforms.

On 10 June 2021, President Emmanuel Macron stressed the importance of multilateralism in international taxation at a press conference at the Élysée Palace ahead of the G7 and NATO

²³⁹⁰ The Bahamas Removed from the French List of Non-Cooperative States and Territories in Tax Matters, Bahamas Financial Services Board (Nassau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/PressRelease/67584/The-Bahamas-Removed-From-The-French-List-Of-Non-Cooperative-States-And-Territories-In-Tax-Matters>

²³⁹¹ France Sees Global Tax Deal in Reach After U.S. Pledge, Reuters (Paris) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-taxation-france-idUSKBN2BT1LR>

²³⁹² U.S. Proposal to Unblock Global Tax Talks ‘Interesting’ -France, Reuters (Paris) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-oecd-tax-france-us-idUSKBN2BV2F4>

²³⁹³ U.S. Proposal to Unblock Global Tax Talks ‘Interesting’ -France, Reuters (Paris) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-oecd-tax-france-us-idUSKBN2BV2F4>

²³⁹⁴ France and Germany Back US on 21% Minimum Corporate Tax Proposal, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-and-germany-back-us-on-21-minimum-corporate-tax-proposal/a-57347667>

²³⁹⁵ France Says US Offer on Global Minimum Tax Rate is Basis for Compromise, Reuters (Paris) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/us-offer-global-minimum-tax-is-basis-compromise-says-le-maire-2021-05-21/>

²³⁹⁶ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²³⁹⁷ France ‘Will Fight’ to Ensure Amazon is Included in Global Digital Tax, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/business-and-tech/20210609-france-to-fight-for-amazon-inclusion-in-digital-tax>

²³⁹⁸ France ‘Will Fight’ to Ensure Amazon is Included in Global Digital Tax, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/business-and-tech/20210609-france-to-fight-for-amazon-inclusion-in-digital-tax>

summits.²³⁹⁹ He briefly discussed the minimum corporate tax as well as the digital tax, emphasizing the significance of addressing inequalities in the taxation system.²⁴⁰⁰

On 13 June 2021, President Macron discussed the benefits of a 15 per cent minimum corporate tax during his time at the G7 summit.²⁴⁰¹ He emphasized the G7's plan to proceed according to the two pillars of international taxation.²⁴⁰² The first pillar consolidates the tax base, and the second pillar helps the taxation system adapt to the digital economy.²⁴⁰³

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, France joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁴⁰⁴ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁴⁰⁵

On 6 July 2021, Minister Le Maire announced that France was ready to make a legally binding commitment in the draft budget law to remove the national tax on digital giants once the OECD global taxation deal was implemented.²⁴⁰⁶

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, Minister Le Maire joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global corporate minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁴⁰⁷²⁴⁰⁸

²³⁹⁹ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Élysée Palace, 10 June 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

²⁴⁰⁰ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Élysée Palace, 10 June 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

²⁴⁰¹ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

²⁴⁰² G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

²⁴⁰³ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

²⁴⁰⁴ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁰⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁰⁶ France to withdraw its digital tax the day global rules are in force, Politico (Paris) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-to-withdraw-its-digital-tax-the-day-international-rules-are-in-force/>

²⁴⁰⁷ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁴⁰⁸ G20 Ministers Endorse 'Historic' Global Deal to Tax Multinationals, France 24 (Paris) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/economy/20210710-g20-ministers-endorse-historic-global-deal-to-tax-multinationals>

France had already imposed its digital tax on retail giants such as Amazon and Google, and it invited other countries (e.g. Ireland) to adopt the tax.²⁴⁰⁹

On 2 September 2021, France fined JP Morgan EUR25 million in a tax fraud case.²⁴¹⁰ The goal of this settlement was to enforce the rule of law in preventing harmful tax practices.

Through bilateral channels with European partners, France continued international tax cooperation through its cross-border taxation agreements. Furthermore, France pursued multilateral cooperation in seeking greater tax transparency and preventing harmful tax practices by participating in high-level meetings of the IOTA Forum, the Global Forum, and the COMPET. Domestically, France's actions to implement the digital service tax have also improved the standard of taxation for multinational companies.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Saarah Khan

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 2 December 2020, Germany extended its cross-border taxation agreement with France, which entered into force on 13 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²⁴¹¹ The goal of the agreement is to avoid double taxation of cross-border workers who worked from home, rather than in the country where they would otherwise work if not for COVID-related travel restrictions.

On 18 December 2020, Germany deposited its instrument of ratification for the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) (MLI), which entered into force on 1 April 2021.²⁴¹² By ratifying the MLI, Germany joins the MLI's strong commitment to prevent the abuse of tax treaties and BEPS by multinational enterprises.²⁴¹³

²⁴⁰⁹ France Hails 'Tax Revolution' Opportunity as G20 Back Plan to Deter Tax Havens, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20210711-https-www-rfi-fr-en-international-20210701-france-among-130-countries-to-back-deal-on-global-minimum-tax-for-companies>

²⁴¹⁰ France fines U.S. bank JP Morgan \$29.6 mln in tax fraud settlement, Reuters (Paris) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 3 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/france-fines-us-bank-jp-morgan-296-mln-tax-fraud-settlement-2021-09-02/>

²⁴¹¹ Amicable Agreement with Germany for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/allemande/allemande_accord_amiable_covid19.pdf

²⁴¹² Germany and Pakistan deposit their instrument of ratification for the Multilateral BEPS Convention and other updates, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/germany-and-pakistan-deposit-their-instrument-of-ratification-for-the-multilateral-beps-convention-and-other-updates.htm>

²⁴¹³ Germany and Pakistan deposit their instrument of ratification for the Multilateral BEPS Convention and other updates, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/germany-and-pakistan-deposit-their-instrument-of-ratification-for-the-multilateral-beps-convention-and-other-updates.htm>

On 18 December 2020, Germany and Japan applied MLI provisions to their Bilateral Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.²⁴¹⁴

On 12 January 2021, Germany and the UK signed a new protocol, to be added to the existing double tax treaty signed in 2010, to highlight both parties' intention to include the standard outlined in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) BEPS project on treaty abuse, tax evasion and avoidance.²⁴¹⁵ Changes include amending the wording of the treaty and adding Article 30A.²⁴¹⁶ The protocol is not yet in force.²⁴¹⁷

On 26 January 2021, at the virtual World Economic Forum, Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that there should be a minimum level of taxation for digital companies, with the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrating the need for action.²⁴¹⁸ Chancellor Merkel expressed her desire for the international community to continue and expand the OECD's work in this regard, particularly with the new United States administration, and hoped that the international community will be more successful in implementing competition law globally.²⁴¹⁹

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Italy, Indonesia, Jamaica and the United Kingdom, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.²⁴²⁰ At this meeting, Minister Scholz emphasized the importance of an international agreement by mid-2021, and affirmed that the government is actively striving for an international solution on both pillars of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.²⁴²¹

On 15 February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance initiated the departmental vote on the draft of the Tax Haven Defense Act.²⁴²² The Tax Haven Defense Act aims to prevent individuals and companies from continuing business relationships with non-cooperative countries that harbour a lack of tax transparency and unfair competition. The goal is to make future business expenses and

²⁴¹⁴ Application of the MLI to the Tax Treaty between Japan and Germany, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/mli_ger.html

²⁴¹⁵ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

²⁴¹⁶ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

²⁴¹⁷ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

²⁴¹⁸ The Chancellor at the online World Economic Forum in Davos: Reset After the Pandemic, German Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/merkel-wef-1845646>

²⁴¹⁹ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), German Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

²⁴²⁰ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

²⁴²¹ BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

²⁴²² BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

business expenses associated with tax havens no longer tax-deductible.²⁴²³ Stricter rules would apply to income from intermediate companies in tax havens and taxpayers who have business relationships with tax havens.²⁴²⁴ If enacted, the Act will be applicable to the EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.²⁴²⁵

On 19 February 2021, Germany and Cyprus signed a new protocol amending the existing bilateral tax treaty. The new protocol implements the BEPS minimum standards that address treaty shopping, implements the Principal Purpose Test, and addresses business profits attributable to permanent establishments.²⁴²⁶

On 24 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Draft Act Implementing the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive to impose stricter rules on aggressive tax planning, through which the government aims to “effectively counteract tax avoidance strategies used by multinational corporations.”²⁴²⁷ The legislation also advances the harmonization of EU corporate tax law, and through this Act, Germany is taking steps to further fulfill the standards set out in the EU's Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive.²⁴²⁸

On 6 April 2021, Germany and France welcomed US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's pledge to work on a global corporate minimum tax rate which countries aim to agree to by mid-year. Finance Minister Olaf Scholz hopes that this action will help put an end to “the worldwide race to the bottom in taxation.”²⁴²⁹

On 5 June 2021, Germany joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises (MNEs) operate, and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²⁴³⁰

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Germany joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will “re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there.”²⁴³¹ Pillar Two will introduce

²⁴²³ BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

²⁴²⁴ BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

²⁴²⁵ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond: March 2021, Ernst and Young Global Tax Desk Network (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_gl/topics/tax/tax-alerts-pdf/ey-the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond-march-2021.pdf

²⁴²⁶ Cyprus and Germany sign protocol to amend tax treaty, International Tax Review (Cyprus) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1rdkgscmrj06d/cyprus-and-germany-sign-protocol-to-amend-tax-treaty>

²⁴²⁷ Scholz: “A key step towards greater tax fairness,” Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-03-24-bill-to-fight-tax-avoidance.html>

²⁴²⁸ Scholz: “A key step towards greater tax fairness,” Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-03-24-bill-to-fight-tax-avoidance.html>

²⁴²⁹ Germany and France see global tax deal, Ireland has doubts, Reuters (Berlin) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-taxation-germany-idUSKBN2BT17F>

²⁴³⁰ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²⁴³¹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021.

a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁴³²

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, Germany joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁴³³

On 14 July 2021, the tax administration introduced new administrative principles for transfer pricing. The new principles “ensure that the interpretation and application of the arm’s length principle within Germany is aligned with the post-BEPS transfer pricing guidelines.”²⁴³⁴

Germany has advocated for and participated in international institutions to cooperate for a fair and modern international taxation system through its participation in the Inclusive Framework meeting on BEPS and the World Economic Forum, as well as its ratification of the MLI. Germany has further improved international tax cooperation through bilateral arrangements with Japan, France, the UK and Cyprus. Germany has also taken actions to align its domestic tax administration with international taxation standards.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jeffrey Vandespyker

India: +1

India fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 1 February 2021, India published the Union Budget 2021, which amended the scope of the equalisation levy that applies to non-resident e-commerce operators.^{2435,2436} It expanded the definition of “e-commerce supply and service” to include “online sale of goods” and “online provision of services.”²⁴³⁷ According to a statement of the Ministry of Commerce released in January 2021, this amendment is in line with the suggestions put forth by Action 1 of the Organisation for Economic

Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴³² 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021.

Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴³³ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁴³⁴ Germany introduces new administrative principles for transfer pricing, Multinational Group Tax & Transfer Pricing News (Berlin) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://mnetax.com/germany-introduces-new-administrative-principles-for-transfer-pricing-45188>

²⁴³⁵ Indian Finance Bill 2021 appears to expand scope of the equalisation levy, International Tax Review (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qsfng38gyl28/indian-finance-bill-2021-appears-to-expand-scope-of-the-equalisation-levy>

²⁴³⁶ India to defend Equalisation Levy as a level-playing tax, The Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/india-to-defend-equalisation-levy-as-a-level-playing-tax-101616840257671.html>

²⁴³⁷ Indian Finance Bill 2021 appears to expand scope of the equalisation levy, International Tax Review (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qsfng38gyl28/indian-finance-bill-2021-appears-to-expand-scope-of-the-equalisation-levy>

Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).²⁴³⁸

On 2 March 2021, the Supreme Court delivered a ruling on software licensing and provided further certainty regarding the taxation of cross-border payments on the use of software.²⁴³⁹ The Supreme Court decided that the amount paid by end-users to non-resident software manufacturers for the use or resale of the software through End-User Licence Agreements cannot be classified as a royalty.²⁴⁴⁰ In making this ruling, the Court “noted the importance of the Commentary on Article 12 of the OECD Model Tax Convention.”²⁴⁴¹

On 20 April 2021, the Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Finance Bill 2021, which clarified the scope of the equalization levy on e-commerce to involve “acceptance of the offer for sale, placing the purchase order, acceptance of the purchase order, supply of goods or provision of services” that take place online.^{2442, 2443} The amendments also clarified that the equalization levy will not be applied to the sale of goods and services owned by residents or permanent establishments in India.²⁴⁴⁴

On 5 April 2021, the Central Board of Direct Taxes issued amendments to the Income Tax Rules, which increased the CbCR threshold for multinational enterprises from INR55 billion to INR64 billion.²⁴⁴⁵ This amendment reduces the reporting burden on multinational enterprises and aligns it with the OECD’s country-by-country reporting standards.²⁴⁴⁶

²⁴³⁸ India to defend Equalisation Levy as a level-playing tax, The Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/india-to-defend-equalisation-levy-as-a-level-playing-tax-101616840257671.html>

²⁴³⁹ Indian Supreme Court’s Ruling on Software Licensing Fees, International Tax Review (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1r0m0llgv9fnf/deep-dive-indian-supreme-courts-ruling-on-software-licensing-fees>

²⁴⁴⁰ Indian Supreme Court’s Ruling on Software Licensing Fees, International Tax Review (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1r0m0llgv9fnf/deep-dive-indian-supreme-courts-ruling-on-software-licensing-fees>

²⁴⁴¹ India: Impact and Analysis of The Supreme Court Decision on Characterization and Taxation Of Software Payments, The National Law Review (Western Springs) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/india-impact-and-analysis-supreme-court-decision-characterization-and-taxation>

²⁴⁴² Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval for amendments to Finance Bill, 2021, The Hindu (New Delhi) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-gives-ex-post-facto-approval-for-amendments-to-finance-bill-2021/article34367764.ece>

²⁴⁴³ India notifies digital tax threshold of Rs 2 crore and 300,000 users, Business Standard (New Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-notifies-digital-tax-threshold-of-rs-2-croreand-300-000-users-121050400156_1.html

²⁴⁴⁴ Cabinet Approves Amendments To Finance Bill 2021, Business Standard (Mumbai) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/cabinet-approves-amendments-to-finance-bill-2021-121042001116_1.html

²⁴⁴⁵ India: CBDT Relaxes Master File And Country By Country Reporting (CbCR) Rules, Mondaq (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/india/transfer-pricing/1055906/cbdt-relaxes-master-file-and-country-by-country-reporting-cbcr-rules>

²⁴⁴⁶ India: CBDT Relaxes Master File And Country By Country Reporting (CbCR) Rules, Mondaq (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/india/transfer-pricing/1055906/cbdt-relaxes-master-file-and-country-by-country-reporting-cbcr-rules>

On 28 April 2021, the Union Cabinet approved an agreement with the UK on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters.²⁴⁴⁷ This agreement provides a legal framework for the exchange of information to prevent and investigate customs offences.²⁴⁴⁸

On 3 May 2021, India announced a revenue threshold of INR20 million and a limit of 300,000 users over which non-resident technology firms will have to pay taxes under the Significant Economic Presence principle. The application of the principle is deferred until 2022-23 to allow for a multilateral digital tax solution anticipated from OECD negotiations.²⁴⁴⁹

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, India joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁴⁵⁰ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁴⁵¹

On 5 August 2021, the government revoked its retrospective tax law by amending the Income Tax Act of 1961.²⁴⁵² This law was previously used to claim large tax amounts from foreign investors such as Cairn Energy and Vodafone.²⁴⁵³ In several cases where this law was applied, India has now proposed to nullify this tax on the indirect transfer of Indian assets before May 2012.²⁴⁵⁴

India has enacted domestic measures to strengthen its tax base with cross-border implications, under the guidance of multilateral frameworks such as the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS and the OECD Model Tax Convention. It has also pursued bilateral arrangements with the UK to strengthen the exchange of information on the taxation of cross-border trade.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Neebarika Hemrajani

²⁴⁴⁷ Cabinet approves customs co-operation agreement with the UK, BusinessLine (New Delhi) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/cabinet-approves-customs-co-operation-agreement-with-the-uk/article34429486.ece>

²⁴⁴⁸ Cabinet approves India-UK deal on information sharing, Customs cooperation, Business Standard (New Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cabinet-approves-india-uk-deal-on-information-sharing-customs-cooperation-121042900016_1.html

²⁴⁴⁹ India notifies digital tax threshold of Rs 2 crore and 300,000 users, Business Standard (New Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-notifies-digital-tax-threshold-of-rs-2-croreand-300-000-users-121050400156_1.html

²⁴⁵⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁵¹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁵² Retro tax law, The Times of India (Mumbai) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 August 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/retro-tax-law-what-were-the-liabilities-of-vodafone-cairn-energy/articleshow/85071972.cms>

²⁴⁵³ Retro tax law, The Times of India (Mumbai) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 August 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/retro-tax-law-what-were-the-liabilities-of-vodafone-cairn-energy/articleshow/85071972.cms>

²⁴⁵⁴ Retro tax law, The Times of India (Mumbai) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 August 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/retro-tax-law-what-were-the-liabilities-of-vodafone-cairn-energy/articleshow/85071972.cms>

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 26 November 2020, Indonesia notified Japan that it had completed its internal procedures for the entering into effect of the provisions of the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting with respect to the tax treaty between Japan and Indonesia.²⁴⁵⁵

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Germany, Italy, Jamaica and the United Kingdom, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework.²⁴⁵⁶

On 21 February 2021, Indonesia announced that taxes on debt security earnings for non-residents will be lowered from 20 per cent to 10 per cent to avoid double taxation. This aligns domestic law with previously signed bilateral and multilateral treaties.²⁴⁵⁷

On 3 March 2021, President Joko Widodo encouraged domestic taxpayers to file their annual income tax return reports online and ahead of the 31 March deadline, in an effort to promote online services and modernize the domestic tax system.²⁴⁵⁸

On 9 March 2021, the bilateral agreement signed with Singapore on the promotion and protection of investments came into effect after ratification by both states. Novel measures included joint statements by tax authorities in the event of disputes, subjecting claims arising from taxation measures to a special regime, as well as measures against double taxation and corruption. These measures will help align the tax policies of both countries and create arbitration and dispute settlement mechanisms.²⁴⁵⁹

On 16 March 2021, the tax agency updated the XML schema for the automatic exchange of information to comply with the common reporting standard and the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. This brings domestic reporting into compliance with US and international standards and increases tax transparency.²⁴⁶⁰

On 10 June 2021, in a joint statement with the Finance Ministers of South Africa and Mexico, the Minister of Finance expressed support for the G7 global minimum tax proposal. He stated his belief

²⁴⁵⁵ The Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will Have Effect with respect to the Tax Treaty with Indonesia, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20201204ind_e.html

²⁴⁵⁶ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

²⁴⁵⁷ Indonesia Issues Implementing Rules of Investment Law Reform, Bloomberg (New York) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-21/indonesia-issues-implementing-rules-for-investment-law-reform>

²⁴⁵⁸ Tax Revenue Raised, National Independence Increased, Indonesian Government Website (Jakarta) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2629/penerimaan-pajak-naik-kemandirian-bangsa-terdongkrak>

²⁴⁵⁹ New Procedural Rights for Investors as Indonesia-Singapore BIT Comes into Force, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP (London) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d3a85fad-1294-4652-9339-b56cbc163a75>

²⁴⁶⁰ Indonesia Tax Agency Updates XML Schema for CRS, FATCA Reporting, Bloomberg Tax (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/indonesia-tax-agency-updates-xml-schema-for-crs-fatca-reporting>

that a 15 per cent global minimum corporate tax would help end the race-to-the-bottom among tax jurisdictions and enhance fairness in tax systems.²⁴⁶¹

On 19 June 2021, Indonesia ratified an agreement with the UAE, which clarified taxation terms for cross-border transactions. The treaty officially came into effect through the issuance of Presidential Regulation No.34/2021 on the agreement between Indonesia and the UAE on avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion, which President Widodo signed on 4 May 2021.²⁴⁶²

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Indonesia joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁴⁶³ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁴⁶⁴

On 23 July 2021, the updated agreement between Indonesia and Singapore on double taxation entered into force. The agreement was signed on 4 February 2020. It aimed to benefit businesses in both countries with subsidiaries in the other country, as well as multinational corporations conducting business in both countries.²⁴⁶⁵

Indonesia has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, suitable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements with Singapore and aligning automatic exchange of information practices with that of the United States. Indonesia has also engaged in multilateral cooperation and calling for a collective digital tax solution, while reforming its domestic taxation on debt security earnings.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 2 December 2020, Italy extended the cross-border taxation agreement with France, which entered into force on 16 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.²⁴⁶⁶

²⁴⁶¹ Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico back G7 global tax reform proposal, Reuters (Berlin) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/indonesia-south-africa-mexico-back-g7-global-tax-reform-proposal-2021-06-10/>

²⁴⁶² Indonesia ratifies tax treaty with UAE, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/19/indonesia-ratifies-tax-treaty-with-uae.html>

²⁴⁶³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁶⁴ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁶⁵ Updated Singapore-Indonesia Agreement for the Elimination of Double Taxation Enters into Force, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (Singapore) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/News-and-Events/Newsroom/Media-Releases-and-Speeches/Media-Releases/2021/Updated-Singapore-Indonesia-Agreement-for-the-Elimination-of-Double-Taxation-Enters-into-Force/>

²⁴⁶⁶ Amicable Agreement with Italy for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/italie/accord_covid-19_fr_it_2020_12_28.pdf

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Jamaica and the UK, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework.²⁴⁶⁷ At the meeting, Minister Gualtieri called for a global response to the challenges of digitalization and reform of the existing tax rules to guarantee more stability and certainty in the taxation of multinational enterprises.²⁴⁶⁸ He called for establishing a global minimum effective tax rate to tackle base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) issues, and reducing incentives for multinational enterprises to move profits to low-tax jurisdictions.²⁴⁶⁹ Minister Gualtieri also affirmed that the review of international tax rules and the mid-2021 deadline is a top priority for Italy's G20 agenda. He announced Italy's commitment to 1) endorsing the OECD's reporting framework for automatic exchange of information on crypto-assets; 2) on BEPS, endorsing the review of the minimum standards on country-by-country reporting, mutual agreement procedures, and the revised methodology to review the minimum standard on tax treaty abuse; and 3) on tax and development, strengthening domestic resource mobilization in developing countries through the enhancement of their capacity in tax policy and tax administration. Finally, Minister Gualtieri announced that Italy will mandate the OECD to report to the G20 on the benefits of developing country participation in the Inclusive Framework, update last year's report "Tax Policy and COVID-19," and present a new report on "Tax Policy after COVID-19" in October.²⁴⁷⁰

On 23 March 2021, the tax authority released Circular 3/2021 to clarify the application and administration of the digital services tax. The document clarified the scope of the digital services tax and excluded services, calculation of taxation revenue and the process for submitting the tax return.²⁴⁷¹

On 30 April 2021, Italy submitted its recovery plan to the European Commission to be eligible for the European Union's COVID relief funding. Part of the recovery plan includes reforms to the tax code.²⁴⁷²

On 7 May 2021, the revenue agency issued guidelines in Circular Letter n.4 to describe its directions for tax audit activities aimed at preventing and fighting tax evasion. This included a section on the procedures of international information exchange.²⁴⁷³

²⁴⁶⁷ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, *International Tax Review* (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

²⁴⁶⁸ Speech by Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri at the "11th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS," Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/articoli/2019_2023-Roberto_Gualtieri/Minister-Gualtieris-speech-at-the-OECD-G20-Inclusive-Framework-on-BEPS/

²⁴⁶⁹ Speech by Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri at the "11th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS," Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/articoli/2019_2023-Roberto_Gualtieri/Minister-Gualtieris-speech-at-the-OECD-G20-Inclusive-Framework-on-BEPS/

²⁴⁷⁰ Speech by Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri at the "11th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS," Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/articoli/2019_2023-Roberto_Gualtieri/Minister-Gualtieris-speech-at-the-OECD-G20-Inclusive-Framework-on-BEPS/

²⁴⁷¹ Italy: Guidance on application and administration of digital services tax, KPMG (Washington D.C.) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-italy-guidance-on-application-and-administration-of-digital-services-tax.html>

²⁴⁷² Italy submits its Recovery Plan to EU Commission just before deadline, Reuters (Rome) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-recovery-italy-idUSKBN2CI30C>

On 5 June 2021, Italy joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises (MNEs) operate and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²⁴⁷⁴

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Italy joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁴⁷⁵ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁴⁷⁶

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, Italy joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁴⁷⁷

On 15 July 2021, the national securities regulator announced that Italians are not allowed to access the Binance cryptocurrency exchange, citing crypto-assets' price volatility and susceptibility to malfunctions and cyber attacks.²⁴⁷⁸

Italy has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through a bilateral arrangement with France and continued cooperation through multilateral institutions and commitments. It has also advanced domestic policies regarding digital currencies, the digital services tax, and tax evasion. On the latter, Italy has provided leadership to reach international solutions to taxation issues through the OECD, under its G20 presidency, and through cooperation with the UK as this year's G7 host.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jeffrey Vandespyker

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

²⁴⁷³ Italian revenue agency's new tax assessment guidelines affect multinationals, MNE Tax (Washington D.C.) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/italian-revenue-agencys-new-tax-assessment-guidelines-affect-multinationals-44975>

²⁴⁷⁴ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²⁴⁷⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁷⁶ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁷⁷ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁴⁷⁸ The Italian regulator has blocked consumers from investing in crypto through Binance on all its platforms, Markets Insider (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/currencies/italy-regulator-cryptocurrency-bans-binance-trading-exchange-2021-7>

On 26 November 2020, Japan's tax treaty with Indonesia began to apply the provisions of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.²⁴⁷⁹

On 18 December 2020, Japan applied the Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance to its treaties with Germany and Pakistan.²⁴⁸⁰

On 30 December 2020, the government completed the mutual notifications necessary for the entry into force of the Convention between Japan and the Republic of Peru for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance with Peru.²⁴⁸¹

On 18 January 2021, the government announced tax relief plans targeting foreign nationals.²⁴⁸² The plan exempts foreign nationals' overseas assets from inheritance taxes and applies a flat income tax rate of 20 per cent on earnings from investment assets.²⁴⁸³ The goal of this measure is to increase international talent acquisition.

On 20 January 2021, the government signed the Convention between Japan and Georgia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.²⁴⁸⁴

On 2 February 2021, the National Tax Agency received details on approximately 2.06 million offshore accounts held by Japanese individuals and corporations that amounted to approximately JPY10 trillion. The information was acquired "under an internationally agreed standard to prevent tax evasion."²⁴⁸⁵

On 12 February 2021, the government completed the mutual notifications necessary for the entry into force of the Convention between Japan and the Kingdom of Spain for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.²⁴⁸⁶

²⁴⁷⁹ The Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will Have Effect with respect to the Tax Treaty with Indonesia, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20201204ind_e.html

²⁴⁸⁰ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased [Germany and Pakistan], Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210108mli.html

²⁴⁸¹ Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Peru, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press23e_000030.html

²⁴⁸² Japan eyes tax breaks on overseas assets for foreigners, Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13978710>

²⁴⁸³ Policy Speech by the Prime Minister to the 204th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00013.html

²⁴⁸⁴ New Tax Convention with Georgia was Signed, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210129Geo_e.html

²⁴⁸⁵ Japan gets details on 2 mil. Offshore accounts to combat tax evasion, Mainichi Shimbun (Tokyo) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210203/p2g/00m/0bu/079000c>

²⁴⁸⁶ New Tax Convention with Spain will Enter into Force, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210215Spa.html

On 18 February 2021, the government completed the mutual notifications necessary for the entry into force of the Convention between Japan and Malaysia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.²⁴⁸⁷

On 22 March 2021, Japan started negotiations with Ukraine for a new Convention to replace the current Tax Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation.²⁴⁸⁸

On 2 April 2021, Japan and Hungary agreed to apply the MLI to their pre-existing bilateral tax treaty.²⁴⁸⁹

On 19 May 2021, Japan and Azerbaijan agreed to start negotiating for a new Convention to replace the current Tax Convention, which entered into force in 1986.²⁴⁹⁰

On 5 June 2021, Japan joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises (MNEs) operate and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²⁴⁹¹

On 23 June 2021, Japan and Georgia exchanged diplomatic notes to bring the “Convention between Japan and Georgia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance” into force and replace the current Tax Convention which entered into force in 1986.²⁴⁹²

On 23 June 2021, Japan and Uruguay exchanged diplomatic notes to bring the “Convention between Japan and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance” into force.²⁴⁹³

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Japan joined the OECD’s statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will “re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there.”²⁴⁹⁴ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁴⁹⁵

²⁴⁸⁷ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased [Malaysia], Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210305mli.html

²⁴⁸⁸ Commencement of negotiations for the Tax Convention with Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002986.html

²⁴⁸⁹ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased [Hungary], Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 July 2021.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210402mli.html

²⁴⁹⁰ Commencement of negotiations for the Tax Convention with Azerbaijan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press22e_000056.html

²⁴⁹¹ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²⁴⁹² Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Georgia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003015.html

²⁴⁹³ Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Uruguay, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000201.html

²⁴⁹⁴ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁴⁹⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new->

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, Japan joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁴⁹⁶

On 16 July 2021, Japan and Switzerland signed the Protocol Amending the Convention between Japan and Switzerland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income. The Protocol revised the taxation of business profits, amended measures for the prevention of abuse of the convention, and contributed to eliminating double taxation and preventing international tax evasion and tax avoidance.²⁴⁹⁷

Japan continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements to prevent tax evasion and avoidance. Japan also continued its cooperation with multilateral institutions and processes with regards to the taxation of MNEs. Further, Japan actively negotiated bilateral taxation treaties in order to uphold the international implementation of the BEPS framework.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 6 January 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced a revised tax break for foreigners. Foreign researchers will be eligible for a 50 per cent tax break for five years under conditions such as education, experience, and employment.²⁴⁹⁸ The goal of this measure is to promote international talent acquisition.

On 26 January 2021, the National Assembly ratified a double tax agreement with Cambodia, which seeks to foster bilateral cooperation and avoid double taxation of income and property.²⁴⁹⁹

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced a 20 per cent tax on cryptocurrency investments exceeding KRW2.5 million, starting in January 2022, in order to increase taxes of digital assets.²⁵⁰⁰

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki announced a plan to expand tax incentives for foreign companies in digital and green industries, as well as a plan to create a “high-tech investment zone” within free economic zones and national industrial complexes.²⁵⁰¹

framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm

²⁴⁹⁶ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁴⁹⁷ Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Switzerland was Signed, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 August 2021.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210716Swi_e.html

²⁴⁹⁸ S. Korea has ‘no plans’ to raise fuel taxes, cut inheritance tax, Korea Herald (Seoul) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210106000997>.

²⁴⁹⁹ South Korea passes bill to ratify tax deal, Khmer Times (Phnom Penh) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50807137/south-korea-passes-bill-to-ratify-tax-deal/>

²⁵⁰⁰ Seoul to tax crypto gains, bring in more regulations, Korea Herald (Seoul) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210222000880>

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Nam-ki revealed that the government will create new rules to regulate digital businesses, such as online platforms and over-the-top media services, to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.²⁵⁰²

On 15 March 2021, in prosecuting tax evasion through digital currencies, the National Tax Service seized KRW36.6 billion from 2416 individuals who hid assets through virtual currencies.²⁵⁰³

On 24 May 2021, the Bank of Korea announced that it is creating a pilot platform for a central bank-backed digital currency.²⁵⁰⁴

On 23 June 2021, the Tax Agency revealed that it seized USD47 million worth of cryptocurrency from 12000 individuals due to suspicion of tax evasion.²⁵⁰⁵

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Korea joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises (MNEs)] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁵⁰⁶ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁵⁰⁷

On 11 July 2021, the government announced that it will be pursuing a tax rate of 20 per cent on multinational companies. This is the lowest rate possible within the range of 20 to 30 per cent agreed upon at the G20 finance ministers' meeting. The government stated that this decision intended to lessen the burden on larger MNEs such as Samsung and SK hynix.²⁵⁰⁸

On 23 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki announced that starting 1 January 2022, the tax authorities will be able to seize and sell cryptocurrency held by individuals that did not pay taxes.²⁵⁰⁹

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Economic and Finance released proposed amendments to the tax laws. The proposal amends the beneficial ownership requirement for overseas investment vehicles, increases the threshold effective tax rate subject to the CFC (controlled foreign corporations) regime,

²⁵⁰¹ More tax incentives set for high-tech foreign firms to boost FDI, Korea Herald (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210315000926>

²⁵⁰² 221st Meeting on International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5088>

²⁵⁰³ South Korea Seizes Funds in Cryptocurrency Tax Evasion Probe, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report/south-korea-seizes-funds-in-cryptocurrency-tax-evasion-probe>

²⁵⁰⁴ S. Korea's c.bank moves to develop pilot digital currency, Reuters (London) 23 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/s-koreas-cbank-moves-develop-pilot-digital-currency-2021-05-24/>

²⁵⁰⁵ South Korea seizes crypto assets in clampdown on 'tax dodgers', Financial Times (London) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/aa9834a1-8e3a-46c9-a2d8-13b10882c1c9>

²⁵⁰⁶ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁰⁷ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁰⁸ Korea seeks 20% digital tax to minimize burden on Samsung, SK hynix, Korea Times (Seoul) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/biz/2021/07/367_311960.html?na

²⁵⁰⁹ Gov't to seize, sell cryptocurrencies held by tax dodgers, The Korea Times (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 28 August 2021. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/biz/2021/07/602_312804.html

and incorporates the OECD's recommendations on the transfer pricing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵¹⁰

Korea has continued its engagement in international cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements with Cambodia and domestic regulations on digital currency and e-commerce. Korea also participated in multilateral processes to reform international taxation and tax MNEs.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 8 December 2020, tax authorities published new rules to amend the income tax law and the value-added-tax (VAT) on digital services. The amendments allow temporary blocking of non-residents' access to digital services if they fail to remit withholding tax payments. The amendments also expanded the scope of digital services applicable to the VAT to include intermediation services.²⁵¹¹

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Finance Arturo Herrera announced that the government will discuss tax reforms with local authorities.²⁵¹² Treasury Undersecretary Gabriel Yorio expressed a desire to close the tax evasion gap in 2021 before restructuring the tax system.²⁵¹³

On 10 June 2021, Minister Herrera, in a joint article with the Finance Ministers of the US, Germany, Indonesia, and South Africa, expressed support for the G7 global minimum tax proposal of at least 15 per cent. The statement expressed the belief that the minimum rate could ultimately be increased and urged other countries to reach an agreement to "ensure that global capitalism is compatible with fair tax systems."²⁵¹⁴

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Mexico joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁵¹⁵ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use

²⁵¹⁰ Proposed Amendments to the Korean Tax Laws for 2021, Lexology (London) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=0d7f5f3f-1a4c-4de6-a104-d2123f4c3124>

²⁵¹¹ Mexico amends tax rules applying to digital service providers, online platforms, MNE Tax (Monterrey) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://mnetax.com/mexico-amends-tax-rules-applying-to-digital-service-providers-online-platforms-42363>

²⁵¹² Mexico to evaluate the need for tax reform after midterm elections, Reuters (Mexico City) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-economy-exclusive-idUSKBN2B3341>

²⁵¹³ Mexico's Finance Secretary estimates the economy could 'easily' grow more than 5% in 2021, The Rio Times (Rio de Janeiro) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/mercosur/mexico/mexicos-finance-secretary-estimates-economy-could-easily-grow-more-than-5-in-2021/>

²⁵¹⁴ Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico back G7 global tax reform proposal, Reuters (Berlin) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/indonesia-south-africa-mexico-back-g7-global-tax-reform-proposal-2021-06-10/>

²⁵¹⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

to protect their tax bases.²⁵¹⁶ Finance Minister Arturo Herrera stated that this arrangement would benefit Mexico, as it would be an “inflow of taxes.”²⁵¹⁷

In addition to domestic efforts to strengthen the digital service tax and a verbal affirmation of Mexico’s goal to close the tax evasion gap, Mexico has also participated in multilateral institutions, such as OECD processes, and engagements with like-minded countries to improve the international tax system. However, Mexico has not engaged in bilateral inter-state channels to advance this commitment.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Neebarika Hemrajani

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 26 November 2020, Russia confirmed the completion of its internal procedures for the Covered Tax Agreements under Article 35(7)(a)(i) of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.²⁵¹⁸ The Convention endeavours to prevent tax avoidance on a multilateral scale and build upon existing cross-border tax standards.²⁵¹⁹

On 14 December 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved the protocol on amending the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with Luxembourg.²⁵²⁰ The protocol entered into force on 5 March 2021.²⁵²¹ This action ensures that revenue paid abroad in the form of interests and dividends is taxed at the same rates as in Russia, at 15 per cent.²⁵²²

On 27 December 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin approved the protocol on amending the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with Malta.²⁵²³

On 26 January 2021, State Secretary-Deputy Finance Minister Alexei Valerievich Sazanov stated that the bill on denouncing the double taxation treaty with the Netherlands is being prepared “for

²⁵¹⁶ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵¹⁷ Mexico to see net revenue gain from corporate tax revamp, finance minister says, Reuters (Venice) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/g20-economy-mexico-idUSL1N2ON0BN>

²⁵¹⁸ The Russian Federation, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/treaties/beps-ml-i-notification-article-35-7-b-russian-federation.pdf>

²⁵¹⁹ OECD Reports on BEPS MLI Developments for Bahrain, Chile, Indonesia, Russia, Kazakhstan, MNE Tax (Vienna) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mnetax.com/oecd-reports-on-beps-ml-i-developments-for-bahrain-chile-indonesia-russia-kazakhstan-41527>

²⁵²⁰ Mikhail Mishustin Approves the Protocol on Amending the Double Taxation Agreement with Luxembourg for Ratification, The Russian Government (Moscow) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41110/>

²⁵²¹ Luxembourg Ratifies Protocol on Tax Agreement with Russia, TASS (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1263241>

²⁵²² Mikhail Mishustin Approves the Protocol on Amending the Double Taxation Agreement with Luxembourg for Ratification, The Russian Government (Moscow) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41110/>

²⁵²³ Mikhail Mishustin Approves Submission for Ratification of a Protocol on Amending the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Malta, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41229/>

submission to the State Duma in February.”²⁵²⁴ This action is part of an ongoing domestic effort to revise double taxation agreements and increase the tax rate for dividends brought abroad to offshore jurisdictions from 2 per cent to 15 per cent.²⁵²⁵

On 5 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized the need “to step up work on converging tax legislation” at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan.²⁵²⁶

On 22-23 February 2021, President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko agreed to expand bilateral cooperation between economic and tax service agencies.²⁵²⁷ Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that the two countries will hold consultations between their tax services with a view to specify further bilateral measures.²⁵²⁸

On 1 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that the government will simplify the tax-paying procedures for businesses to a single tax payment.²⁵²⁹ The goal of this initiative is to improve domestic tax infrastructure and ease of business.²⁵³⁰

On 13 April 2021, Deputy Finance Minister Sazanov reaffirmed the possibility of denouncing the tax convention with the Netherlands.²⁵³¹ This action aims to prevent multinationals from shifting their profits to low-tax jurisdictions.²⁵³²

On 11 May 2021, the Duma voted to revoke the Russian-Dutch Convention on the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion.²⁵³³ After notifying the Netherlands and completing other formal procedures, Russia will terminate the cross-border tax convention as of 1 January 2022.²⁵³⁴

On 25 May 2021, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov commended Malta’s prompt ratification of the bilateral double taxation convention.²⁵³⁵ He stated that proactive joint work would “benefit the legal

²⁵²⁴ Bill on Denouncing Treaty with Netherlands to be Submitted to Lower House in February, TASS (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1249053>

²⁵²⁵ Bill on Denouncing Treaty with Netherlands to be Submitted to Lower House in February, TASS (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1249053>

²⁵²⁶ Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41468/>

²⁵²⁷ Putin, Lukashenko Agree to Boost Work Between Economic Agencies, TASS (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1259703>

²⁵²⁸ Putin, Lukashenko Agree to Boost Work Between Economic Agencies, TASS (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1259703>

²⁵²⁹ Government Meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41864/>

²⁵³⁰ Government Meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41864/>

²⁵³¹ Denunciation of Tax Convention with the Netherlands Fairly Probable, Says Russian Ministry, TASS (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1277495>

²⁵³² Denunciation of Tax Convention with the Netherlands Fairly Probable, Says Russian Ministry, TASS (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1277495>

²⁵³³ Lower Chamber of Russian Parliament Votes to Revoke Tax Agreement with Netherlands, Sputnik News (Moscow) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://sputniknews.com/russia/202105111082856120-lower-chamber-of-russias-parliament-denounces-tax-agreement-with-netherlands/>

²⁵³⁴ Tax Treaty between Russia and the Netherlands Terminated as of 1 January 2022, Deloitte (Amsterdam) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www2.deloitte.com/nl/nl/pages/tax/articles/first-step-taken-in-decunciation-process-tax-treaty-russia-the-netherlands.html>

²⁵³⁵ Russia Hails Malta’s Reciprocal Moves on Double Taxation, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1293689>

regulation of relations” and “promote the expansion of trade and economic ties” between the two countries.²⁵³⁶

On 30 May 2021, the Energy Ministry announced a partnership with the Finance Ministry to create a working group under the authority of the Duma which would focus on revising the taxation framework of the oil sector.²⁵³⁷ The goal is to introduce tax measures that would stimulate the domestic oil and gas industry.

On 31 May 2021, First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov demanded that domestic metal companies pay a windfall tax on the profits that they have earned over the past year.²⁵³⁸ He stated that the government had lost RUB100 billion in taxes.²⁵³⁹

On 1 June 2021, Russia reached an agreement with Belarus starting from 1 January 2022 to minimize the losses Belarusian oil refineries would incur due to Russia’s reduction of oil export duties and increase of mineral extraction tax.²⁵⁴⁰

On 3 June 2021, Special Envoy of the President Anatoly Chubais suggested that a cross-border carbon tax would be introduced to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).²⁵⁴¹ The goal of this tax is to create competitive advantages for companies with low carbon emissions and divert tax revenues from the EU to the Russian Treasury.²⁵⁴²

On 17 June 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak advised that the EU’s proposal to impose a carbon tax on the importation of goods may violate international trade rules as set forth by the WTO and increase the vulnerability of global energy supplies.²⁵⁴³ This statement intended to protect Russia’s oil and natural gas industries.²⁵⁴⁴

On 22 June 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin stated that Russia would lend technical support to Uzbekistan in streamlining its tax administration system at a meeting of the Russia-Uzbekistan Joint Commission.²⁵⁴⁵ The goal is to address existing vulnerabilities in Uzbekistan’s existing international taxation framework and improve bilateral economic ties with the country.²⁵⁴⁶

²⁵³⁶ Russia Hails Malta’s Reciprocal Moves on Double Taxation, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1293689>

²⁵³⁷ Two Russian Ministries to Set Up a Working Group on Taxes in Oil Sector, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 29 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1295789>

²⁵³⁸ Russia Demands Metals Giants Pay Windfall Tax, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/05/31/russia-demands-metals-giants-pay-windfall-tax-a74056>

²⁵³⁹ Russia Demands Metals Giants Pay Windfall Tax, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/05/31/russia-demands-metals-giants-pay-windfall-tax-a74056>

²⁵⁴⁰ Belarus and Russia Reached a General Agreement on Tax Manoeuvre – BelTA, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Minsk) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1296673>

²⁵⁴¹ Russian Presidential Envoy Suggests Introducing Cross-border Carbon Tax, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (St. Petersburg) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1298109>

²⁵⁴² Russian Presidential Envoy Suggests Introducing Cross-border Carbon Tax, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (St. Petersburg) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1298109>

²⁵⁴³ Russia Says EU Carbon Border Tax May Impinge on Global Trade Rules, Reuters (Moscow) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/russia-says-eu-carbon-border-tax-may-impinge-global-trade-rules-2021-06-17/>

²⁵⁴⁴ Russia Says EU Carbon Border Tax May Impinge on Global Trade Rules, Reuters (Moscow) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/russia-says-eu-carbon-border-tax-may-impinge-global-trade-rules-2021-06-17/>

²⁵⁴⁵ Meeting of the Russia-Uzbekistan Joint Commission at the Level of Heads of Government, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42569/>

²⁵⁴⁶ Meeting of the Russia-Uzbekistan Joint Commission at the Level of Heads of Government, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42569/>

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Russia joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁵⁴⁷ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁵⁴⁸

On 8 July 2021, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov announced that a huge fall in revenues for Russia's energy market was on the horizon after a global push towards renewables and a fall in demand for fossil fuels.²⁵⁴⁹ He said that the EU's cross-border carbon tax would impact more than 40 per cent of Russian exporters.²⁵⁵⁰

On 9 July 2021, Deputy Finance Minister Sazanov confirmed that Russia would move towards a green economy and carbon neutrality without implementing new taxes on carbon emissions like the rest of Europe.²⁵⁵¹ Russia's goal is to ease the burden of international carbon taxes and new environmental standards on domestic businesses.²⁵⁵²

On 13 July 2021, President Putin and Belarusian President Lukashenko agreed on credit support for Belarus following the reduction of oil export duties and an increase in the mineral extraction tax in the Russian oil industry.²⁵⁵³ The exact loan amount was not specified.²⁵⁵⁴ The two heads of state also discussed tax regulations in the context of Western sanctions against Belarus.²⁵⁵⁵

On 14 July 2021, the Press Secretary of the Belarusian President Natalia Eismont declared that Belarus and Russia had completed work on harmonising bilateral tax legislation.²⁵⁵⁶

On 20 July 2021, First Deputy Chair of the State Duma Committee on Budgets and Taxes Sergey Katasonov submitted a bill to the Duma to suspend land and property taxes for businesses that are operating under COVID-related restrictions.²⁵⁵⁷

²⁵⁴⁷ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁴⁸ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁴⁹ Russia Faces Huge Revenue Losses from Renewables Push, Finance Minister Warns, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/07/08/russia-faces-huge-revenue-losses-from-renewables-push-finance-minister-warns-a74463>

²⁵⁵⁰ Russia Faces Huge Revenue Losses from Renewables Push, Finance Minister Warns, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/07/08/russia-faces-huge-revenue-losses-from-renewables-push-finance-minister-warns-a74463>

²⁵⁵¹ Russia Will Follow Its Own Path Towards Green Economy Without Emission Taxes – Ministry, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/politics/1312285>

²⁵⁵² Russia Will Follow Its Own Path Towards Green Economy Without Emission Taxes – Ministry, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/politics/1312285>

²⁵⁵³ Putin and Lukashenko Talk Gas Prices and Western Sanctions During Fourth Meeting of 2021, Meduza (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://meduza.io/en/news/2021/07/13/putin-and-lukashenko-talk-gas-prices-and-western-sanctions-during-fourth-meeting-of-2021>

²⁵⁵⁴ Kremlin Did Not Specify Volume of Loan to Belarus, It Is Still Discussed, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/politics/1313889>

²⁵⁵⁵ Putin and Lukashenko Talk Gas Prices and Western Sanctions During Fourth Meeting of 2021, Meduza (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://meduza.io/en/news/2021/07/13/putin-and-lukashenko-talk-gas-prices-and-western-sanctions-during-fourth-meeting-of-2021>

²⁵⁵⁶ Minsk, Moscow Completed Fiscal Laws Harmonization Activities – Press Secretary, The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (Moscow) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1314021>

On 26 July 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin stated that Russia was considering the possibility of turning the Kuril Islands into a tax-free offshore zone to attract foreign investors and support budding entrepreneurs.²⁵⁵⁸ The proposal would exempt individuals and organizations investing in the Islands from paying income, added value, property, land, and transport taxes.²⁵⁵⁹

On 6 August 2021, President Putin stated that from 1 January 2022 onwards, Russia would impose “new higher taxes on mineral extraction” on metals producers.²⁵⁶⁰ This domestic tax increase is meant to support Russia’s fiscal budget during the economic downturns of the pandemic.²⁵⁶¹

On 9 September 2021, President Putin and Belarusian President Lukashenko met in Moscow to discuss the synchronisation of their tax and customs systems.²⁵⁶² This meeting is the latest in a series of talks between Russia and Belarus to deepen integration at the fiscal level and “increase cooperation between their ministries and departments through the latest digital technology.”²⁵⁶³

On 14 September 2021, the government published a plan to impose new taxes on foreign-owned digital services by November 2021, in order to support domestic technology sectors.²⁵⁶⁴

Russia has pursued bilateral channels to improve taxation agreements with Luxembourg and Malta while providing tax administration assistance to Uzbekistan. Russia has also attended ~~four~~ meetings with Belarus to improve tax relations and discuss credit support. Domestically, Russia has taken tax measures to stimulate its oil and gas industry while objecting to the EU’s cross-border carbon tax. Russia has also taken important steps in realizing its multilateral commitment to international tax cooperation by completing the internal procedures of the MLI, supporting the improvement of international tax systems within the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, and proposing a carbon tax in the EAEU.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Saarah Khan

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 2 December 2020, Saudi Arabia signed a double tax treaty with Taiwan in Riyadh. It took effect on 1 January 2021; this agreement will facilitate bilateral cooperation on taxes and tariffs.²⁵⁶⁵

²⁵⁵⁷ State Duma proposes to suspend taxes for businesses amid pandemic, RAPS Russian Legal Information Agency (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 3 September 2021.

http://rapsinews.com/legislation_news/20210720/307227863.html

²⁵⁵⁸ RF Government suggests establishing free customs area on Kuril Islands, PortNews (Moscow) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 3 September 2021. <https://www.en.portnews.ru/news/316180/>

²⁵⁵⁹ Russia unveils plans to create offshore-like zone in the Kuril Islands, Russia Today (Moscow) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 3 September 2021. <https://www.rt.com/business/532696-offshore-zone-russia-kurils/>

²⁵⁶⁰ Russia to raise tax on metals producers in 2022 – Putin, Reuters (Moscow) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 3 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-metals-taxation-idUSKBN2F7298>

²⁵⁶¹ Russia to raise tax on metals producers in 2022 – Putin, Reuters (Moscow) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 3 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-metals-taxation-idUSKBN2F7298>

²⁵⁶² Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State, The Russian Government (Minsk) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43232/#43232=5:1:JJP,7:43:uq3>

²⁵⁶³ Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State, The Russian Government (Minsk) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43232/#43232=5:1:JJP,7:43:uq3>

²⁵⁶⁴ Russia publishes plan to tax foreign tech, promote home-grown rivals, Reuters (Moscow) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-publishes-plan-tax-foreign-tech-promote-home-grown-rivals-2021-09-14/>

On 2 December 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the 12th edition of the Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering Seminar. Governor of the Central Bank Ahmed Bin Abdul Karim Al-Kholifeey spoke about Saudi Arabia's adoption of "procedures and international standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing that has been developed by the Financial Action Task Force."²⁵⁶⁶

On 1 April 2021, Saudi Arabia's agreement with Switzerland for the avoidance of double taxation regarding taxes on income and capital took effect. This agreement adopted base erosion and profit shifting standards to include an anti-abuse clause and provisions for the exchange of information upon request.²⁵⁶⁷

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Saudi Arabia joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁵⁶⁸ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁵⁶⁹

Saudi Arabia has continued to engage in international cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements, hosting multilateral conferences, and strengthening domestic regulations against money laundering and terrorist financing based on international frameworks.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sharif Fatourehchi

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni delivered the 2021 Budget Review, which proposed amendments to avoid the double taxation of returns from hybrid debt instruments.^{2570,2571,2572} The review also proposed amendments to controlled foreign company anti-

²⁵⁶⁵ Taiwan, Saudi Arabia sign agreement on avoidance of double taxation, Focus Taiwan (Taipei) 12 October 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://focustaiwan.tw/politics/202012100009>

²⁵⁶⁶ Fraud, corruption tackled during COVID-19: Saudi Central Bank, Arab News (Riyadh) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1771736/business-economy>

²⁵⁶⁷ Entry into force of double taxation agreements with Brazil and Saudi Arabia, State Secretariat for International Finance (Berne) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

<https://www.sif.admin.ch/sif/en/home/dokumentation/fachinformationen/dba-brasilien-saudiarabien.html>

²⁵⁶⁸ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁶⁹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁷⁰ South Africa: Tax provisions in budget 2021, KPMG (Johannesburg) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-south-africa-tax-provisions-budget-2021.html>

²⁵⁷¹ South Africa's Minister of Finance delivers 2021 Budget Review, Ernst and Young (London) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/south-africa-s-minister-of-finance-delivers-2021-budget-review

²⁵⁷² Budget 2021/22 – Limiting The Potential For Double Taxation Under The Hybrid Debt Anti-Avoidance Rules, South Africa Tax Guide (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sataguide.co.za/budget-2021-22-limiting-the-potential-for-double-taxation-under-the-hybrid-debt-anti-avoidance-rules/>

diversionary rules to prevent circumvention by taxpayers.²⁵⁷³ The budget provided ZAR3 billion to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to “participate meaningfully in global tax compliance initiatives” while it expanded auditing and investigative abilities to prevent the abuse of transfer pricing, tax base erosion and tax crime.²⁵⁷⁴ The budget committed to a unilateral digital service tax if a multilateral agreement proved unsuccessful.²⁵⁷⁵

On 1 April 2021, South Africa and Kuwait signed the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty-Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.²⁵⁷⁶ However, the Convention has not been ratified.²⁵⁷⁷

On 7 April 2021, SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter announced plans to collect taxes from ZAR400 billion of offshore holdings by South Africans, acting on the automatic exchange of information received from 87 countries.^{2578,2579}

On 7 May 2021, the SARS started asking for taxpayers’ cryptocurrency transactions in audit letters to collect capital gains tax on cryptocurrency trades.²⁵⁸⁰

On 10 June 2021, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, in a joint article with the Finance Ministers of the US, Germany, Indonesia, and Mexico expressed support for the G7 global minimum tax proposal to be at least 15 per cent. The statement expressed the belief that the minimum rate could ultimately be increased and urged other countries to reach an agreement to “ensure that global capitalism is compatible with fair tax systems.”²⁵⁸¹

On 14 June 2021, the Commissioner of SARS Edward Kieswetter and the National Director for Public Prosecution Advocate Shamila Batohi published a joint statement promising to strengthen collaboration and address critical problems such as tax evasion and non-compliance, which are undermining the tax revenue base and integrity of the tax system. To put this partnership into action, the Criminal Investigations Division of SARS will assign dedicated capacity and work closely with the National Prosecuting Authority's Specialised Tax Units to develop strong cases for prosecution. This will be done in a synchronised fashion. The collaborative prosecution enterprise will initially target non-compliant employers.²⁵⁸²

²⁵⁷³ South Africa: Tax provisions in budget 2021, KPMG (Johannesburg) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-south-africa-tax-provisions-budget-2021.html>

²⁵⁷⁴ South Africa’s Minister of Finance delivers 2021 Budget Review, Ernst and Young (London) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/south-africa-s-minister-of-finance-delivers-2021-budget-review

²⁵⁷⁵ South Africa: Tax provisions in budget 2021, KPMG (Johannesburg) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-south-africa-tax-provisions-budget-2021.html>

²⁵⁷⁶ Status overview of all DTAs and Protocols, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/legal-counsel/international-treaties-agreements/double-taxation-agreements-protocols/>

²⁵⁷⁷ Status overview of all DTAs and Protocols, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/legal-counsel/international-treaties-agreements/double-taxation-agreements-protocols/>

²⁵⁷⁸ SARS eyes offshore wealth, eNCA (Johannesburg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.enca.com/business/sars-eyes-offshore-wealth>

²⁵⁷⁹ SARS wants a closer look at the ‘R400 billion’ South Africans have stashed overseas, BusinessTech (Lytelton) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/wealth/484571/sars-targets-south-africans-with-money-overseas-what-to-expect/>

²⁵⁸⁰ SARS is coming after these 3 tax streams, BusinessTech (Lytelton) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/banking/488741/sars-is-coming-after-these-3-tax-streams/>

²⁵⁸¹ Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico back G7 global tax reform proposal, Reuters (Berlin) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/indonesia-south-africa-mexico-back-g7-global-tax-reform-proposal-2021-06-10/>

²⁵⁸² SARS and NPA: Joint media statement on prioritising tax crime, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/media-release/sars-and-mpa-joint-media-statement-on-prioritising-tax-crime/>

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, South Africa joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁵⁸³ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁵⁸⁴

On 6 July 2021, SARS announced collaboration with the International Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division (IRS-CI) to fight tax and economic crimes affecting both South Africa and the US. A continuous training project coordinated by the IRS-CI is a key component of this bilateral joint endeavour. The IRS-CI continually exchanges financial investigation tactics, teaches South African law enforcement and government authorities, and promotes adjudicated foreign case studies pertinent to both countries.²⁵⁸⁵

On 6 July 2021, the Commissioner of SARS Edward Kieswetter and the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants Freeman Nomvalo announced a partnership to advance SARS and ensure that it meets the demands for "skills in areas such as Specialist Auditing, Transfer Pricing, Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Illicit Economy and High Wealth Individual Unit."²⁵⁸⁶

South Africa has pursued bilateral actions by signing the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent BEPS with Kuwait and cooperating with the US to combat tax crimes. South Africa has further pursued domestic tax reforms, including measures to strengthen the ability of SARS to combat transfer pricing and tax erosion with the goal of meeting international standards. Finally, South Africa has continued cooperation in multilateral institutions by agreeing to the G7 and OECD's two-pillar framework for international tax reform.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Oya Darici

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 30 December 2020, the authorities of Turkey and the United States began negotiations on the exchange of Country-by-Country Reporting (CbCR) on large multinational corporations to improve transparency in international tax systems.²⁵⁸⁷

²⁵⁸³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁸⁴ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁸⁵ IRS Criminal Investigation and SARS join forces to fight international crimes, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 6 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/media-release/irs-criminal-investigation-and-sars-join-forces-to-fight-international-crimes/>

²⁵⁸⁶ SARS and SAICA sign MOU to help capacitate revenue collector, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/media-release/sars-and-saica-sign-mou-to-help-capacitate-revenue-collector/>

²⁵⁸⁷ US, Turkey negotiating exchange of MNE country-by-country reports, MNE Tax 4 (Washington) January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mnetax.com/us-turkey-negotiating-exchange-of-mne-country-by-country-reports-41915>

On 1 May 2021, Turkey added cryptocurrency platforms to a list of firms covered by anti-money laundering and terrorism financing regulations. This aims to prevent firms from funding terrorist organizations domestically and abroad.²⁵⁸⁸

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, Turkey joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over [multinational enterprises] from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁵⁸⁹ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁵⁹⁰

Turkey has taken substantial domestic action to counter terrorist financing and money laundering and began to explore bilateral cooperation with the US on CbCR. At the international level, Turkey has also contributed to improvements to the international tax system through multilateral cooperation and processes.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sharif Fatourehchi

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 24 December 2020, the United Kingdom and the European Union reached an agreement on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.²⁵⁹¹ As the UK no longer benefits from EU directives as of 1 January 2021, sections within this new agreement ensure that both parties maintain Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards of tax transparency, anti-tax avoidance, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing and more.²⁵⁹² The agreement was signed on 30 December 2020 and became provisionally applicable starting 1 January 2021.²⁵⁹³

On 29 December 2020, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced that reporting under the EU Directive on Administrative Cooperation would be modified.²⁵⁹⁴ Reporting would now only be required for cross-border arrangements applicable under Category D of the directive that

²⁵⁸⁸ Turkey adds crypto firms to money laundering, terror financing rules, Reuters (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/turkey-adds-crypto-firms-money-laundering-terror-financing-rules-2021-05-01/>

²⁵⁸⁹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁹⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁵⁹¹ EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

²⁵⁹² Agreements reached between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union#history>

²⁵⁹³ Press release: Signature of the EU-UK agreement, European Council (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/30/press-release-signature-of-the-eu-uk-agreement-30-december-2020/>

²⁵⁹⁴ Report a cross-border arrangement to HMRC, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-cross-border-arrangement-to-hmrc#history>

“share substantial common growth with the Mandatory Disclosure Rules developed by the OECD.”²⁵⁹⁵

On 12 January 2021, the UK signed a new protocol with Germany, to be added to the existing double tax treaty signed in 2010, to highlight both parties’ intention to include the standard outlined in the OECD base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) project on treaty abuse, tax evasion and avoidance.²⁵⁹⁶ Changes include amending the wording of the treaty and adding Article 30A.²⁵⁹⁷ The protocol is not yet in force.²⁵⁹⁸

On 27-28 January 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Germany, Italy, Jamaica and Indonesia, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.²⁵⁹⁹

On 19 February 2021, HMRC published a text which incorporated the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty-Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI) and the 2007 UK-Saudi Arabia Double Taxation Convention and protocol.²⁶⁰⁰ This text reiterates the provisions of the MLI, which replaced sections of the Convention and the protocol as well as the dates they take effect.²⁶⁰¹

On 23 February 2021, the UK and Sweden signed an amending protocol to update the Sweden-UK income tax treaty.²⁶⁰² The amendment contained changes to the preamble language, which describe the intentions to eliminate double taxation on income taxes and capital gain taxes while discouraging opportunities for tax evasion or avoidance. The protocol is yet to be ratified by both states.²⁶⁰³

On 3 March 2021, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak delivered the Budget Speech and outlined that income tax, VAT, and capital gains tax will not increase. Chancellor Sunak also announced a GBP100 million package to equip the HMRC to act against tax avoidance and evasion.²⁶⁰⁴

²⁵⁹⁵ IEIM645000 – Hallmarks: Category D, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/international-exchange-of-information/ieim645000>

²⁵⁹⁶ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

²⁵⁹⁷ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

²⁵⁹⁸ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

²⁵⁹⁹ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

²⁶⁰⁰ Saudi Arabia: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 December 2009. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/saudi-arabia-tax-treaties#history>

²⁶⁰¹ Saudi Arabia: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 December 2009. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/saudi-arabia-tax-treaties#history>

²⁶⁰² Sweden: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sweden-tax-treaties>

²⁶⁰³ Sweden: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sweden-tax-treaties>

²⁶⁰⁴ Budget Speech 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/budget-speech-2021>

On 11 March 2021, the UK published the Finance Bill 2021, which includes legislation on tax changes and plans to act against tax avoidance and evasion, which will take effect at the beginning of the 2022 tax year.²⁶⁰⁵

On 23 March 2021, the government published its “Tax Policies and Consultations Update (Spring 2021),” which seeks to improve the quality of tax policy and legislation by striving for greater visibility, transparency, and accessibility for taxpayers, Members of Parliament, tax professionals and other stakeholders.²⁶⁰⁶ These measures are an integral part of the government’s ten-year plan to create a trusted and modern tax system.²⁶⁰⁷

On 15 April 2021, in the overall Committee of the whole House, the government introduced amendments pertaining to hybrid and other mismatches in its Finance Bill 2021.²⁶⁰⁸

On 19 April 2021, Her Majesty’s Treasury added new Regulations to the International Tax Compliance Regulations SI 2015/878 to allow new agreements reached with other jurisdictions up to 20 April 2021 to be adopted.²⁶⁰⁹ The new agreements came into force on 14 May 2021 and aim to improve international tax compliance.²⁶¹⁰

On 22 April 2021, the HMRC published factsheet CC/FS59, which provides details on the penalties charged in relation to CbCR.²⁶¹¹ Penalties can be given for inaccurate information and failure to meet the commitments outlined in the Taxes (BEPS) (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2016.²⁶¹²

On 26 April 2021, the Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021 came into effect.²⁶¹³ This legislation allows the government to impose sanctions on individuals involved in serious corruption, including bribery and misappropriation of property, in an effort to create autonomous anti-corruption legislation post-Brexit.²⁶¹⁴

On 21 May 2021, the UK and Australia signed a memorandum of understanding for arbitration under the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and

²⁶⁰⁵ Finance Bill 2021 Published, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/finance-bill-2021-published>

²⁶⁰⁶ Government strengthens tax policymaking with over 30 updates, consultations and documents publishes, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-strengthens-tax-policymaking-with-over-30-updates-consultations-and-documents-published>

²⁶⁰⁷ Government strengthens tax policymaking with over 30 updates, consultations and documents publishes, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-strengthens-tax-policymaking-with-over-30-updates-consultations-and-documents-published>

²⁶⁰⁸ Amendments 17 to 42 to Clause 36 and Schedule 7: Hybrid and other mismatches, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/978205/210415_Clause_36_amendments_EN.pdf

²⁶⁰⁹ The International Tax Compliance (Amendment) Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/485/made>

²⁶¹⁰ The International Tax Compliance (Amendment) Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/485/made>

²⁶¹¹ Compliance checks; country-by-country reporting penalties-CC/FS59, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compliance-checks-country-by-country-reporting-penalties-ccfs59>

²⁶¹² Compliance checks; country-by-country reporting penalties-CC/FS59, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compliance-checks-country-by-country-reporting-penalties-ccfs59>

²⁶¹³ The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/488/regulation/1/made>

²⁶¹⁴ The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/488/regulation/4/made>

Profit Shifting (MLI) for unresolved issues stemming from the Mutual Agreement Procedure.²⁶¹⁵ This memorandum of understanding covers how to request for the submission of a case, the minimum information and documentation standards, the appointment of arbitrators, and the arbitration process itself.²⁶¹⁶

On 5 June 2021, the UK joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises (MNEs) operate and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²⁶¹⁷ As another feature of the G7 agreement, the UK agreed to remove its unilateral digital services tax.²⁶¹⁸ This removal will come into effect alongside the implementation of BEPS 2.0 standards.²⁶¹⁹

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, the UK joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁶²⁰ Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁶²¹

On 6 July 2021, the HMRC published an issue briefing, detailing its strategy to tackle the perceived issue of the hidden economy largely found in taxi, private hire vehicle, and scrap metal businesses.²⁶²² The primary tool the HMRC intends to use is tax conditionality for license renewals to ensure that

²⁶¹⁵ Australia; tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/australia-tax-treaties>

²⁶¹⁶ Memorandum of Understanding on the Mode of Application on the Implementation of Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting between the competent authorities of Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australian Taxation Office (Sydney) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?docid=MOU/UK>

²⁶¹⁷ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²⁶¹⁸ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication?fbclid=IwAR3RXI53CJ39HbxcRa9UbNTy66-Sb-1kr9zq69yt9YQty-DkDjgb82o84YQ>

²⁶¹⁹ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication?fbclid=IwAR3RXI53CJ39HbxcRa9UbNTy66-Sb-1kr9zq69yt9YQty-DkDjgb82o84YQ>

²⁶²⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶²¹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶²² HMRC issue briefing: hidden economy conditionality, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-issue-briefing-hidden-economy-conditionality/hmrc-issue-briefing-hidden-economy-conditionality>

licenses are not issued to those who do not meet a degree of confidence with tax filings.²⁶²³ Tax conditionality will be introduced in April 2022.²⁶²⁴

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, the UK joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁶²⁵

On 7 September 2021, to provide guidance on customs complications resulting from Brexit, the HMRC published a guide on how to handle and account for VAT on the movement of goods between Northern Ireland and the EU.²⁶²⁶

On 22 September 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak met with US Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen to discuss ongoing efforts to improve the international tax system, including discussions surrounding international corporate taxes and the withdrawal of digital services taxes.²⁶²⁷

The UK has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements with the EU, Germany, Sweden and other G20 members. It has also cooperated in multilateral frameworks through implementing the MLI and creating treaties that align with the OECD's standards on tax avoidance and evasion.

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

Analyst: Jessica Johnson

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.

In January 2021, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published its investigation concluding that Austria, Spain, the UK, India, Italy and Turkey's digital services tax regimes were discriminatory to American companies and inconsistent with principles of international taxation.²⁶²⁸ The USTR commenced the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions against such countries.²⁶²⁹

²⁶²³ HMRC issue briefing: hidden economy conditionality, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-issue-briefing-hidden-economy-conditionality/hmrc-issue-briefing-hidden-economy-conditionality>

²⁶²⁴ HMRC issue briefing: hidden economy conditionality, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-issue-briefing-hidden-economy-conditionality/hmrc-issue-briefing-hidden-economy-conditionality>

²⁶²⁵ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁶²⁶ VAT on movements of goods between Northern Ireland and the EU, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-on-movements-of-goods-between-northern-ireland-and-the-eu>

²⁶²⁷ READOUT: Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen's Call with United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0369>

²⁶²⁸ USTR releases findings of Section 301 investigation on DST regimes of Austria, Spain and the UK, and 301 findings on Vietnam's currency valuation practices, Ernst and Young (London) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ustr-releases-findings-of-section-301-investigation-on-dst-regim

²⁶²⁹ UK Tax Round Up – April 2021, JDSUPRA (California) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/uk-tax-round-up-april-2021-1107413/>

On 25 February 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen expressed her intention to participate in multilateral dialogues on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and overcome prior disagreements in anticipation of her first meeting with G20 counterparts.²⁶³⁰

On 26 February 2021, Treasury Secretary Yellen expressed that the US would reverse its previous stance and stop pushing for safe harbour implementation in Pillar One of the BEPS Framework and work toward an international agreement on digital commerce and a global minimum corporate tax.²⁶³¹ This action advances the goal of achieving a global deal on digital taxation in 2021.²⁶³²

On 5 April 2021, Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator Ron Wyden and Senators Sherrod Brown and Mark Warner released a framework for reforming US international tax policy.²⁶³³ The document called for changes to the global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) system, which would split revenue reporting for multinational corporations to a country-by-country system, thus eliminating the incentive to funnel revenue reporting to tax havens.²⁶³⁴

On 7 April 2021, the Department of the Treasury released the Made in America Tax Plan.²⁶³⁵ The plan would make changes to the GILTI system by removing a tax exemption on the first 10 per cent of foreign profits earned by US companies. The plan also introduced the Stopping Harmful Inversions and Ending Low-tax Development's system, which conforms to the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework by removing tax deductions on profits earned in low-tax foreign jurisdictions.^{2636,2637}

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Assistant Secretary of International Tax Affairs at the Treasury Jose Murillo confirmed that the US had started negotiations on a tax treaty with Colombia.²⁶³⁸ The US had also completed similar negotiations with Norway and Romania.²⁶³⁹

²⁶³⁰ Letter from Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen to G20 Colleagues, US Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0034>

²⁶³¹ OECD Issues report to G20 finance ministers and Central Bank governors and hosts webcast on the outcomes of the G20 meeting and other tax developments, Ernst and Young LLP (Rotterdam) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2021-0506-oecd-issues-report-to-g20-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-and-hosts-webcast-on-the-outcomes-of-the-g20-meeting-and-other-tax-developments>

²⁶³² US Drops Digital Tax Demand, Opening Door to Global Deal, Bloomberg News (New York) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-26/scholz-says-u-s-drops-demand-that-digital-tax-must-be-optional>

²⁶³³ Overhauling International Taxation: A framework to invest in the American people by ensuring multinational corporations pay their fair share, Senate Finance Committee (Washington D.C.) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/040121%20Overhauling%20International%20Taxation.pdf>

²⁶³⁴ Report on recent US international tax developments – 9 April 2021, Ernst and Young International Tax and Transaction Services (Washington D.C.) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/report-on-recent-us-international-tax-developments-9-april-2021

²⁶³⁵ The Made in America Tax Plan, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/MadeInAmericaTaxPlan_Report.pdf

²⁶³⁶ Treasury Department reports on President Biden's "Made in America Tax Plan," Thomson Reuters (Carrollton) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tax.thomsonreuters.com/news/treasury-department-reports-on-president-bidens-made-in-america-tax-plan/>

²⁶³⁷ Proposed US tax reform, KPMG Ireland (Dublin) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/ie/en/home/insights/2021/04/proposed-us-tax-reform.html>

²⁶³⁸ U.S. Opens Tax Treaty Talks with Colombia, Other Updates Ongoing, Bloomberg Tax (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/payroll/u-s-opens-tax-treaty-talks-with-colombia-other-updates-ongoing>

²⁶³⁹ US income tax treaties at the start of the Biden Administration, PricewaterhouseCoopers US (Washington D.C.) May 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.pwc.com/us/en/services/tax/library/pwc-us-income-tax-treaties-at-the-start-of-the-biden-administration.html>

On 5 June 2021, the US joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises (MNEs) operate and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²⁶⁴⁰

On 13 June 2021, following the G7 Cornwall Summit, the White House issued a statement endorsing the commitment made by G7 leaders to adhere to the G20/OECD BEPS framework, including negotiations toward a global minimum 15 per cent corporate tax.²⁶⁴¹

On 1 July 2021, as part of 130 countries and jurisdictions, the US joined the OECD's statement to establish a two-pillar framework for international tax reform. Pillar One will "re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from the home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there."²⁶⁴² Pillar Two will introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent that countries can use to protect their tax bases.²⁶⁴³

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, the US joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁶⁴⁴

On 5 August 2021, the US confirmed with the OECD Forum on Harmful Tax Practices that its foreign-derived intangible income regime would be repealed.²⁶⁴⁵ This action is required as part of the BEPS Action 5 minimum implementation standards.

On 25 August 2021, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee Ron Wyden proposed draft legislation to update the international taxation regime.²⁶⁴⁶ The proposal would modify three existing pieces of the existing tax law passed in 2017 by reducing the ability of US corporations to engage in profit shifting and base erosion activities.²⁶⁴⁷

On 22 September 2021, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen met with the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak to discuss ongoing efforts to improve the international tax system,

²⁶⁴⁰ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²⁶⁴¹ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/13/carbis-bay-g7-summit-communique/>

²⁶⁴² 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁴³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁴⁴ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁶⁴⁵ OECD releases 2021 update on peer review of preferential tax regimes, Ernst & Young (Rotterdam) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/08/tnf-oecd-countries-bring-preferential-tax-regimes-in-line-international-standards.html>

²⁶⁴⁶ Wyden, Brown, Warner Unveil International Taxation Overhaul Discussion Draft, United States Senate Committee on Finance (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/wyden-brown-warner-unveil-international-taxation-overhaul-discussion-draft>

²⁶⁴⁷ US Senate unveils international tax reform draft legislation, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/us-senate-unveils-international-tax-reform-draft-legislation-45507>

including discussions surrounding international corporate taxes and the withdrawal of digital services taxes.²⁶⁴⁸

The US has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through participating in multilateral dialogues on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS, with specific reference to taxation on digital commerce and a global minimum corporate tax. The US government has taken steps to curb harmful tax practices, prevent base erosion, and implement country-by-country reporting systems, and engaged in bilateral tax treaty negotiations with Colombia, Norway, and Romania.

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

Analyst: Brett Szmul

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.

On 27 November 2020, the European Council approved a comprehensive assessment outlining its priorities on enhancing global cooperation with tax revenue agencies of non-EU countries, focusing on the spheres of digital commerce and tax governance.²⁶⁴⁹

On 24 December 2020, the UK and the EU reached an agreement on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.²⁶⁵⁰ As the UK no longer benefits from EU directives as of 1 January 2021, sections within this new agreement ensure that both parties maintain Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards of tax transparency, anti-tax avoidance, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing and more.²⁶⁵¹ The agreement was signed on 30 December 2020 and became provisionally applicable starting 1 January 2021.²⁶⁵²

On 22 February 2021, the EU added Dominica and removed Barbados from its list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, after a review conducted as part of its ongoing strategy for external taxation.²⁶⁵³ Several other changes were made to official designations of countries cooperating with EU tax authorities.

²⁶⁴⁸ READOUT: Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen's Call with United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0369>

²⁶⁴⁹ Fair and effective taxation: Council adopts conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/11/27/council-conclusions-on-fair-and-effective-taxation-in-times-of-recovery-on-tax-challenges-linked-to-digitalisation-and-on-tax-good-governance-in-the-eu-and-beyond/>

²⁶⁵⁰ EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

²⁶⁵¹ Agreements reached between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union#history>

²⁶⁵² Press release: Signature of the EU-UK agreement, European Council (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/30/press-release-signature-of-the-eu-uk-agreement-30-december-2020/>

²⁶⁵³ Timeline – EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions, European Council (Brussels) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-list-of-non-cooperative-jurisdictions/timeline-eu-list-of-non-cooperative-jurisdictions/>

On 25 February 2021, a majority of EU Ministers endorsed a directive proposed by the European Commission which would require large multinational corporations to publicly disclose income taxes paid in each EU member state.²⁶⁵⁴

On 3 March 2021, the EU ambassadors gave a mandate to the Portuguese Presidency of the European Council to begin negotiations with the Parliament and the Commission on a final agreement requiring large multinational corporations to publicly disclose income taxes paid in each EU member state. The Parliament agreed to begin negotiations with the goal of finalizing the agreement no later than 30 June 2021.²⁶⁵⁵

On 30 March 2021, the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted a motion calling on the EU to immediately engage in negotiations for a global digital tax and an agreement governing the rules of tax residency for digital companies, with an aim to conform with the G20/OECD BEPS framework.²⁶⁵⁶ The Committee also endorsed the idea of a European Digital Tax if international negotiations failed to implement a digital tax on the global level.²⁶⁵⁷

On 5 June 2021, the EU joined an agreement on global tax reform at the G7 Cornwall Summit. This agreement endorsed a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent in each jurisdiction in which multinational enterprises (MNEs) operate and made it mandatory for such firms to report the climate impact of their investments.²⁶⁵⁸

On 9 July 2021, at the G20 High Level Tax Symposium on Tax Policy and Climate Change, the EU joined other G20 Finance Ministers in giving formal support to the global tax reform proposal, which includes a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and a requirement for large global businesses to pay taxes to countries where their goods and services are sold.²⁶⁵⁹

On 10 July 2021, the European Commission welcomed a multilateral agreement endorsed by G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and supported by 132 jurisdictions to adopt a global minimum tax of 15 per cent and implement Pillars One and Two of the OECD/G20 BEPS framework. The European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni expressed optimism that EU member states will implement these measures individually by October 2021.²⁶⁶⁰

²⁶⁵⁴ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond: March 2021, Ernst and Young Global Tax Desk Network (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond-march-2021-edition

²⁶⁵⁵ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond: March 2021, Ernst and Young Global Tax Desk Network (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond-march-2021-edition

²⁶⁵⁶ Report on digital taxation: OECD negotiations, tax residency of digital companies and a possible European Digital Tax, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Brussels) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/231823/A9-0103_2021_EN.pdf

²⁶⁵⁷ EU Parliament committee adopts resolution on digital taxation, MNE Tax (Washington D.C.) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://mnetax.com/eu-parliament-committee-adopts-resolution-on-digital-taxation-43198>

²⁶⁵⁸ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (Cornwall) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement/>

²⁶⁵⁹ Global Tax Overhaul Gains Steam as G20 Backs New Levies, The New York Times (New York) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/10/us/politics/global-tax-overhaul-g20.html>

²⁶⁶⁰ Taxation: Historic global agreement to ensure fairer taxation of multinational enterprises, European Commission (Brussels) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3582

On 31 August 2021, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration Johannes Hahn confirmed that the European Commission would pursue a digital levy on multinational firms even if the G20 Summit in October 2021 fails to reach an agreement on a two-pillar solution.²⁶⁶¹

The EU has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements, monitoring external jurisdictions' compliance with international tax regulations, and advancing tax transparency agreements with the UK. The EU has also continued its cooperation through multilateral frameworks to develop international tax transparency standards and information exchange mechanisms.

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

Analyst: Brett Szmul

²⁶⁶¹ European Commission to Propose Digital Levy Following October Meeting on Two-Pillar Solution, Orbitax (San Francisco) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.
<https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/European-Commission-to-Propose-47510>

7. International Taxation: BEPS

“We remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.”

G20 Riyadh 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

On 19 July 2013, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issued the Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).²⁶⁶² 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.²⁶⁶³ 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.²⁶⁶⁴ The BEPS package also gives businesses greater certainty by reducing disputes over the application of international tax

²⁶⁶² Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 19 July 2013. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/action-plan-on-base-erosion-and-profit-shifting-9789264202719-en.htm>

²⁶⁶³ G20 Leaders’ Declaration St. Petersburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/sankt-peterburg-2013/Saint_Petersburg_Declaration_ENG.pdf

²⁶⁶⁴ BEPS Actions, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/>

rules and by standardizing compliance requirements. The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on 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.²⁶⁶⁵ Commitments to address BEPS have been reiterated at all subsequent G20 summits since St. Petersburg.

In 2019 in Osaka G20 leaders reaffirmed the importance of the worldwide implementation of the BEPS package and enhanced tax certainty. They welcomed the progress on addressing the tax challenges arising from digitalization and endorsed the work program that consists of a two-pillar approach, developed by the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

In 2020 in Riyadh summit declaration G20 leaders welcomed the Reports on the Blueprints for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 approved for public release by the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and committed to further progress on both pillars and urged the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.

Commitment Features

This commitment refers to BEPS Action 1 Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation. It is the top priority for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (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.²⁶⁶⁶ It explores technical design implementation issues that must be refined to develop a comprehensive and consensus-based solution. It includes concrete proposals for the two challenges facing the 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).²⁶⁶⁷

We remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.

Commitment requires taking actions on both pillars.

Pillar 1- Re-allocation of taxing rights

- Addresses the question of business presence and activities without physical presence;
- Will determine where tax should be paid and on what basis;
- Will determine what portion of profits could or should be taxed in the jurisdictions where customers and/or users are located.

Key elements of Pillar One can be grouped into three components: a new taxing right for market jurisdictions over a share of residual profit calculated at an multinational enterprise group (or segment) level; a fixed return for certain baseline marketing and distribution activities taking place

²⁶⁶⁵ OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/flyer-inclusive-framework-on-beps.pdf>

²⁶⁶⁶ Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <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.pdf>

²⁶⁶⁷ Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <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.pdf>

physically in a market jurisdiction; and processes to improve tax certainty through effective dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms.²⁶⁶⁸

Taking actions on or actively publicly supporting these components is necessary to comply with this part of the commitment.

Pillar 2 – Global anti-base erosion mechanism

- Will help to stop the shifting of profits to low or no tax jurisdiction facilitated by new technologies;
- Will ensure a minimum level of tax is paid by multinational enterprises;
- Levels the playing field between traditional and digital companies;

Pillar Two addresses remaining BEPS challenges and is designed to ensure that large internationally operating businesses pay a minimum level of tax regardless of where they are headquartered or the jurisdictions they operate in. It does so via a number of interlocking rules that seek to (i) ensure minimum taxation while avoiding double taxation or taxation where there is no economic profit, (ii) cope with different tax system designs by jurisdictions as well as different operating models by businesses, (iii) ensure transparency and a level playing field, and (iv) minimise administrative and compliance costs.²⁶⁶⁹

Taking actions on or actively publicly supporting these components is necessary to comply with this part of the commitment.

To achieve full compliance G20 member needs to implement actions on both pillars or publicly support OECD process (in case when G20 member does not want to proceed with actions without a consensus solution). If a G20 member takes actions only on one of the pillars, it receives a score of 0. If G20 member does not take any actions and does not support OECD process it receives a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does not take any actions to further progress on both pillars |
| 0 | G20 member takes actions or publicly supports OECD process on Pillar 1 OR Pillar 2 |
| +1 | G20 member takes actions or publicly supports OECD process on Pillar 1 AND Pillar 2 |

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 31 January 2021, Argentina notified the Qatar Government that it had completed the internal requirements for the entry into force of the Tax Treaty for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and

²⁶⁶⁸ Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalization – Report on Pillar One Blueprint: Inclusive Framework on BEPS, OECD (Paris) 8-9 October 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/beba0634-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/beba0634-en&_csp_=71b32056ea489ac3c26f0ea639f0fb6e&itemIGO=oeecd&itemContentType=book

²⁶⁶⁹ Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalization – Report on Pillar Two Blueprint: Inclusive Framework on BEPS, OECD (Paris) 8-9 October 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/abb4c3d1-en/1/2/1/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/abb4c3d1-en&_csp_=e7df02b7273c00f57848cd6d74af0543&itemIGO=oeecd&itemContentType=book#section-d1e494

the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital (the Treaty) signed between Argentina and Qatar.²⁶⁷⁰

On 17 February 2021, Argentina and the US agreed to exchange country-by-country reports. The information exchanged through the Country-by-Country reporting will be used by the tax authorities to assess certain risks such as erosion of the tax base and risks related to the transfer of profit and, when appropriate, for economic and statistical analysis.²⁶⁷¹

On 1 July 2021, Argentina, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework," signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁶⁷² Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁶⁷³

Argentina has taken measures to address one of the pillars of G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS and publicly supported the OECD process.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

On 1 July 2021, Australia, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework," signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁶⁷⁴ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global

²⁶⁷⁰ Argentina-Qatar tax treaty enters into force, EY (London) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/argentina-qatar-tax-treaty-enters-into-force

²⁶⁷¹ Argentina: Exchanges of country-by-country reports, agreement with United States, KPMG (Amstelveen) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-argentina-exchanges-cbc-reports-agreement-united-states.html>

²⁶⁷² 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁶⁷³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁷⁴ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁶⁷⁵

Australia has publicly supported the OECD process.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 25 February 2021, Brazil approved three new treaties for the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance between Brazil and Switzerland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The Treaties are now pending enactment by the President's sanction. The Treaties' provisions are partially aligned with the standards of OECD and its BEPS action plans.²⁶⁷⁶

On 1 March 2021, Brazil introduced legal act Contribuição sobre Intervenção no Domínio Econômico-Internet (640/2021). It will impose tax at a rate of 3 per cent on gross revenue from: advertising, sponsorship or merchandising, content targeting, collection, distribution or treatment of users' data, incentive or influence for the use of services, payment platform, exploitation or dissemination of images, text, video or sound related to a natural or legal person, entities subject to this tax would be legal entities which, as a consequence of exportation of the listed activities in Brazil, accrued revenue in Brazil or abroad.²⁶⁷⁷

Brazil has taken measures to address both of the pillars of G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS and publicly supported the OECD process.

On 1 July 2021, Brazil, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework," signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁶⁷⁸ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional

²⁶⁷⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁷⁶ Brazilian Senate approves three new treaties for the avoidance of double taxation, EY (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/brazilian-senate-approves-three-new-treaties-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation

²⁶⁷⁷ Brazil: Review of digital services tax proposals, KPMG (Amstelveen) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-brazil-review-of-digital-services-tax-proposals.html>

²⁶⁷⁸ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁶⁷⁹

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

On 19 April 2020, the Government of Canada presented the Budget 2021.²⁶⁸⁰ The budget included an annex, providing detailed information on the proposed Digital Services Tax (DST) and invited input from stakeholders. The proposed tax is intended to ensure that revenue earned by large businesses – foreign or domestic – from engagement with online users in Canada, including through the collection, processing and monetizing of data and content contributions from those users, is subject to Canadian tax. The DST is intended to be interim in nature – it would apply as of 1 January 2022 until an acceptable multilateral approach comes into effect with respect to the implicated businesses.²⁶⁸¹

On 5 June 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁶⁸²

On 1 July 2021, new rules regarding the levying of goods and services tax and harmonized sales tax for digital economy businesses and, in particular, digital platform operators entered into force.²⁶⁸³

On 1 July 2021, Canada, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a

²⁶⁷⁹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁸⁰ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>.

²⁶⁸¹ Annex 7: Consultations on Other Tax Measures: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021 <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx7-en.html>.

²⁶⁸² G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

²⁶⁸³ GST/HST for digital economy businesses, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/gst-hst-businesses/digital-economy-gsthst.html>

globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁶⁸⁴ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁶⁸⁵

Canada took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 and publicly supported the OECD process.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will improve the management services of international taxation. International taxation was chosen as an important area of work of the Chinese government.²⁶⁸⁶

On 29 March 2021, it was announced that China will adopt a broad range of digitalized measures to regulate tax collections and optimize tax payment services through 2025. The new technologies will also help with real-time verification and monitoring of the invoice issuance process, which will help to prevent tax fraud.²⁶⁸⁷

On 1 July 2021, China, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework," signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁶⁸⁸ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional

²⁶⁸⁴ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁶⁸⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁸⁶ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

²⁶⁸⁷ Digital measures to optimize tax collections, China Daily (Beijing) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/30/content_WS60626187c6d0719374afbc03.html

²⁶⁸⁸ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁶⁸⁹

China has taken actions on Pillar 1 of the OECD process publicly supported both pillars of the OECD process.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 4 December 2020, France resumed collection of its digital services tax. “The 3 per cent digital services tax applies to revenues deemed to have been generated in France by digital companies, wherever they are established, which make annual supplies of taxable services of more than EUR25 million in France and EUR750 million worldwide. The tax applies to advertising revenues from services that rely on data collected from internet users, revenues from the provision of a linking service between internet users and the sale of user data for advertising purposes. However, online sales and the digital provision of digital content for buying or selling are expressly excluded from the tax.”²⁶⁹⁰

As of March 23, France has implemented a digital service tax.²⁶⁹¹

On 5 June 2021, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire took part in the G7 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁶⁹²

On 1 July 2021, France, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed a detailed statement on July 1 for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalised and digitalised 21st century economy.²⁶⁹³ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than

²⁶⁸⁹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁹⁰ France to resume collection of digital tax, Pinsent Masons (Paris) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/france-to-resume-collection-of-digital-tax>

²⁶⁹¹ What European OECD Countries Are Doing about Digital Services Taxes (Washington DC) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://taxfoundation.org/digital-tax-europe-2020/>

²⁶⁹² G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

²⁶⁹³ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁶⁹⁴

On 13 July 2021, the EU froze its digital tax plan to tax online tech giants. It came the visit of the US Treasury Secretary in Brussels.²⁶⁹⁵

France has shown progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 28 January 2021, Federal Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz took part in the 11th Meeting of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS and made a speech on tax challenges arising from digitalization and the future of international taxation in the framework of the panel discussion.²⁶⁹⁶

On 1 February 2021, Germany made public an answer to the inquiry of several Bundestag deputies concerning, inter alia, its position on taxation in the digital economy. The government expressed its support to the OECD-led process and mentioned it would take further measures concerning digital taxes after the common decision on Pillars 1 and 2 is achieved within the Inclusive Framework.²⁶⁹⁷

On 5 June 2021, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁶⁹⁸

On 1 July 2021, Germany, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical

²⁶⁹⁴ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁶⁹⁵ Big Tech and Digital Taxation reforms in the EU and MENA, IEMed (Barcelona) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.euromesco.net/publication/big-tech-and-digital-taxation-reforms-in-the-eu-and-mena/>

²⁶⁹⁶ Draft Agenda. 11th Meeting of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, OECD (Paris) January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/agenda-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-meeting-january-2021.pdf>

²⁶⁹⁷ Drucksache 19/26319, German Bundestag (Berlin) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://dipbt.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/19/263/1926319.pdf>

²⁶⁹⁸ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁶⁹⁹ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷⁰⁰

Germany has publicly supported the OECD-led process on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 1 July 2021, India adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy. In the statement it was stressed that India “will continue to be constructively engaged for reaching a consensus based ready to implement solution with Pillar one and Pillar two as a package by October and contribute positively for the advancement of the international tax agenda.²⁷⁰¹”

India expressed public support towards both pillars of BEPS and joined a consensus solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Irina Popova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 24 March 2021, Indonesia issued “Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 1 Year 2020 (Perppu-1) followed by the publication of Law No. 2 Year 2020 (Law No. 2) in early 2020, whose agenda also includes the taxation of the digital economy. Along with the implementing Minister of Finance regulation as well as [double taxation] regulation, Indonesia mandates the imposition of [value added tax] on Trading Through Electronic System (PMSE) activities. Income tax obligation will also apply to foreign traders, service providers and/or organisers of PMSE with significant economic presence although implementing regulations have yet to be issued as many are curious to

²⁶⁹⁹ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷⁰⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁷⁰¹ India joins OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal, Public Information Bureau of Government of India (Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732150>

find out how it will line up along the framework prescribed within the BEPS 2.0 blueprints issued by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.”²⁷⁰²

In April 2021, Indonesia “delayed the introduction of an income tax or Electronic Transaction Tax on offshore digital businesses that have a significant economic presence in Indonesia until consensus-based solution is reached.” Indonesia “temporarily applied a 0 per cent [personal income tax] rate for additional income received from government by health sector workers dealing with COVID-19. Indonesia also provided import duty relief for air and marine transportation vehicles.”²⁷⁰³

On 27 and 28 January 2021, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS held a public meeting to provide an update on its ongoing international tax work. Minister of Finance of Indonesia Sri Mulyani Indrawati “stated that, once countries reach an agreement, Indonesia intends to focus on implementation when it assumes the G20 Presidency in 2022. She also called for the creation of a multilateral convention to easily implement the solution in a coordinated manner.”²⁷⁰⁴

On 1 July 2021, Indonesia, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October 2021 and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalised and digitalised 21st century economy.²⁷⁰⁵ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilisation of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷⁰⁶

On 1 September 2021, Indonesia, following the decrease in income tax for interests on bonds received by foreign investors to 10 per cent under the Omnibus Law (Law No. 11 of 2020), announced the same treatment to local investors under Government Regulation No. 91 of 2021. Under this new Regulation, the final income tax rate on interests from bonds received by local investors decreases from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.²⁷⁰⁷

Indonesia has shown progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

²⁷⁰² COVID-19 transforms Indonesia’s digital economy and TP landscape, International Tax Review (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1r2w08ycnp7hg/covid-19-transforms-indonesias-digital-economy-and-tp-landscape>

²⁷⁰³ OECD Secretary-General Tax Report to G20 Finance Ministers and Central bank Governors, OECD (Paris) April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/oecd-secretary-general-tax-report-g20-finance-ministers-april-2021.pdf>

²⁷⁰⁴ OECD Inclusive Framework political leaders promote global consensus following OECD’s public consultation on Pillar One and Two Blueprints, EY (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2021-0234-oecd-inclusive-framework-political-leaders-promote-global-consensus-following-oecd-public-consultation-on-pillar-one-and-two-blueprints?uAlertID=5dpercent2FG8rua1oj6percent2F158EZ2AiApercent3Dpercent3D>

²⁷⁰⁵ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷⁰⁶ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁷⁰⁷ Leveling the Playing Field, the Government Cuts Income Tax Rate on Bonds for Local Investors, Lexology (London) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=00d6cae1-bdca-4ab2-b47a-77a05b37b608>

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 5 June 2021, Minister of Economy and Finance Daniele Franco took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁷⁰⁸

On 1 July 2021, Italy, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷⁰⁹ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷¹⁰

Italy took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 5 June 2021, Finance Minister Taro Aso took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax

²⁷⁰⁸ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

²⁷⁰⁹ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷¹⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁷¹¹

On 1 July 2021, Japan, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷¹² Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷¹³

On 19 August 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry released the Study Group on International Taxation in the Digital Economy, a report which discusses the group’s findings on “what approaches to equitable international taxation will contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of Japanese companies and boosting the economy.” The report summary notes that the matters should be addressed in consultation with international discussions, particularly those involving the OECD. Japan has signed onto the OECD’s Pillar I and II consultation.²⁷¹⁴

Japan took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 22 and 29 December 2020, Korea enacted the 2021 Tax Reform bill. Amendments to the country’s tax regime imply some changes in regulations concerning the deduction method in the foreign tax credit regime: the carry-forward period for excess foreign tax credits is extended from 5 years to 10 years. Also, the reform provides a capital gains tax regime for the disposal of virtual assets: gains delivered from the disposal of virtual assets by a foreign individual or foreign corporation are

²⁷¹¹ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communicue/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communicue>

²⁷¹² 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷¹³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁷¹⁴ Interim Report of “Study Group on International Taxation in the Digital Economy” Compiled, METI (Tokyo) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0819_002.html

categorized as “other income” subject to withholding tax at the lesser of 11 per cent of the transfer price or 22 per cent of the net capital gains. All the changes are effective after 1 January 2021.²⁷¹⁵

On 26 July 2021, Korea announced its intention to revise tax codes to allow tax authorities to seize crypto assets held by tax dodgers starting from 2022.²⁷¹⁶

Korea has taken actions on both pillars of the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining taxation issues, associated with digital growth.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 29 December 2020, “the Miscellaneous Tax Resolution for 2021 was published in the Official Gazette. It included measures regarding value added tax (VAT) and digital services. The changes to the VAT rules for digital services include the following. As a result of modifications to the VAT law for 2021, it is clarified that foreign residents (whether individuals or legal entities) providing digital services through an intermediary that collects and withholds 100 per cent of the VAT on the sales or transaction price for the foreign residents, are not required to register in the federal tax registry. The legislative measures repeal a requirement for those providing digital ‘intermediation’ services between third parties to file an update of economic activities. The legislation also includes a rule to the list of requirements to issue the Comprobante Fiscal Digital por Internet by residents in Mexico that provide intermediation services between third parties to suppliers of goods and services residing abroad. In various rules, the concept of individuals who sell goods, provide services, grant accommodation or provide for the ‘temporary use or enjoyment of goods’ through technological platforms is expanded. The legislation modifies the rule for determining the income limit and treating the withholding made by the technological platforms as the final payment. Also, the legislation withdraws a rule that allowed individuals with business activities that obtain income from operations through technological platforms to credit the income tax withholding. There are new rules for individuals with business activities of selling goods or providing services through the internet via technological platforms. Regarding income received directly from purchasers of the goods or services, these individuals (if considering the tax paid as a ‘definitive’ payment) must determine their taxable profit, calculate their income tax, and credit the tax withheld by the technological platforms and make the advanced income tax payment by submitting a return (known in English as the ‘Income tax payment of individuals in technological platforms return’).”²⁷¹⁷

On 1 July 2021, Mexico, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key

²⁷¹⁵ Korea enacts 2021 tax reform bill, EY Global (London) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/korea-enacts-2021-tax-reform-bill

²⁷¹⁶ S.Korea to toughen rules to collect cryptocurrencies from tax dodgers, Reuters (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/skorea-toughen-rules-collect-cryptocurrencies-tax-dodgers-2021-07-26/>

²⁷¹⁷ Mexico: Tax legislative changes for 2021 and digital services, KPMG (Amstelveen) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/01/tnf-mexico-tax-legislative-changes-2021-digital-services.html>

elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷¹⁸ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷¹⁹

Mexico has taken actions to address Pillar 1 of the Inclusive framework and publicly supported the OECD process.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 23 November 2020, Russia has issued the Federal Law No. 374-FZ concerning amendments to the Tax Code.²⁷²⁰ As from 1 January 2021, the possibility of securing a zero rate for dividends by means of the look-through approach is no longer an option. The new rules make it even more difficult than before to use existing mechanisms for remitting payments abroad at a low rate of tax, and in particular the look-through approach. Also, the Federal Law amends the provisions of Article 284.2 that apply to income from the sale or other disposal of shares or ownership interests in foreign entities, but only if the state of residence of those foreign entities is not on the Finance Ministry's list of states and territories that provide preferential tax treatment and/or do not require the disclosure or provision of information on financial operations.²⁷²¹

On 1 July 2021, Russia, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework," signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷²² Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional

²⁷¹⁸ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷¹⁹ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁷²⁰ Federal Law 23 November 2020 N 374-FZ 'On Amendments to the Tax Code of the Russian Federation and selected law of the Russian Federation, Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Moscow) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://rg.ru/2020/11/26/nalogi-dok.html>

²⁷²¹ Key changes in corporate tax law in 2021, EY (Moscow) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

https://www.ey.com/en_ru/tax/tax-alert/2021/01/ey-key-changes-in-corporate-tax-law-in-2021-20-january-2021-eng

²⁷²² 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷²³

On 10 September 2021, the Federal Tax Service, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Digital Development announced that in November 2021 they would present the set of draft amendments to the state tax legislation following the recommendations from the OECD concerning digital taxation matters.²⁷²⁴

Russia has taken actions on Pillar 2 of the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining taxation issues, associated with digital growth and publicly supported the OECD process on both pillars.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 2 March 2021, the General Authority of Zakat and Tax released guidelines about value added tax (VAT) registration and payment for online and e-commerce transactions and activities. The guidelines (available in Arabic) provide that it is mandatory for online enterprises to register for VAT if their annual turnover exceeds SAR375,000 (approximately USD100,000). VAT registration is optional if yearly sales fall between SAR187,500 and SAR375,000. Online stores are defined as any digital platform that is used for e-commerce activities, and includes activities on Instagram, Whatsapp, Facebook, and LinkedIn, among others.²⁷²⁵

On 1 July 2021, Saudi Arabia, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework," signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalised and digitalised 21st century economy.²⁷²⁶ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷²⁷

²⁷²³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁷²⁴ Russia to discuss issues related to digital taxation, RIA Novosti (Moscow) 10 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://ria.ru/20210910/nalog-1749514750.html>

²⁷²⁵ Saudi Arabia: VAT guidelines for e-commerce, KMPG (Amstelveen) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-saudi-arabia-vat-guidelines-e-commerce.html>

²⁷²⁶ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷²⁷ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

On 14 July 2021, the General Secretariat of Tax Committees has launched an electronic edition of the tax regulations guidance. The electronic edition has been issued to create a comprehensive reference for all tax and zakat regulations. The electronic edition aims to improve the processing times of tax disputes and raise public awareness about the tax regulations.²⁷²⁸

On 1 September 2021, Saudi Arabia's Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority, announced a launching of e-invoicing system. The FATOORAH system aims to promote fair competition, tackle the black market, and helping efforts to tackle anti-commercial concealment. The system will be implemented in two phases; it will launch the first phase on 4 December this year and apply to taxpayers whom the E-Invoice Regulation covers. Tax invoices will have to be created and stored along with related debit and credit notices. The second phase will be implemented gradually from January next year. Taxpayers regulated by the FATOORAH regulation will have to stop issuing handwritten invoices or invoices issued manually via text editing software. They will also have to be able to generate and store invoices electronically through a compliant e-invoicing system. It can be a cash register machine, a cloud system, or enterprise resource planning software. The simplified tax invoices must include a QR code, and tax invoices must consist of the VAT number of the buyer if the buyer is a registered VAT taxpayer.²⁷²⁹

Saudi Arabia has shown considerable progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 25 May 2021, according to the information provided by the South African Reserve Bank, it “embarked on a study to investigate the feasibility, desirability and appropriateness of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) as electronic legal tender, for general-purpose retail use, complementary to cash. A retail CBDC can be defined as a digital form of cash aimed at providing the best attributes of both cash and electronic payments.”²⁷³⁰

On 1 July 2021, South Africa, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷³¹ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global

²⁷²⁸ Electronic edition of tax regulations guidance launched, Lexology (London) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8eefd7f2-aeec-4236-9c88-ea9bea2a566c>

²⁷²⁹ E-invoicing system launched, Lexology (London) 1 September 2021. Access date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=a9f2e7e2-aef2-41a4-98af-9ae8be68fa63>

²⁷³⁰ SARB commences feasibility study for a general-purpose retail central bank digital currency, South Africa Reserve Bank (Pretoria) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 25 May 2021. <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/media-releases/2021/SARB-commences-feasibility-study-for-a-general-purpose-retail-central-bank-digital-currency>

²⁷³¹ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷³²

South Africa has shown support for both pillars of the OECD process.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 14 June 2021, Law No. 7326 on Restructuring of Certain Receivables and Amendments to Certain Laws came into effect. Law introduced a new tax amnesty and tax base increase law. It covers the tax receivables, the delay interest and tax penalties derived from these tax receivables, and other penalties not derived from a tax principal related to the periods before 30 April 2021. At first deadline for envisaged application to benefit from this amnesty was stipulated as 31 August 2021. However, on 27 August 2021, new Presidential Decree extended the deadline for making this application till 30 September 2021. In addition, the first installment payment period (30 September 2021) for the relevant applications has been extended by one month. Thus, the last day of the first installment payment period is now rearranged as 1 November 2021.²⁷³³

On 1 July 2021, Turkey, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD's "Inclusive Framework" signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalised and digitalised 21st century economy.²⁷³⁴ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD 150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilisation of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷³⁵

Turkey has shown substantive progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS and publicly supported the OECD process.

²⁷³² 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

²⁷³³ Deadline Extended for Tax Amnesty and Tax Base/Tax Increase, Lexology (London) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=fc396047-a16e-4f50-b41f-e3ffe4b0f818>

²⁷³⁴ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷³⁵ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

From 1 April 2020, the UK government introduced a 2 per cent digital tax on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces which derive value from UK users.²⁷³⁶

In December 2020, the UK published the paper “[value added tax] (VAT) and the Sharing Economy: Call for Evidence.” The aim of this call for evidence was to test the government’s view of the VAT challenges the Sharing Economy creates. The paper, inter alia, states that the UK government has been closely involved in the OECD-led process on Pillars 1 and 2.²⁷³⁷

On 5 June 2021, Chancellor Rishi Sunak took part in the G7 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁷³⁸

On 1 July 2021, the United Kingdom, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷³⁹ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷⁴⁰

²⁷³⁶ Digital Services Tax, UK Government (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax>.

²⁷³⁷ VAT and the Sharing Economy: Call for Evidence, HM Treasury (London) December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942573/Call_for_Evidence_-_VAT_and_the_Sharing_Economy.pdf.

²⁷³⁸ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

²⁷³⁹ 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷⁴⁰ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021.

Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

Despite taking its own domestic measures on taxation in the digital economy without waiting for the final OECD process outcomes, the UK has publicly supported OECD process on Pillars 1 and 2.

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

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 5 June 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”²⁷⁴¹

On 1 July 2021, the United States, following virtual talks between 139 nations represented in the OECD’s “Inclusive Framework,” signed onto a detailed statement for adopting new international tax rules, including a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent and new rules for allocating taxing rights between nations. The statement also sets out an ambitious timeline, including finalizing the technical work on the agreement by October and starting implementation in 2023. The framework updates key elements of the century-old international tax system, which is no longer fit for purpose in a globalized and digitalized 21st century economy.²⁷⁴² Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than USD100 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year. The global minimum corporate income tax under Pillar Two – with a minimum rate of at least 15 per cent – is estimated to generate around USD150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually. Additional benefits will also arise from the stabilization of the international tax system and the increased tax certainty for taxpayers and tax administrations.²⁷⁴³

The United States took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

²⁷⁴¹ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

²⁷⁴² 130 nations endorse global tax overhaul, nine nations hold out, MNE Tax (St. Petersburg) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://mnetax.com/130-nations-endorse-global-tax-overhaul-nine-nations-hold-out-44960>

²⁷⁴³ 130 countries and jurisdictions join bold new framework for international tax reform, OECD (Paris) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/130-countries-and-jurisdictions-join-bold-new-framework-for-international-tax-reform.htm>

On 18 January 2021, the European Commission launched the public consultation on the digital levy. The new initiative proposal is expected to be finalized by mid-2021. The levy will help address the issue of fair taxation related to the digitalization of the economy and, at the same time, is intended to not interfere with the ongoing work at the G20 and OECD level on a reform of the international corporate tax framework.²⁷⁴⁴

On 18 May 2021, the European Commission published the Communication on Business Taxation for the 21st Century. The document provides for a long-term vision of the EU tax system and a tax agenda for 2022-23 with targeted measures to ensure effective taxation. Both parts include measures related to taxation in the digital economy and taxation of multinational enterprises.²⁷⁴⁵

On 5 June 2021, the G7 finance ministers published a communiqué which sets out high-level political agreement on global tax reform, including the reallocation of a share of the global profits of certain businesses to their market countries (Pillar 1) and introduction of a minimum effective tax rate, on a country by country basis, of at least 15 per cent (Pillar Two).²⁷⁴⁶

Despite taking its own domestic measures on taxation in the digital economy without waiting for the final OECD process outcomes, the EU has highlighted that its own internal proposals should not interfere with the OECD work on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

²⁷⁴⁴ A fair & competitive digital economy – digital levy, European Commission (Brussels) January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12836-Digital-Levy/public-consultation_ru.

²⁷⁴⁵ Communication on Business Taxation for the 21st Century. European Commission (Brussels) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/communication-business-taxation-21st-century_en

²⁷⁴⁶ G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement, G7 UK 2021 (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement>

8. Crime and Corruption: Threats

“We reiterate our strong commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | -1 | | |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| 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 | | +0.60 (80%) | |

Background

Addressing money laundering and terrorism financing is a well-established goal of the G20 as it is a serious economic and societal concern. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that “these activities generate financial flows that involve the diversion of resources away from economically- and socially-productive uses—and these diversions can have negative impacts on the financial sector and external stability of member states.”²⁷⁴⁷ Therefore, it is essential to implement effective anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regimes in order to alleviate the corruptive effects these activities have, and to promote and protect the stability and integrity of the financial markets.²⁷⁴⁸

At the 1989 G7 Paris Summit, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was founded to set a global standard for anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing.²⁷⁴⁹ It is a 33-member organization

²⁷⁴⁷ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁴⁸ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁴⁹ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

and works closely with the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations, and other key international organizations.²⁷⁵⁰

At the 2008 Washington Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their support for the continuation of the FATF in its efforts against money laundering and terrorist financing, along with their support of the World Bank-UN Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.²⁷⁵¹

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders committed to maintain their momentum and results in combating money laundering and terrorist financing and continued their support for the efforts made by the FATF.²⁷⁵²

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the G20 members reiterated their support for the FATF and encouraged the FATF to continue “monitoring and enhancing global compliance with the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing international standards.”²⁷⁵³ Furthermore, G20 members encouraged FATF to keep states accountable through regularly updating a public list of jurisdictions that have strategic deficiencies in this area.²⁷⁵⁴

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 members supported the efforts made by the FATF of identifying and engaging jurisdictions that have deficiencies with their Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).²⁷⁵⁵ G20 urged all states that were lacking in sufficient progress or compliance to strengthen their AML/CFT systems in alignment with the FATF.²⁷⁵⁶ Furthermore, G20 members called for the implementation of the FATF standards for transparency in areas such as cross-border wires, beneficial ownership, customer due diligence, and due diligence.²⁷⁵⁷

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 members affirmed their support for the renewal of the FATF mandate, and adopted the revised standards of the FATF.²⁷⁵⁸

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 members reiterated their commitment to the FATF’s efforts to fight money laundering and terrorist financing and stated that one of their priorities was to identify and monitor high risk jurisdictions that have deficiencies in their AML/CFT strategies, while recognizing states that have made positive progress towards the FATF’s standards.²⁷⁵⁹

²⁷⁵⁰ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁵¹ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

²⁷⁵² G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 June 2009. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

²⁷⁵³ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

²⁷⁵⁴ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

²⁷⁵⁵ 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: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html)

²⁷⁵⁶ 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: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html)

²⁷⁵⁷ 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: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html)

²⁷⁵⁸ G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

²⁷⁵⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html#aml>

The 2016 Hangzhou Summit called upon G20 members, the IMF, and the World Bank Group to “intensify their support for domestic capacity building to help countries improve their compliance with global anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and prudential standards.”²⁷⁶⁰

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members committed to advance the effective implementation of the global standards of transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons and arrangements in order to continue combating money laundering and terrorism financing.²⁷⁶¹

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members committed to regulate crypto-assets for anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing in a way that is aligned with the FATF’s standards.²⁷⁶²

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment of the full, effective, and swift implementation of the amended FATF standards to virtual assets, such as crypto-assets, as well as related providers for anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing.²⁷⁶³

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members affirmed their support of the AML/CFT policy that was outlined in the FATF’s report on COVID-19.²⁷⁶⁴ G20 members reaffirmed their support for the FATF and the global standard it has set out to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.²⁷⁶⁵ G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen “the FATF’s Global Network of regional bodies, including by supporting their expertise in mutual evaluations, and call for the full, effective and swift implementation of the FATF standards worldwide” alongside their strong commitment “to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.”²⁷⁶⁶

Commitment Features

This commitment requires G20 members to take into account all three areas involved in money-laundering and terrorist financing crimes, which are the sources, techniques, and the channels of these threats. In order for G20 members to fully comply, strong action must be taken to address all three areas for both money-laundering as well as terrorist financing.

To “reiterate” is understood as “commitments that have been established in the past. It should not be considered a new initiative; however, new efforts in the area should be made.”²⁷⁶⁷ In the context of this commitment, it entails that the G20 members will make further efforts and improvements to the previously established commitments from past summits, including their work with the FATF.

²⁷⁶⁰ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

²⁷⁶¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁶² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁶³ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷⁶⁴ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁷⁶⁵ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁷⁶⁶ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁷⁶⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

“Strong commitment” is understood as “effective or efficient especially in a specified direction.”²⁷⁶⁸ In the context of this commitment, it entails that the G20 members will take concrete actions to address crime and corruption.

“Tackle” is understood as “to seize, take hold of, or grapple with especially with the intention of stopping or subduing.”²⁷⁶⁹ For this commitment, it refers to “preventing and combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.”²⁷⁷⁰

“All” is understood as “the whole amount, quantity, or extent of.”²⁷⁷¹ For this commitment, it entails comprehensive action to address sources, techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

“Sources” is understood as “the place something comes from or starts at, or the cause of something.”²⁷⁷² In the context of this commitment, it refers to identifying “a point of origin or procurement” of the money that is involved in money-laundering or terrorist financing.²⁷⁷³ Sources of money laundering include, but are not limited to “white collar crimes...and drug related crimes...internet-based frauds and other use of internet technologies in fraudulent predicate activities...smuggling of goods and contraband.”²⁷⁷⁴ Sources of terrorist financing include, but are not limited to “legitimate sources, including through abuse of charitable entities or legitimate businesses and self-financing, criminal activity, state sponsors and activities in failed states and other safe havens” as well as, “small cash-intensive businesses.”²⁷⁷⁵

“Techniques” is understood as “a method of accomplishing a desired aim.”²⁷⁷⁶ In the context of this commitment, it refers to preventing and combating methods of money-laundering and terrorist financing. Methods of money laundering include but are not limited to, “the use of the international trade regime, cash couriers, alternative remittance systems and complex corporate structures.”²⁷⁷⁷ Methods of terrorist financing are similar to those of money laundering, including, but not limited to, “the use of the financial system...the physical movement of money...[as well as] through the international trade system.”²⁷⁷⁸

²⁷⁶⁸ Strong, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/strong>

²⁷⁶⁹ Tackle, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tackle>

²⁷⁷⁰ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁷⁷¹ All, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/all>

²⁷⁷² Source, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/source>

²⁷⁷³ Source, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/source>

²⁷⁷⁴ Global Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) July 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Global%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

²⁷⁷⁵ Global Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) July 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Global%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

²⁷⁷⁶ Technique, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/technique>

²⁷⁷⁷ Money Laundering, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/newrosenwebsite/anti-corruption/money-laundering.html>

²⁷⁷⁸ Financial Action Task Force: Terrorist Financing (Paris) 29 February 2008. Access Date: 1 March 2021. p. 21. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/FATF%20Terrorist%20Financing%20Typologies%20Report.pdf>

“Channel” is understood as “a way of communicating with people or getting something done.”²⁷⁷⁹ In the context of this commitment, it refers to the avenues groups and organizations involved in money-laundering or terrorist financing crimes go through for communication or action. Channels of money-laundering or terrorist financing include, but are not limited to, the financial and trade systems, corporate structures, as well as technological and digital mechanisms.^{2780,2781,2782}

“Threat” is understood as “the possibility that something unwanted will happen, or a person or thing that is likely to cause something unwanted to happen.”²⁷⁸³ In the context of this commitment, it refers to global “money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.”²⁷⁸⁴

Money laundering refers to the act of concealing the illicit origin of large amounts of illegally acquired profits through crimes.²⁷⁸⁵ Terrorist financing “involves the solicitation, collection or provision of funds with the intention that they may be used to support terrorist acts or organizations.”²⁷⁸⁶ These funds may come from both legal and illegal sources.²⁷⁸⁷ It should be noted that “the primary goal of individuals or entities involved in the financing of terrorism is therefore not necessarily to conceal the sources of the money but to conceal both the financing and the nature of the financed activity.”²⁷⁸⁸

Since the methods used in money laundering and the financing of terrorism are in many cases identical, “[a]n effective anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism framework must therefore address both risk issues: it must prevent, detect and punish illegal funds entering the financial system and the funding of terrorist individuals, organizations and/or activities.”²⁷⁸⁹

For the depth component, or the strength of the action required to be deemed compliant with this commitment, G20 members reiterated their strong commitment and therefore actions should reflect that. Actions compliant to this commitment include continuous support of the FATF and other relevant programs, through the allocation of funds and personnel, legislation and enforcement. Compliant actions must go beyond verbal references and reaffirmation and conferences.

²⁷⁷⁹ Channel, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/channel>

²⁷⁸⁰ Financial Action Task Force: Terrorist Financing, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) 29 February 2008. Access Date: 1 March 2021. p. 21. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/FATF%20Terrorist%20Financing%20Typologies%20Report.pdf>

²⁷⁸¹ Money Laundering, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/newrosenwebsite/anti-corruption/money-laundering.html>

²⁷⁸² Global Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) July 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. p. 8. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Global%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

²⁷⁸³ Threat, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/threat>

²⁷⁸⁴ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁷⁸⁵ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁸⁶ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁸⁷ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁸⁸ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

²⁷⁸⁹ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

In order for a G20 member to achieve full compliance (+1), strong action must be taken to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques and channels of the threats of money laundering and terrorist financing.

In order to achieve partial compliance (0), the G20 members must take strong action to tackle two of the three areas of sources, techniques and channels of these money laundering and terrorist financing.

In order to achieve non-compliance (-1), G20 members must take strong action to tackle none or one of the three areas of sources, techniques and channels of these money laundering and terrorist financing.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member has NOT taken strong action to tackle all sources, techniques AND channels of these threats. |
| 0 | G20 member has taken strong action to tackle TWO of the three areas of sources, techniques OR channels of these threats. |
| +1 | G20 member has taken strong action to tackle all sources, techniques AND channels of these threats. |

*Compliance Director: Jennifer Miao Wang
Lead Analyst: Ilan Hughes*

Argentina: -1

Argentina failed to comply with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

Argentina has not taken any significant action to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing by combatting money laundering, terrorist funding, and proliferation financing.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of -1.²⁷⁹⁰

Analyst: Beatrice McLeod

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 10 December 2020, both Houses of Parliament in Australia motioned to pass the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 (The Amendment Act).²⁷⁹¹ The act aims to “implement incremental reform” most relevantly in the areas of customer due diligence and correspondent banking relationships.^{2792,2793}

²⁷⁹⁰ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/>, <https://www.clarin.com/>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/> and <https://www.bbc.com>, <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/search>, <https://www.economia.gob.ar/en/>, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/cryptocurrency/argentina.php>, <https://iclg.com/practice-areas/lending-and-secured-finance-laws-and-regulations/argentina>, <https://thelawreviews.co.uk/title/the-anti-bribery-and-anti-corruption-review/argentina>, https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/5-521-1293?_lrTS=20210203140659598, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/jefatura>, <http://www.cancilleria.gov.ar/>, www.bcra.gov.ar, batimes.com.ar, www.ambito.com.ar.

²⁷⁹¹ Australia moves – incrementally – towards AML/CTF compliance, Allen & Overy LLP (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/australia-moves-incrementally-towards-51891/>

²⁷⁹² Australia moves – incrementally – towards AML/CTF compliance, Allen & Overy LLP (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/australia-moves-incrementally-towards-51891/>

On 17 December 2020, the Amendment Act received royal assent and the Australian Government officially passed the act.^{2794,2795} The Amendment Act “gives effect to the recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force...[and] introduced changes to...customer identification procedures, correspondent banking relationships, tipping-off offences, access to information, and the cross-border movements of money.”²⁷⁹⁶ The majority of these changes are expected to come into effect on 18 June 2021, with a few coming into effect by 18 June 2022.²⁷⁹⁷

On 30 January 2021, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade announced a program to help South East Asian countries combat transnational crime.²⁷⁹⁸ Dubbed the “Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime,” the effort will be funded out of Australia’s official development assistance budget, providing AUD30 million over eight years.²⁷⁹⁹ The goal is to help countries in the Mekong region tackle drugs, child sexual exploitation, and financial crimes.²⁸⁰⁰

On 7 June 2021, Australia’s financial crime regulator, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre launched an investigation into the National Australia Bank for suspected serious and ongoing breaches of anti-money laundering and counter terrorism laws. The goal is to further investigate “areas of serious concern” with regards to customer identification procedures, customer due diligence and other compliance requirements.²⁸⁰¹

On 7 August 2021, Australia announced furthering cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations through establishing an annual Counter-Terrorism Dialogue.²⁸⁰²

On 12 September 2021, the Australian government issued a statement alongside the Indian government, where both governments “agreed to continue cooperation in the sphere of counter-

²⁷⁹³ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Rules Instrument 2007 (No. 1), Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020C01058>

²⁷⁹⁴ Australia moves – incrementally – towards AML/CTF compliance, Allen & Overy LLP (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/australia-moves-incrementally-towards-51891/>

²⁷⁹⁵ Changes to Australia’s anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework, Ashurst Australia (Sydney) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/changes-to-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing-framework/>

²⁷⁹⁶ Changes to Australia’s anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework, Ashurst Australia (Sydney) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/changes-to-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing-framework/>

²⁷⁹⁷ Changes to Australia’s anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework, Ashurst Australia (Sydney) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/changes-to-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing-framework/>

²⁷⁹⁸ Program Director – Mekong Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime, Reliefweb (Bangkok) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/job/3726956/program-director-mekong-australia-partnership-transnational-crime>

²⁷⁹⁹ Upcoming opportunity: Mekong-Australia Program on Transnational Crime, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (Canberra) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/business-opportunities/Pages/upcoming-opportunity-mekong-australia-program-transnational-crime>

²⁸⁰⁰ Australia to help south-east Asia combat crime as China deepens influence in region, The Guardian (Melbourne) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jan/31/australia-to-help-south-east-asia-combat-as-china-deepens-influence-in-region>

²⁸⁰¹ Australia’s NAB reveals anti-money laundering probe, shares fall, Reuters (Sydney). 6 June 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australias-nab-reveals-anti-money-laundering-probe-shares-fall-2021-06-06/>

²⁸⁰² Enhancing the ASEAN-Australia partnership, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/enhancing-asean-australia-partnership>

terrorism, including ... combating the financing of terrorism, and preventing exploitation of the internet for terrorist activities.”²⁸⁰³

Australia has taken meaningful steps to tackle all three areas of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing through its consistent efforts to hold corporations and bodies to account while taking on an active role in the international sphere.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Burhan Anees Khan

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with their commitment to tackling all sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing, or proliferation financing.

On 9 December 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro launched Brazil’s Anti-Corruption Plan to combat money laundering and terrorist financing between 2020-2025.²⁸⁰⁴ The plan specifically addresses facets of money laundering or terrorist financing by establishing international cooperation between public officials responsible for detecting acts of corruption, creating whistleblower protections, and supporting research that allows for the dissemination of knowledge on anti-corruption.²⁸⁰⁵

On 11 March, 2021, Brazil’s Financial Activities Control Council published two new regulations that aims to regulate “the form of adoption of policies, procedures and internal controls to prevent money laundering (AML), terrorist financing (CTF) and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that allow compliance with the provisions of”²⁸⁰⁶ the federal Money Laundering Prevention Laws.²⁸⁰⁷ These newly proposed regulations also emphasize a greater attention to new technologies and products, and the role they may play in AML/CTF/WMD activities.²⁸⁰⁸ These regulations are proposed to come into force on 1 June 2021.²⁸⁰⁹

On 18 March 2020, the government of Brazil moderated a global webinar, held by the Financial Action Group, on the theme of money laundering through the use of trade.²⁸¹⁰ More than two

²⁸⁰³ India, Australia Pitch for ‘Broad-Based and Inclusive Govt’ in Afghanistan. Business Standard (New Delhi) 12 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/india-australia-pitch-for-broad-based-and-inclusive-govt-in-afghanistan-121091200186_1.html

²⁸⁰⁴ Anti-Corruption Plan launched for the period 2020 to 2025, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro/lancado-plano-anticorruptao-para-oo-periodo-de-2020-a-2025>

²⁸⁰⁵ Anti-Corruption Plan Diagnosis and Actions of the Federal Government, Interministerial Committee to Combat Corruption (Brasília) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/anticorruptao/plano-anticorruptao.pdf>

²⁸⁰⁶ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasília) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

²⁸⁰⁷ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasília) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

²⁸⁰⁸ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasília) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

²⁸⁰⁹ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasília) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

²⁸¹⁰ Gafi Webinar: Money laundering through trade is still a global threat, Federal Government of Brazil (Brasília) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/coaf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ultimas-noticias/webinar-gafi-lavagem-de-dinheiro-por-meio-do-comercio-ainda-e-ameaca-mundial>

thousand representatives from both private and the public sector attended this event to discuss current challenges that authorities face when combating money laundering within trade.²⁸¹¹

On 1 June 2021, the Council for Financial Activities Control (COAF) entered into force Resolution No.36/2021.²⁸¹² This resolution intends to aid in the implementation and maintenance of AML and CFT for companies that are supervised by COAF by documenting AML/CTF policies, disclosing policies to the companies' various parties, and monitoring and training employees on the subject of AML/CTF.²⁸¹³

On 3 August 2021, the Central Bank entered into force BCB Resolution No. 119/2021.²⁸¹⁴ This resolution promotes amendments to BCB Circular N. 3,978/2020, which intends to facilitate compliance with obligations for the institutions regulated by the Central Bank regarding money laundering, concealment of assets, and terrorism financing.²⁸¹⁵

Brazil has moved to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing by establishing an anti-corruption plan, as well as enacting new AML/CTF regulations that tackles all three key areas of sources, techniques, and channels.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Keab Sharma

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 30 November 2020, the Department of Finance Canada released its "Fall Economic Statement."²⁸¹⁶ In this document, the department proposed an increase of CAD606 million in the next five years to fund the hiring of more auditors to address offshore tax havens.²⁸¹⁷ Furthermore, the document proposed some of this funding will be used to "strengthen its ability to fight tax crimes such as money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) by upgrading tools and increasing

²⁸¹¹ Gafi Webinar: Money laundering through trade is still a global threat, Federal Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/coaf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ultimas-noticias/webinar-gafi-lavagem-de-dinheiro-por-meio-do-comercio-ainda-e-ameaca-mundial>

²⁸¹² COAF RESOLUTION No. 36, OF MARCH 10, 2021, Ministry of Economy/Central Bank of Brazil/Council for the Control of Financial Activities (Brasília) 11 March 2021. Access Date 25 July 2021. <https://in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

²⁸¹³ COAF RESOLUTION No. 36, OF MARCH 10, 2021 Agency: Ministry of Economy/Central Bank of Brazil/Council for the Control of Financial Activities (Brasília) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

²⁸¹⁴ BCB Resolution No. 119 of 7/27/2021, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasília) 27 July 2021. Access Date 9 September 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/estabilidadefinanceira/exibnormativo?tipo=Resolu%C3%A7%C3%A3o%20BCB&numero=119>

²⁸¹⁵ New Brazilian Central Bank resolution on anti-money laundering will be effective next week, Almeida Advogados Corporate Law (Brasília) 25 August 2021. Access Date 10 September 2021, <https://www.almeidalaw.com.br/en/midia/2021/08/new-brazilian-central-bank-resolution-on-anti-money-laundering-will-be-effective-next-week/>

²⁸¹⁶ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

²⁸¹⁷ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

international cooperation.”²⁸¹⁸ Finally, the document suggests revisions to the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA) to “strengthen criminal penalties and the registration framework for money services businesses,” amongst other changes.²⁸¹⁹

On 8 December 2020, the Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) issued new ML/TF indicators, which can be used to identify potential red flags that may initiate suspicious financial transactions.²⁸²⁰ These new indicators are applicable to all reporting entities, and are subjected to the PCMLTFA.²⁸²¹ The indicators also requires reporting entities to submit any suspicious transactions involving “banks, cryptoasset businesses, money service businesses, and other forms of financial institutions,”²⁸²² for example, to the PCMLTFA.²⁸²³

On 11 December 2020, Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair announced that CAD98.9 million would be spent on new law enforcement units designed to address money laundering within Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, and Alberta.²⁸²⁴ In addition, Minister Blair announced the creation of the “Counter Illicit Finance Alliance” within British Columbia.²⁸²⁵ These measures will help regulate possible financial crimes within casinos and other industries that are frequently targeted by money launderers.²⁸²⁶

On 19 April 2021, the Federal Government released its 2021 Budget.²⁸²⁷ This document states that CAD4.6 million will be spent on the FINTRAC so it can “build its expertise related to virtual currency...and develop and administer a cost recovery scheme for its compliance activities.”²⁸²⁸ Furthermore, the budget includes legislative proposals focused on reducing the use of charitable

²⁸¹⁸ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

²⁸¹⁹ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

²⁸²⁰ Money laundering and terrorist financing indicators – Virtual currency transactions, Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/transaction-operation/indicators-indicateurs/vc_mltf-eng

²⁸²¹ Money laundering and terrorist financing indicators – Virtual currency transactions, Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/transaction-operation/indicators-indicateurs/vc_mltf-eng

²⁸²² Crypto Regulatory Affairs: Canada Issues Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Indicators For Cryptoassets, Elliptic Enterprises Limited (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.elliptic.co/blog/canada-issues-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-indicators-for-crypto>

²⁸²³ Crypto Regulatory Affairs: Canada Issues Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Indicators For Cryptoassets, Elliptic Enterprises Limited (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.elliptic.co/blog/canada-issues-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-indicators-for-crypto>

²⁸²⁴ Feds launching new anti-money laundering units in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Global News (Toronto) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7517509/new-federal-anti-money-laundering-units/>

²⁸²⁵ Feds launching new anti-money laundering units in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Global News (Toronto) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7517509/new-federal-anti-money-laundering-units/>

²⁸²⁶ Feds launching new anti-money laundering units in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Global News (Toronto) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7517509/new-federal-anti-money-laundering-units/>

²⁸²⁷ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

²⁸²⁸ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

organizations as channels of terrorist financing.²⁸²⁹ These legislative changes would: “allow for the immediate revocation of charitable status for organizations listed as a terrorist entity,”²⁸³⁰ “prevent individuals with a known history of supporting terrorism from becoming a director, trustee, or similar official of a registered charity,”²⁸³¹ and “allow for the revocation of charitable status when a charity provides false statements for the purpose of maintaining their registration.”²⁸³²

On 4 May 2021, FINTRA published its 2021 version of the Compliance program Requirements, which is set to come into force on 1 June 2021.²⁸³³ This updated guide’s objective is to ensure all REs comply with the PCMLTFA, as well as any other associated regulations.²⁸³⁴ These requirements entails all reporting entities to establish and implement a compliance program, with elements such as appointing compliance officers or conducting risk assessment when necessary, in order to identify possible sources of money laundering or terrorist financing.²⁸³⁵

On 1 June 2021, new regulations of the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act, proposed and released to the public years prior, became effective.²⁸³⁶ These laws include new rules for reporting virtual currency transactions, the need for businesses to scrutinize and authenticate client information, amongst other regulations.²⁸³⁷ According to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada, these new rules will “help strengthen Canada’s anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regime by closing certain gaps, such as those stemming from technological advances.”²⁸³⁸

On 30 July 2021, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada provided additional indicators in order to better detect money laundering that is specifically connected to the crime of human trafficking.²⁸³⁹

Canada has taken action to fight money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas monetary commitments, as well as through legislation, and the compliance program requirements.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Nathan Ye

²⁸²⁹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

²⁸³⁰ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

²⁸³¹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

²⁸³² Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

²⁸³³ Compliance program requirements, Financial Transactions and Reports analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/compliance-conformite/Guide4/4-eng>

²⁸³⁴ Compliance program requirements, Financial Transactions and Reports analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/compliance-conformite/Guide4/4-eng>

²⁸³⁵ Compliance program requirements, Financial Transactions and Reports analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/compliance-conformite/Guide4/4-eng>

²⁸³⁶ Regulatory Amendments in Force as of June 1, 2021, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/covid19/2021-06-01-eng>

²⁸³⁷ Regulatory Amendments in Force as of June 1, 2021, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/covid19/2021-06-01-eng>

²⁸³⁸ Regulatory Amendments in Force as of June 1, 2021, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/covid19/2021-06-01-eng>

²⁸³⁹ FINTRAC provides additional money laundering indicators associated with human trafficking for sexual exploitation in support of Project Protect, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/new-neuf/nr/2021-07-30-eng>

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

On 4 January 2021, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) issued an amended draft of the “Financial Institution Anti-money Laundering Anti-terrorist Financing Supervisory Administrative Measures.”²⁸⁴⁰ This measure aims to “preventing and dissolving financial risk, raising the effectiveness of anti-money laundering regulation and raising the level of financial institution anti-money laundering work.”²⁸⁴¹ This draft also seeks to restructure anti-money laundering (AML) efforts in China in accordance with the assessment the Financial Action Task Force made in 2019, and to resolve the range of inadequacies that the assessment had highlighted.²⁸⁴²

On 5 February 2021, China's economic decision makers signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on the Launch of Cross-boundary Wealth.”²⁸⁴³ In Provision 9 of the document, the PBOC, “agrees to provide guidance to Mainland banks to comply with obligations relating to...anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism in accordance with relevant legal requirements.”²⁸⁴⁴

On 11 February 2021, Premier Li Keqiang signed a decree that unveiled new regulation on prevention and handling of illegal fundraising, which will come in place on 1 May 2021.²⁸⁴⁵ This new regulation aims to remove a source of corruption in China, by decreasing the number of illegal fundraising cases.²⁸⁴⁶

On 25 February 2021, China held a virtual meeting on money laundering.²⁸⁴⁷ The meeting highlighted past successes and future steps, including China's goals in advancing amendments to the AML law, enhancing coordination amongst AML departments, strengthening the risk-based AML supervision, and participating in global AML governance.²⁸⁴⁸

²⁸⁴⁰ PBOC Releases Draft Version of Amended Anti-money Laundering, Anti-terrorist Financing Regulations, China Banking News (N/A) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2021/01/04/pboc-releases-draft-version-of-amended-anti-money-laundering-anti-terrorist-financing-regulations/>

²⁸⁴¹ PBOC Releases Draft Version of Amended Anti-money Laundering, Anti-terrorist Financing Regulations, China Banking News (N/A) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2021/01/04/pboc-releases-draft-version-of-amended-anti-money-laundering-anti-terrorist-financing-regulations/>

²⁸⁴² PBOC Releases Draft Version of Amended Anti-money Laundering, Anti-terrorist Financing Regulations, China Banking News (N/A) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2021/01/04/pboc-releases-draft-version-of-amended-anti-money-laundering-anti-terrorist-financing-regulations/>

²⁸⁴³ Memorandum of Understanding on supervisory cooperation under the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Hong Kong) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/press-release/2021/20210205e4a1.pdf>

²⁸⁴⁴ Memorandum of Understanding on supervisory cooperation under the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Hong Kong) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/press-release/2021/20210205e4a1.pdf>

²⁸⁴⁵ Premier Signs Decree Unveiling the Regulation on Prevention and Handling of Illegal Fundraising, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202102/10/WS6023ee87a31024ad0baa8aa4.html>

²⁸⁴⁶ Premier Signs Decree Unveiling the Regulation on Prevention and Handling of Illegal Fundraising, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202102/10/WS6023ee87a31024ad0baa8aa4.html>

²⁸⁴⁷ PBC Holds 2021 Anti-Money Laundering Virtual Work Conference, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688241/3688777/3688780/4197750/index.html>

²⁸⁴⁸ PBC Holds 2021 Anti-Money Laundering Virtual Work Conference, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688241/3688777/3688780/4197750/index.html>

On 26 March 2021, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission issued a notice on “preventing the illegal flow of loans for business purposes into the real estate sector.”²⁸⁴⁹ This notice aims to urge banking institutions to revamp their operations by strengthening client reviews and clearly defining a “blacklist” of violations.

On 16 April 2021, the PBOC released “Measures for the Supervision of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing of Financial Institutions,” which will be in effect 1 August 2021.²⁸⁵⁰ This document specifies the AML requirements for financial institutions, will require institutions to conduct self-assessments and establish internal control systems.²⁸⁵¹ This document will also include micro-credit companies and wealth management subsidiaries as obliged AML actors.²⁸⁵²

On 1 June 2021, the PBOC published a draft version of an amended Anti-Money Laundering Law for public feedback.²⁸⁵³ The amendments propose an expanded definition of money laundering activities, increased oversight of non-financial entities, AML obligations for more individuals, and large increases in penalties.²⁸⁵⁴

On 1 August 2021, the Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing of Financial Institutions came into effect.²⁸⁵⁵ This dramatically expanded the scope of the AML/CTF requirements to now include “loan companies, asset management subsidiaries of commercial banks, non-banking payment institutions, insurance agents and insurance brokers.”²⁸⁵⁶ Companies are required to maintain internal controls and risk management by adding new duties, staff requirements, and information submission.²⁸⁵⁷

On 3 August 2021, China partnered with the United Arab Emirates to exchange key information about money laundering.²⁸⁵⁸ This agreement permits quicker access to necessary information to clamp down on global money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁸⁵⁹

²⁸⁴⁹ The General Office of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, the General Office of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and the General Office of the People’s Bank of China issued the “Notice on Preventing the Illegal Flow of Loans for Business Purposes into the Real Estate Sector, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<http://www.cbirc.gov.cn/cn/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=973377&itemId=915&generalType=0>

²⁸⁵⁰ China: Central Bank issues measures for supervision and administration of AML/CTF, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/china-central-bank-issues-measures-supervision-and>

²⁸⁵¹ China: Central Bank issues measures for supervision and administration of AML/CTF, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/china-central-bank-issues-measures-supervision-and>

²⁸⁵² China: Central Bank issues measures for supervision and administration of AML/CTF, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/china-central-bank-issues-measures-supervision-and>

²⁸⁵³ China ups fines and widens scope of draft money laundering law, Reuters (London) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-pboc-money-laundering-idUSKCN2DD397>

²⁸⁵⁴ China ups fines and widens scope of draft money laundering law, Reuters (London) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-pboc-money-laundering-idUSKCN2DD397>

²⁸⁵⁵ China expands AML/CTF obligations, China Business Law Journal (Hong Kong) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://law.asia/china-expands-aml-ctf-obligations/>

²⁸⁵⁶ China expands AML/CTF obligations, China Business Law Journal (Hong Kong) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://law.asia/china-expands-aml-ctf-obligations/>

²⁸⁵⁷ China expands AML/CTF obligations, China Business Law Journal (Hong Kong) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://law.asia/china-expands-aml-ctf-obligations/>

²⁸⁵⁸ UAE teams up with China to fight money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/2021/08/03/uae-teams-up-with-china-to-fight-money-laundering/>

China has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas through legislation, as well as active participation in the fight against anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Veniamin Veselovsky

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

On 9 December 2020, Minister for Economy, Finance, and Recovery Bruno Le Maire announced that France will make Know Your Client procedures compulsory for all cryptocurrency transactions in the country.²⁸⁶⁰ Such changes are part of France's larger effort to fight money laundering and terrorist financing after arresting 29 individuals in September linked to a financing scheme of Islamist extremists in Syria using cryptocurrencies.²⁸⁶¹ Le Maire's proposal is meant "to strengthen the control of financial funds" because "cryptocurrencies pose a real problem of terrorist financing."²⁸⁶²

On 6 March 2021, the French government passed an order to increase internal control on financial systems in the form of asset freezing measures to fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁸⁶³ The order granted the French Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority increased jurisdiction over the banking, payment, and investment service sectors in ensuring they comply with anti-money laundering (AML) and counter terrorist financing (CTF) practices.²⁸⁶⁴

On 23 March 2021, the French Government passed the action plan against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.²⁸⁶⁵ The action plan included five priority axes: preventing risk in both the financial and non-financial sector by intensifying inspections; increasing transparency by further developing the national registry listing the financial assets of public associations; increasing the powers of France's intelligence service to detect, prosecute, and sanction suspicious activity; freezing

²⁸⁵⁹ UAE teams up with China to fight money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/2021/08/03/uae-teams-up-with-china-to-fight-money-laundering/>

²⁸⁶⁰ France announces strict cryptocurrency KYC rules to fight money laundering and terrorist financing (Paris) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://amlintelligence.com/2020/12/france-announces-strict-cryptocurrency-kyc-rules-to-fight-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

²⁸⁶¹ France announces strict cryptocurrency KYC rules to fight money laundering and terrorist financing (Paris) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://amlintelligence.com/2020/12/france-announces-strict-cryptocurrency-kyc-rules-to-fight-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

²⁸⁶² France announces strict cryptocurrency KYC rules to fight money laundering and terrorist financing (Paris) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://amlintelligence.com/2020/12/france-announces-strict-cryptocurrency-kyc-rules-to-fight-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

²⁸⁶³ Decree of February 25, 2021 amending the decree of January 6, 2021 relating to the system and control in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism and freezing of assets and prohibition of the provision or use of funds or economic resources (Paris) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf?id=URjHGUS3Mla2ACFEemnX493YeQ3-8TceGo4mVNW7rSU=>

²⁸⁶⁴ Decree of February 25, 2021 amending the decree of January 6, 2021 relating to the system and control in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism and freezing of assets and prohibition of the provision or use of funds or economic resources (Paris) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf?id=URjHGUS3Mla2ACFEemnX493YeQ3-8TceGo4mVNW7rSU=>

²⁸⁶⁵ Fight against money laundering and terrorist financing: update of the government action plan (2021-2022), Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lutte-blanchiment-capitaux-financement-terrorisme-mise-jour-plan-action>

assets with suspected links to money laundering or terrorism financing; strengthening national policies and playing a leading role in promoting international cooperation on the EU level.²⁸⁶⁶

On 4 April 2021, the French government published Decree No. 2021-387 to counteract the anonymity of virtual assets.²⁸⁶⁷ The Decree amended the existing ALM and CFT regime by clarifying the prohibition on the use of anonymous electronic money for the purchase of digital assets and imposing an obligation on digital asset service providers to identify their customers prior to any transaction.²⁸⁶⁸ The Decree became active on 1 May 2021.²⁸⁶⁹

On 5 April 2021, the European Union's Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, of which Expertise France is a main implementing partner, met with United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to explore various venues of implementing multi-agency AML and CFT programs to disrupt and dismantle illicit networks.²⁸⁷⁰ Glenn McDowell from the EU AML/CFT Global Facility commented on the importance of creating a multi-agency, stating "financial crime is growing in sophistication and complexity, so we are delighted to be able to share our respective knowledge, skills, and experience with the UAE."²⁸⁷¹

On 29 July 2021, the Financial Markets Authority (AMF) called for extreme vigilance of retail investors when accepting investment offers in crypto-assets. The regulatory authority noted that false offers of investment in crypto-currency have become a prominent form of fraud amongst retail investors. They stressed the importance of ensuring that investment offers come from Digital Asset Service Providers registered with the AMF who are required to go through a number of verifications as part of their anti-money laundering system.²⁸⁷²

France has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all sources, techniques, and channels of these threats. It has identified internal sources of money laundering and terrorist financing through orders and decrees; it has prevented and combated methods of money laundering and terrorist financing by strengthening domestic institutions; and it has involved other international avenues and agencies through action and communication to create a comprehensive order against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

²⁸⁶⁶ Fight against money laundering and terrorist financing: update of the government action plan (2021-2022), Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lutte-blanchiment-capitaux-financement-terrorisme-mise-jour-plan-action>

²⁸⁶⁷ Decree No. 2021-387 of April 2, 2021 relating to the fight against the anonymity of virtual assets and strengthening the national system for the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (Paris) 4 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043328577?r=9N7CtzLsO6>

²⁸⁶⁸ Decree No. 2021-387 of April 2, 2021 relating to the fight against the anonymity of virtual assets and strengthening the national system for the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (Paris) 4 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043328577?r=9N7CtzLsO6>

²⁸⁶⁹ Decree No. 2021-387 of April 2, 2021 relating to the fight against the anonymity of virtual assets and strengthening the national system for the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (Paris) 4 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043328577?r=9N7CtzLsO6>

²⁸⁷⁰ UAE, European Union host workshops on combating money laundering and terrorist financing (Abu Dhabi) 26 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302929868>

²⁸⁷¹ UAE, European Union host workshops on combating money laundering and terrorist financing (Abu Dhabi) 26 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302929868>

²⁸⁷² AMF is warning retail investors on the importance of consulting the white list of digital asset service providers (DASPs) (Paris) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.amf-france.org/en/news-publications/news/amf-warning-retail-investors-importance-consulting-white-list-digital-asset-service-providers-dasps>

Analyst: Darya Rabbar

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 16 December 2020, the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Christine Lambrecht, presented a draft bill of the Financial Marketing Integrity Strengthening Act to reform the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority.²⁸⁷³ The Act includes measures aiming to protect investors and consumers, and to combat terrorist financing (TF) and money laundering, and is planned to come into force on 1 July 2021.²⁸⁷⁴

On 28 December 2020, the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Germany published a report, titled “Sectoral Risk Analysis,” on the issue of TF through (the abuse of) non-profit organizations (NPOs) in Germany.²⁸⁷⁵ This report intends to outline and investigate the risks of TF through the abuse of NPOs in detail, and also provides recommendations for action, such as urging for closer cooperation between financial and law enforcement authorities, as well as examining potential measures in the banking sector to counteract the risks of TF.²⁸⁷⁶

On 10 February 2021, the German Federal Government adopted a draft of the Act to Amend the Anti-Money Laundering Transparency Register and Financial Information Act.²⁸⁷⁷ This draft aims to “further improve the fight against money laundering under criminal law and even go beyond the minimum international requirements.”²⁸⁷⁸ The draft proposes the “all-crimes approach,” which expands the “basis of criminal activity that underpins money laundering.”²⁸⁷⁹ Under this draft, any activity related to trafficking illegally obtained assets, including objects, into the legal economy can be prosecuted, “meaning that money laundering can be penalized more frequently than in the past.”²⁸⁸⁰

On 19 May 2021, Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community Horst Lorenz Seehofer banned three fundraising associations on terrorist financing charges. The ban of these associations

²⁸⁷³ More ‘Bite’ for the Financial Supervisory Authority, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-02-03-more-bite-for-the-financial-supervisory-authority.html

²⁸⁷⁴ More ‘Bite’ for the Financial Supervisory Authority, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-02-03-more-bite-for-the-financial-supervisory-authority.html

²⁸⁷⁵ Sectoral risk analysis, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Berlin) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/sicherheit/sectorale-risikoanalyse.html>

²⁸⁷⁶ Sectoral risk analysis, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Berlin) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/sicherheit/sectorale-risikoanalyse.html>

²⁸⁷⁷ Government draft of the Anti-Money Laundering Transparency Register and Financial Information Act published, Noerr (Munich) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.noerr.com/en/newsroom/news/governmentdraftoftheantimoneylaunderingtransparencyregisterandfinancialinformationactpublished>

²⁸⁷⁸ Combating Money Laundering Using an All-Crimes Approach. New Law in Germany Aims to Improve the Fight Against Money Laundering, Actico (Immenstaad) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.actico.com/blog-en/combating-money-laundering-in-germany-using-an-all-crimes-approach-new-law-improves-aml/>

²⁸⁷⁹ Combating Money Laundering Using an All-Crimes Approach. New Law in Germany Aims to Improve the Fight Against Money Laundering, Actico (Immenstaad) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.actico.com/blog-en/combating-money-laundering-in-germany-using-an-all-crimes-approach-new-law-improves-aml/>

²⁸⁸⁰ Combating Money Laundering Using an All-Crimes Approach. New Law in Germany Aims to Improve the Fight Against Money Laundering, Actico (Immenstaad) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.actico.com/blog-en/combating-money-laundering-in-germany-using-an-all-crimes-approach-new-law-improves-aml/>

prevents fundraising for Hezbollah's Waisenkinder Projekt Lebanon e.V., a group facilitating conflict with Israel.²⁸⁸¹

On 1 August 2021, amendment to Anti-Money Laundering Act entered into force as a part of the Act on the European Interconnection of Transparency Registers and the Implementation of Directive.²⁸⁸² This act facilitates verification of information on the beneficial owner, and prevents money laundering from expanding reporting obligations of German entities.²⁸⁸³

Germany has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through legislation that tackles the sources, techniques, and channels of these crimes.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zhuojia Qiu

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to tackle the sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 18 March 2021, India and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) announced at the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure that a joint anti-terrorism exercise, "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021," will be held during this calendar year.²⁸⁸⁴ At the meeting, "[d]ecisions have been made to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the SCO member states in identifying and suppressing channels that finance terrorist activities."²⁸⁸⁵

On 7 April 2021, India contributed an additional USD500,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, bringing the country's donation to the UN office set up to combat terrorism to over USD1 million.²⁸⁸⁶ The Permanent Representative of India to the UN stated that the country "continues its strong and focused commitment to help member states build capacity to prevent and counter terrorism."²⁸⁸⁷ This donation will contribute to the work of the UN Office of Counter-

²⁸⁸¹ Three Fundraising Associations Banned on Terrorist Financing Charges, Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2021/05/verbotsverfahren-hisballah-spenden-en.html>

²⁸⁸² Transparency Register and Financial Information Act enters into force in August – Major changes in the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), Payment Technology Law (München) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021.

<https://paytechlaw.com/en/transparency-register-financial-information-aml>

²⁸⁸³ New German Financial Law Expands Reporting Obligations for German Entities. JD Supra (California). Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/new-german-financial-law-expands-1204930>

²⁸⁸⁴ India, Pakistan, China to participate in SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise this year, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-pakistan-china-to-participate-in-sco-joint-anti-terrorism-exercise-this-year/articleshow/81617992.cms>

²⁸⁸⁵ India, Pakistan, China to participate in SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise this year, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-pakistan-china-to-participate-in-sco-joint-anti-terrorism-exercise-this-year/articleshow/81617992.cms>

²⁸⁸⁶ Over US \$ 1 million contributed by India towards UN counter terrorism fund, India News Network (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.indianewsnetwork.com/20210408/over-us-1-million-contributed-by-india-towards-un-counter-terrorism-fund>

²⁸⁸⁷ Over US \$ 1 million contributed by India towards UN counter terrorism fund, India News Network (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.indianewsnetwork.com/20210408/over-us-1-million-contributed-by-india-towards-un-counter-terrorism-fund>

Terrorism, which coordinates the UN's comprehensive approach to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.²⁸⁸⁸

On 8 April 2021, India agreed to work jointly with Sri Lanka to combat terrorist entities.²⁸⁸⁹ While continuing their actions against drug trafficking, the two states intend to strengthen the existing cooperation mechanisms, with an emphasis on sharing real time intelligence to designate “nodal points” for timely and effective handling of security challenges.²⁸⁹⁰

On 8 April 2021, India and the Maldives agreed to enhance capacity building mechanisms to counter terror, as well as a de-radicalization effort, including efforts in combating terrorist financing.²⁸⁹¹ Such “cooperation will include assistance and capacity building for the security and law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Maldives as well as collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the areas of counter-terrorism.”²⁸⁹²

On 12 September 2021, the Indian government issued a statement alongside the Australian government, where both governments “agreed to continue cooperation in the sphere of counter-terrorism, including ... combating the financing of terrorism, and preventing exploitation of the internet for terrorist activities.”²⁸⁹³

On 24 September 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the President of the United States in a joint leaders’ statement, announcing that the US-India relationship will continue forward.²⁸⁹⁴ In the statement, both parties reaffirmed their stance on their fight against global terrorism, and “emphasized the importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks.”²⁸⁹⁵

India has taken action to tackle sources and techniques of terrorist financing. However, India has not taken new actions to tackle channels of this threat.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

²⁸⁸⁸ India so far contributed over USD 1 million to UN Counter terrorism fund. Hindustan Post (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-so-far-contributed-over-usd-1-million-to-un-counter-terrorism-fund-101617843901396.html>

²⁸⁸⁹ India and Sri Lanka agree to jointly work against terror groups, fugitives, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-sri-lanka-agree-to-jointly-work-against-terror-groups-fugitives/articleshow/81970767.cms>

²⁸⁹⁰ India and Sri Lanka agree to jointly work against terror groups, fugitives, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-sri-lanka-agree-to-jointly-work-against-terror-groups-fugitives/articleshow/81970767.cms>

²⁸⁹¹ Joint Press Release on First Meeting of India-Maldives Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33782/Joint+Press+Release+on+First+Meeting+of+IndiaMaldives+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism+Countering+Violent+Extremism+and+DeRadicalisation>

²⁸⁹² Joint Press Release on First Meeting of India-Maldives Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33782/Joint+Press+Release+on+First+Meeting+of+IndiaMaldives+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism+Countering+Violent+Extremism+and+DeRadicalisation>

²⁸⁹³ India, Australia Pitch for ‘Broad-Based and Inclusive Govt’ in Afghanistan, Business Standard (New Delhi) 12 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/india-australia-pitch-for-broad-based-and-inclusive-govt-in-afghanistan-121091200186_1.html

²⁸⁹⁴ U.S.-India Joint Leaders’ Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The White House (Washington D.C.) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

²⁸⁹⁵ U.S.-India Joint Leaders’ Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The White House (Washington D.C.) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

Analyst: Anna Ivanova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

On 14 January 2021, President Joko Widodo announced his commitment to strengthening the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing strategies in Indonesia.²⁸⁹⁶ The 2020-2024 National Strategy for the Countermeasure and Eradication of Money Laundering and Terrorism Funding Crimes has five main focuses: “improved ability of private sectors to detect indications or potential of money laundering, terrorism financing and funding for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by taking into account risk assessments; increased efforts to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing by taking into account risk assessment; greater effectiveness of eradication of money laundering and terrorism financing by taking into account risk assessments; optimizing asset recovery by taking into account risk assessments; and greater effectiveness of targeted financial sanctions in disrupting terrorist activities, terrorists, terrorist organizations, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”²⁸⁹⁷

On 14 January 2021, Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto presented the draft of the Bill on Restrictions on Currency Transactions and the Bill on Confiscation of Criminal Assets at Indonesia’s Annual Coordination Meeting for the Prevention and Eradication of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.²⁸⁹⁸ These bills are intended to become law in 2021.²⁸⁹⁹ Both bills are focused on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing as extensions of the 2020-2024 National Strategy.²⁹⁰⁰

On 30 June 2021, Governor of Bank Indonesia Perry Warjiyo and Managing Director of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank Rokiah Badar agreed to cooperate in the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁹⁰¹ The memorandum of understanding is effective as of June 2021 to strengthen policy cooperation for anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing.²⁹⁰²

Indonesia has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas through its implementation of the 2020-2024 National Strategy.

²⁸⁹⁶ Gov’t to Boost Synergy to Eradicate Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 January 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-to-boost-synergy-to-eradicate-money-laundering-terrorism-financing/>

²⁸⁹⁷ Gov’t to Boost Synergy to Eradicate Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 January 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-to-boost-synergy-to-eradicate-money-laundering-terrorism-financing/>

²⁸⁹⁸ Coordinating Minister for the Economy: Support the Criminal Asset Confiscation Bill and the Bill on Limiting Currency Transactions as a Priority, Financial Transactions Reporting and Analysis Centre (Jakarta) 4 February 2021. Access date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.ppatk.go.id/news/read/1118/menko-perekonomian-dukung-ruu-perampasan-aset-tindak-pidana-dan-ruu-pembatasan-transaksi-uang-kartal-sebagai-prioritas.html>

²⁸⁹⁹ Kick to Prevent Money Laundering: Restricted Currency Transactions, CBC Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20210114145914-4-215961/jurus-cegah-pencucian-uang-transaksi-uang-kartal-dibatasi>

²⁹⁰⁰ This bill is important to strengthen anti-money laundering and prevention of terrorist financing, Kanton (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access date: 19 March 2021. <https://nasional.kontan.co.id/news/2-ruu-ini-penting-perkuat-anti-pencucian-uang-dan-pencegahaan-pendanaan-terorisme>

²⁹⁰¹ Bank Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam Central Bank Agree Cooperation on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing, Bank Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. https://www.bi.go.id/en/publikasi/ruang-media/news-release/Pages/sp_2315521.aspx

²⁹⁰² Indonesia, Brunei agree to cooperate on anti-money laundering, Vietnam (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/indonesia-brunei-agree-to-cooperate-on-antimoney-laundering/203965.vnp>

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Alisha Bhimji

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 25 March 2021, the Bank of Italy began the two-day webinar titled “Anti-Money Laundering: the Italian Experience.”²⁹⁰³ This webinar aims to outline the existing Italian legislation on anti-money laundering (AML) and terrorist financing, as well as the AML regime, and the role the Financial Intelligence Unit will play in tackling AML.²⁹⁰⁴

On 13 September 2021, several branches of the Italian government met with the United Arab Emirates’ Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing in order to “set a strong foundation for further collaboration in our collective response to organized crime, money laundering and terrorism financing.”²⁹⁰⁵

Italy has taken some action to tackle techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing, but has not taken significant enough action.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Beatrice McLeod

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 7 February 2021, Japan’s Financial Services Agency (FSA) announced plans to implement artificial intelligence systems to detect suspicious money-laundering or terrorist financing activities, within fiscal 2021.²⁹⁰⁶ These plans aim to prevent them suspicious financial activities at the source, and to strengthen measures against money laundering.²⁹⁰⁷

On 19 February 2021, the FSA published and put into motion the finalized amendments to the Guidelines for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CTF).²⁹⁰⁸ The amendments clarify key issues that the FSA identified during on and off site monitoring, and

²⁹⁰³ Webinar: "Anti-Money Laundering: the Italian Experience," Banca D'Italia (Rome) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/webinar-anti-money-laundering-the-italian-experience/>

²⁹⁰⁴ "Anti-Money Laundering: the Italian Experience," Banca D'Italia (Rome) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/compiti/ricerca-economica/cooperazione-tecnica-internazionale/seminari-2021/seminario-2-2021/index.html>

²⁹⁰⁵ AML/CTF Executive Office to Collaborate with Italian Government in Combatting Criminal Activities, Emirate News Agency (Abu Dhabi) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302969553?src=ilaw>

²⁹⁰⁶ Japan FSA banks on AI to bust money laundering. World News Monitor (Vienna) 07 February 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://world-news-monitor.com/technology/2021/02/07/japan-fsa-banks-on-ai-to-bust-money-laundering/>

²⁹⁰⁷ Japan FSA banks on AI to bust money laundering. World News Monitor (Vienna) 07 February 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://world-news-monitor.com/technology/2021/02/07/japan-fsa-banks-on-ai-to-bust-money-laundering/>

²⁹⁰⁸ Regarding the Results of Public Commetns on the Patrial Amendment (Draft) of “Guidelines for Money Laundering and Counter measures Against Terrorist Financing. Financial Services Agency (Tokyo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r2/202102_amlcft/202102amlcft.html

seek to further enhance the effectiveness of the current financial institutions' risk management system regarding AML/CTF.²⁹⁰⁹

On 26 March 2021, the FSA issued a frequently asked questions (FAQs) about its AML/CTF guidelines.²⁹¹⁰ These FAQs are aimed to clarify and aid the understanding of AML/CTF guidelines that are already in place.²⁹¹¹

On 31 March 2021, the FSA announced that it will adopt the travel rule set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which were developed to combat money laundering, by April 2022.²⁹¹² When implemented, these legislations that require virtual asset service providers to disclose transaction data for both senders and recipients.^{2913,2914} These rules aim to provide "a number of measures to prevent cryptocurrencies from being used for money laundering and terrorist financing."²⁹¹⁵

Japan has taken steps against terrorist financing and money-laundering by tackling its channels and sources but has not taken significant action in combating the techniques used in AML/CTF.

Thus, Japan received a score of 0.

Analysts: Aimaan Shergill and Jennifer Miao Wang

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing, or proliferation financing

On 23 March 2021, the Financial Services Commission (FSC) announced that Korea's anti-money laundering safeguards for cryptocurrency businesses will "come into effect" on 25 March 2021.²⁹¹⁶ These safeguards, according to the Commission, will require Virtual Asset Service Providers to "file suspicious transaction reports with the FSC...subject themselves to compliance inspections...[and] verify their customers' identities."²⁹¹⁷

²⁹⁰⁹ Regarding the Results of Public Commetns on the Patrial Amendment (Draft) of "Guidelines for Money Laundering and Counter measures Against Terrorist Financing. Financial Services Agency (Tokyo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r2/202102_amlcft/202102amlcft.html

²⁹¹⁰ Japan: FSA releases FAQ on AML/CFT guidelines, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/japan-fsa-releases-faq-amlcft-guidelines>

²⁹¹¹ About "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Maneron Terrorism Financing Countermeasure Guidelines," Japan Financial Services Agency (Tokyo) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r2/2021_amlcft_faq/2021_amlcft_faq.html

²⁹¹² Financial Services Agency asks cryptocurrency industry group to introduce travel rules, Cointelegraph Japan (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://jp.cointelegraph.com/news/fatf-travel-rule-will-be-implemented-from-april-2022>

²⁹¹³ Notification of transfer source / destination information (travel rules) when transferring cryptographic assets, Financial Services Agency Japan (Tokyo) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r2/sonota/20210331.html>

²⁹¹⁴ Japan's FSA asks cryptocurrency industry group to introduce FATF travel rule, Cointelegraph (New York) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/japan-s-fsa-asks-cryptocurrency-industry-group-to-introduce-fatf-travel-rule>

²⁹¹⁵ Japan's FSA asks cryptocurrency industry group to introduce FATF travel rule, Cointelegraph (New York) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/japan-s-fsa-asks-cryptocurrency-industry-group-to-introduce-fatf-travel-rule>

²⁹¹⁶ South Korea's anti-money laundering rules to be live on 25 March, The Paypers (Seoul) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://thepappers.com/cryptocurrencies/south-koreas-anti-money-laundering-rules-to-be-live-on-25-march--1247920>

²⁹¹⁷ South Korea's anti-money laundering rules to be live on 25 March, The Paypers (Seoul) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://thepappers.com/cryptocurrencies/south-koreas-anti-money-laundering-rules-to-be-live-on-25-march--1247920>

On 22 April 2021, regulators from the Government of Korea announced that they will be creating guidelines to strengthen the monitoring of cross-border transactions connected with cryptocurrency.²⁹¹⁸ Authorities will monitor signs of illegal trading and team up with global institutions to “systematically deal with unlawful acts”²⁹¹⁹ made through overseas exchanges due to concern about a potential increase in money laundering and fraud risk.²⁹²⁰ The goal is to curb illicit overseas cryptocurrency transactions that take advantage of arbitrage trading opportunities.²⁹²¹

On 23 April 2021, the FSC announced that it now requires digital currency exchanges and other financial companies to strengthen their monitoring and oversight of transactions.²⁹²² According to the FSC, the new regulation is instituted to better identify the criminal use of agencies such as Bitcoin, and will also require exchanges to partner with local banking institutions.²⁹²³ Per the FSC, the goal will be to ensure that there will be “no illegal cryptocurrency transaction in the country.”²⁹²⁴

On 13 July 2021, FSC Chairman Eun Sung-soo announced that cryptocurrency exchanges that are based outside Korea must register with the nation’s anti-money laundering body if they use the Korean currency.²⁹²⁵ The revised law, effective since March, seeks to prevent money laundering by requiring banks to monitor real-name accounts under stricter guidelines.²⁹²⁶

On 26 August 2021, the FSC announced that it is forming an “independent, crypto-focused bureau to supervise digital assets in Korea.”²⁹²⁷ The new bureau falls under the authority of the Korean Financial Intelligence Unit and will launch in September 2021.²⁹²⁸ The goal is to create a bureau responsible for “looking out for suspicious activity,”²⁹²⁹ including fraud and money laundering.²⁹³⁰

Korea has taken measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas of techniques, channels, and sources.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

²⁹¹⁸ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

²⁹¹⁹ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

²⁹²⁰ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

²⁹²¹ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

²⁹²² South Korea pledges crackdown on money laundering via digital agencies, Coingeek (Seoul) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/south-korea-pledges-crackdown-on-money-laundering-via-digital-currencies/>

²⁹²³ South Korea pledges crackdown on money laundering via digital agencies, Coingeek (Seoul) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/south-korea-pledges-crackdown-on-money-laundering-via-digital-currencies/>

²⁹²⁴ South Korea pledges crackdown on money laundering via digital agencies, Coingeek (Seoul) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/south-korea-pledges-crackdown-on-money-laundering-via-digital-currencies/>

²⁹²⁵ Overseas cryptocurrency exchanges using Korean currency must register with anti-money laundering body: regulator, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210713000935>

²⁹²⁶ Overseas cryptocurrency exchanges using Korean currency must register with anti-money laundering body: regulator, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210713000935>

²⁹²⁷ South Korea’s Top Financial Regulator Is Forming a Crypto Bureau, Yahoo!Finance (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/south-korea-top-financial-regulator-182214200.html>

²⁹²⁸ South Korea’s Top Financial Regulator Is Forming a Crypto Bureau, Yahoo!Finance (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/south-korea-top-financial-regulator-182214200.html>

²⁹²⁹ South Korea’s Top Financial Regulator Is Forming a Crypto Bureau, Yahoo!Finance (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/south-korea-top-financial-regulator-182214200.html>

²⁹³⁰ South Korea’s Top Financial Regulator Is Forming a Crypto Bureau, Yahoo!Finance (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 18 September 2021. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/south-korea-top-financial-regulator-182214200.html>

Analyst: Burhan Anees Khan

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 30 November 2020, the Mexican Ministry of Finance (SHCP) released a list of requirements for the registrations of individuals and entities “that offer, on a professional basis, the exchange and custody of virtual assets with the Mexican Revenue Service [(SAT)].”²⁹³¹ This list of requirements is a modification of the Anti-Money Laundering Act that was enacted in 2012, and now requires virtual currency exchanges and custody to be ultimately analyzed by the Financial Intelligence Unit of Mexico.²⁹³² Through these requirements, the SHCP and the SAT hope to increase the focus on provisions of services involving virtual assets in order to prevent and combat against money laundering.²⁹³³

On 9 December 2020, Mexico’s Senate approved a reform bill for the Bank of Mexico to acquire foreign currency from local banks that were excess from cash remittances and tourism.²⁹³⁴ The bill aimed to manage money laundering risks inherent in foreign currency transactions.²⁹³⁵

Through the reform bill, Mexico has taken action in tackling the channel of money laundering. However, they have only taken preliminary actions in the form of the list of requirements in monitoring the source and channel of online money laundering crime, but has not taken further action to implement legislation. Furthermore, the majority of their initiatives are centered around money laundering, but not many actions have been taken to counter terrorist financing.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Keab Sharma

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

On 10 January 2021, amendments to the Federal Law on anti-money laundering and terrorism financing came into force. From now on, Russia’s financial watchdogs would receive all information regarding money withdrawal / lettering operations if a sum is more than RUB600,000 (approximately

²⁹³¹ Mexican Government issues registration requirements to those who exchange and custody virtual assets, White and Case (New York) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/mexican-government-issues-registration-requirements-those-who-exchange-and>

²⁹³² Mexican Government issues registration requirements to those who exchange and custody virtual assets, White and Case (New York) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/mexican-government-issues-registration-requirements-those-who-exchange-and>

²⁹³³ Mexican Government issues registration requirements to those who exchange and custody virtual assets, White and Case (New York) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/mexican-government-issues-registration-requirements-those-who-exchange-and>

²⁹³⁴ WSJ Mexico Working on an Alternative to Bill That Would Force Central Bank to Buy Dollars, Wall Street Journal (Mexico City) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mexico-working-on-alternative-to-bill-that-would-force-central-bank-to-buy-dollars-11611311401>

²⁹³⁵ Considerations about the account of the reform project for the Bank of Mexico to acquire foreign currency in cash, approved by the Senate, Bank of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.banxico.org.mx/marco-normativo/d/%7B318AF7D5-846B-EE69-FC64-CC9445D76402%7D.pdf>

USD8,000). Also, all postal money transfers exceeding RUB100,000 (approximately USD1,300) would be put under control.²⁹³⁶

On 20 January 2021, the State Duma's Committee on Financial Market approved the draft law imposing penalties on undeclared financial actives in cryptocurrencies. The fines vary from 300RUB (approximately USD5) for individuals to RUB50,000 (approximately USD680) for companies; in some cases the draft implies confiscation up to 40 percent of transferred money if it is done with a crypto wallet registered abroad.²⁹³⁷

On 19 February 2021, Russia's Federal Financial Monitoring (Rosfinmonitoring) announced establishment of a digital service to supervise transactions in cryptocurrencies that might be associated with criminal activities. Rosfinmonitoring's Director Yuri Chihanchin, called the new system "Prozrachnyi Monitoring" ("Transparent Monitoring") that is said to be capable of analyzing all kinds of transactions in cryptocurrencies. The system is planned to start functioning later in 2021.²⁹³⁸

On 12 March 2021, the Advisory Council of the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Laundering of Criminally Obtained Incomes, Financing of Terrorism and Financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction conducted a meeting with representatives from the National Council of the Financial Market, the Association of Russian Banks, the Association of Russian Banks, and the Federal Notary Chamber.²⁹³⁹ During the meeting, Ilya Yasinky, the director of the Department for Financial Monitoring and Currency Control of the Bank of Russia, discussed the draft of the federal law no. 1116372-7 meant to amend certain legislative acts to better assess the risk of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs of suspicious transactions.²⁹⁴⁰

On 23 March 2021, Rosfinmonitoring announced that it is policing crypto to fiat transactions.²⁹⁴¹ Rosfinmonitoring announced that they are working with the central bank to develop a framework to track suspicious crypto to fiat transactions.²⁹⁴² Deputy Chief of Rosfinmonitoring Herman Neglyad stated, "banks have already begun to pay attention to exchange operations, that is, when they see that an operation has come after the exchange of virtual assets for hard currency, they have already begun to evaluate them and actually inform us about these operations."²⁹⁴³

Russia has taken tentative action to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in two of the three key areas. Russia has addressed the source and techniques of such threats but has not taken action to fully tackle their channels.

²⁹³⁶ New Rules For Control Over Cash Transactions Entered Into Force In The Russian Federation, *Izvestiya* (Moscow) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://iz.ru/1109557/2021-01-10/v-rf-vstupili-v-silu-novye-pravila-kontroliaza-operatciami-s-nalichnymi>

²⁹³⁷ The Financial Market Committee Approves A Bill That Provides For Penalties For Hiding Funds In E-Wallets, *Financial Market Committee of the State Duma* (Moscow) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://www.komitet2-12.km.duma.gov.ru/Novosti-Komiteta/item/25071748/>

²⁹³⁸ Rosfinmonitoring Has Created A Service For Monitoring Criminal Transactions With Cryptocurrency, *Kommersant* (Moscow) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4701696>

²⁹³⁹A Meeting of The Advisory Council At The IAC on AML/CFT/ Forum Was Held (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.fedsfm.ru/releases/4978>

²⁹⁴⁰A Meeting of The Advisory Council At The IAC on AML/CFT/ Forum Was Held (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.fedsfm.ru/releases/4978>

²⁹⁴¹ Russia's money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions (New York) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://cointelgraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

²⁹⁴² Russia's money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions (New York) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://cointelgraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

²⁹⁴³ Russia's money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions (New York) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://cointelgraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Darya Rabbar

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 26 November 2020, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Ghada Waly and Saudi Arabia's President of Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority Mazin Bin Ibrahim Al-Kahmous signed a USD10 million funding agreement in support of a global operational network of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to limit money laundering activities.²⁹⁴⁴ This agreement will support “anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to enhance informal cooperation through regular meetings; an online hub and secure communication platform; and knowledge- and capacity-building programmes and tools.”²⁹⁴⁵

On 2 December 2020, the Central Bank Governor Ahmed Alkholifey announced Saudi Arabia's strengthened regulatory and legislative framework which aims to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁹⁴⁶ This action was taken to enhance the kingdom's compliance with the international standards of the Financial Action Task Force, and will be “taking appropriate measures to prevent cybercrimes and is encouraging financial institutions to enhance electronic and digital payments amid the Covid-19 pandemic,”²⁹⁴⁷ as well as taking all necessary procedures and measures to manage the increased risks by developing appropriate policies.²⁹⁴⁸

On 25 May 2021, Governor of the Central Bank of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Anti-Money Laundering Permanent Committee Fahad bin Abdullah Al-Mubarak and the Anti-Money Laundering Permanent Committee, held a meeting to discuss anti-money laundering strategies.²⁹⁴⁹ The meeting followed up on the progress of implementing the National Action Plan and its Strategic Objectives approved by Royal Decree No. 28548, and ensured the local regulations are consistent with the Forty Recommendations of Financial Action Task Force.²⁹⁵⁰

²⁹⁴⁴ UNODC, Saudi Arabia's Nazaha Sign USD10 Million Funding Agreement for Global Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2020/November/unodc-saudi-arabias-nazaha-sign-10m-funding-agreement-for-global-anti-corruption-law-enforcement-network.html>

²⁹⁴⁵ UNODC, Saudi Arabia's Nazaha Sign USD10 Million Funding Agreement for Global Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2020/November/unodc-saudi-arabias-nazaha-sign-10m-funding-agreement-for-global-anti-corruption-law-enforcement-network.html>

²⁹⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia strengthens its regulatory framework to combat money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/saudi-arabia-strengthens-its-regulatory-framework-to-combat-money-laundering-1.1121837>

²⁹⁴⁷ Saudi Arabia strengthens its regulatory framework to combat money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/saudi-arabia-strengthens-its-regulatory-framework-to-combat-money-laundering-1.1121837>

²⁹⁴⁸ Saudi Arabia strengthens its regulatory framework to combat money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/saudi-arabia-strengthens-its-regulatory-framework-to-combat-money-laundering-1.1121837>

²⁹⁴⁹ The Anti-Money Laundering Permanent Committee discusses in its monthly meeting the latest developments in International Standards, Anti-Money Laundering Committee (Riyadh) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.aml.gov.sa/en-us/News/Pages/25-5-2021.aspx>

²⁹⁵⁰ The Anti-Money Laundering Permanent Committee discusses in its monthly meeting the latest developments in International Standards, Anti-Money Laundering Committee (Riyadh) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.aml.gov.sa/en-us/News/Pages/25-5-2021.aspx>

On 13 July 2021, Governor Al-Mubarak, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, and Governor of the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates Khaled Mohammed Balama discussed Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Finance of Terrorism efforts. (CFT) The discussion allowed cross-national AML and CFT cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.²⁹⁵¹

On 3 August 2021, the Cabinet of Saudi Arabia approved to amend Article 23 of Royal Decree No. (M/19).²⁹⁵² The Amendment allowed further regulation of the anti-commercial fraud system in Saudi Arabia.²⁹⁵³ Penalties for violating the law now include up to 3 years in prison and a fine up to USD26.6 thousand. The Amendment also allowed an exemption from penalties for reporters of fraudulent activities.²⁹⁵⁴

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zhuojia Qiu

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 1 April 2021, the South African Reserve Bank imposed a ZAR28 million fine on Deutsche Bank and a ZAR500,000 fine on insurance company Discovery Life Limited for inadequate protections against money laundering.²⁹⁵⁵

On 8 June 2021, the South African Reserve Bank imposed sanctions onto Master Currency, which is an authorized dealer in foreign exchange.²⁹⁵⁶ The exchange company was fined ZAR100,000 for inadequate protections against money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁹⁵⁷

On 11 June 2021, the Intergovernmental Fintech Working Group (IFWG) announced the South African government's intent to regulate and integrate cryptocurrencies into the existing financial regulatory system.²⁹⁵⁸ In particular, the position paper published by the IFWG discussed money

²⁹⁵¹ UAE and Saudi Arabia Deepen Ties to Strengthen Anti-Money Laundering Efforts, The National (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/banking/2021/07/25/uae-and-saudi-arabia-deepen-ties-to-strengthen-anti-money-laundering-efforts/>

²⁹⁵² Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Chairs Cabinet's Virtual Session, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2269237#spav>

²⁹⁵³ Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Chairs Cabinet's Virtual Session, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2269237#spav>

²⁹⁵⁴ Saudi Arabia Issues Travel Ban for Violators of Anti-Commercial Fraud Law, Ashara Al-Awsat Newspaper (London) Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3126501/saudi-arabia-issues-travel-ban-violators-anti-commercial-fraud-law>

²⁹⁵⁵ S.Africa's central bank imposes sanctions on Deutsche Bank's local branch (Johannesburg) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-safrica-sarb-idUSKBN2BO66Q>

²⁹⁵⁶ South African Reserve Bank imposes administrative sanctions on Authorised Dealer in foreign exchange with limited authority (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/south-african-reserve-bank-imposes-administrative-sanctions-authorised-dealer-foreign>

²⁹⁵⁷ South African Reserve Bank imposes administrative sanctions on Authorised Dealer in foreign exchange with limited authority (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/south-african-reserve-bank-imposes-administrative-sanctions-authorised-dealer-foreign>

²⁹⁵⁸ Crypto Assets to be Brought into South African Regulatory Purview (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.ifwg.co.za/wp-content/uploads/IFWG_CAR_WG_Position_Paper_on_Crypto_Assets_Press_release.pdf

laundering and terrorist financing as issues that the new regulations will address.²⁹⁵⁹ Previously, there were no widespread regulations of cryptocurrency in South Africa.²⁹⁶⁰

South Africa has taken action to address the techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing, but not the sources.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nathan Ye

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

On 27 December 2020, Turkey passed Law no. 7262 on Preventing Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.²⁹⁶¹ The law was enacted to comply with the United Nations Security Council counterterrorism resolution, and in response to a 2019 report from the Financial Action Task Force.²⁹⁶² Six of the forty-three articles of the law are to combat the techniques and channels of terrorist financing and money laundering.²⁹⁶³

On 16 April 2021, the Central Bank of Turkey announced a legislation that will ban the direct and indirect use of cryptocurrencies, as well as other digital assets, as a method of payment.²⁹⁶⁴ This legislation was enacted due to the high risk these transactions may entail, as they are frequently used in money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) crimes.²⁹⁶⁵

On 1 May 2021, the government of Turkey published a presidential decree that announced that cryptocurrency exchanges are now included on a list of firms that is covered by Turkey's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regulations, and immediately went into force following its publication in the Turkey Official Gazette.²⁹⁶⁶ The decree requires crypto asset service provided to be responsible and ensure that their assets are not being used illegally in crimes such as ML/TF.²⁹⁶⁷

²⁹⁵⁹ Crypto Assets to be Brought into South African Regulatory Purview (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.ifwg.co.za/wp-content/uploads/IFWG_CAR_WG_Position_Paper_on_Crypto_Assets_Press_release.pdf

²⁹⁶⁰ Crypto Assets to be Brought into South African Regulatory Purview (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.ifwg.co.za/wp-content/uploads/IFWG_CAR_WG_Position_Paper_on_Crypto_Assets_Press_release.pdf

²⁹⁶¹ Turkey: Parliament Passes Law to Suppress Financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 27 December 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/turkey-parliament-passes-law-to-suppress-financing-of-weapons-of-mass-destruction-proliferation/>

²⁹⁶² Turkey: Draft Law Threatens Civil Society, Human Rights Watch (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/24/turkey-draft-law-threatens-civil-society>

²⁹⁶³ New bill covering finance, charities puts strain on Turkey's civil society and voters, Ahval News (Ankara) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ahvalnews.com/turkish-parliament/new-bill-covering-finance-charities-puts-strain-turkeys-civil-society-and-voters>

²⁹⁶⁴ Turkey to ban use of cryptocurrencies for buying goods, services, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/finance/turkey-to-ban-use-of-cryptocurrencies-for-buying-goods-services>

²⁹⁶⁵ Turkey to ban use of cryptocurrencies for buying goods, services, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/finance/turkey-to-ban-use-of-cryptocurrencies-for-buying-goods-services>

²⁹⁶⁶ Turkey adds cryptocurrency exchanges to terror funding rules, CTV News (Istanbul) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/turkey-adds-cryptocurrency-exchanges-to-terror-funding-rules-1.5410206>

²⁹⁶⁷ Turkey adds cryptocurrency exchanges to terror funding rules, CTV News (Istanbul) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/turkey-adds-cryptocurrency-exchanges-to-terror-funding-rules-1.5410206>

Turkey has taken action to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through the banning the use of cryptocurrencies as payment exchanges, as well as through multiple legislations that tackle all three key areas.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alisha Bhimji

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

On 17 December 2020, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Home Office published a major report assessing the national risk of money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁹⁶⁸ The report states that the UK will continue to build on several of its past anti-money laundering (AML)/combating terrorism financing (CTF) strategies.²⁹⁶⁹ Furthermore, the report acknowledges the increased risk in money laundering and terrorist financing crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more emphasis was placed on emerging sectors such as Cryptoassets.²⁹⁷⁰

On 16 March 2021, the Financial Conduct Authority launched criminal proceedings against the National Westminster Bank Plc, whose systems allegedly failed to monitor and scrutinize the movement of 365 GBP million.²⁹⁷¹ The goal of this policy decision is to reduce the sources of money laundering.

On 16 March 2021, UK's Cabinet Office published a policy paper that reaffirmed Britain's commitment to AML and CFT. Specifically, the UK will continue to "increase the number of trained financial investigators within [their] police forces; overhaul [their] Suspicious Activity Reports regime to ensure critical intelligence informs their investigations; and bolster the National Economic Crime Centre."²⁹⁷² Moreover, the UK will presently introduce new legislation to tackle economic crime, "including the use of UK corporate structures in facilitating high-end money laundering."²⁹⁷³

On 25 March 2021, the UK Government amended their Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulation 2017 to change the definition of High-Risk Third Countries.²⁹⁷⁴ This amendment will allow the UK to independently define high risk third world countries.²⁹⁷⁵ The released

²⁹⁶⁸ National risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing 2020, UK Parliament (London) December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945411/NRA_2020_v1.2_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf

²⁹⁶⁹ National risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing 2020, UK Parliament (London) December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945411/NRA_2020_v1.2_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf

²⁹⁷⁰ UK Government publishes its 2020 UK National Risk Assessment (NRA) of money laundering and terrorist financing, Norton Rose Fulbright, Financial Services: Regulation Tomorrow (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.regulationtomorrow.com/eu/uk-government-publishes-its-2020-uk-national-risk-assessment-nra-of-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

²⁹⁷¹ FCA starts criminal proceedings against NatWest Plc, Financial Conduct Authority (London) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-starts-criminal-proceedings-against-natwest-plc>

²⁹⁷² FCA starts criminal proceedings against NatWest Plc, Financial Conduct Authority (London) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-starts-criminal-proceedings-against-natwest-plc>

²⁹⁷³ Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, Cabinet Office (London) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>

²⁹⁷⁴ The Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulation 2021, UK Government (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/392/regulation/2/made>

²⁹⁷⁵ The Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulation 2021, UK Government (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/392/regulation/2/made>

list of high-risk countries aligns more closely with the Financial Action Task Force, which will “give effect to FATF [Financial Action Task Force] global standards on high-risk third countries.”²⁹⁷⁶

In March and April 2021, the UK’s Revenue and Customs hosted a collection of training workshops, alongside the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to raise exposure to AML/CFT in the UAE.²⁹⁷⁷ These workshops “form a key part of the UAE’s wide range of activities to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, including initiatives to facilitate international and domestic cooperation.”²⁹⁷⁸

On 17 September 2021, Home Secretary Priti Patel signed a new agreement alongside UAE Minister of State Ahmed Ali AL Sayegh assenting to intensify measures targeting those of terrorist financing.²⁹⁷⁹ This agreement is a part of the new Partnership for the Future between the UK and the UAE and will work to increase cooperation on obstructing illicit financial flows, and to show their commitment to “stamping out terrorist financing and serious and organised crime in all of its forms to protect the UAE and uphold the integrity of the international financial system.”²⁹⁸⁰

On 21 September 2021, Her Majesty’s Treasury introduced a draft legislation for a new levy on the AML regulated sector.²⁹⁸¹ The Financial Conduct Authority will be responsible for the collection of this levy from entities that is supervised under “Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds...Regulations 2017,”²⁹⁸² and will be used to “help fund ambitious reforms outlined in the government’s 2019 Economic Crime Plan.”²⁹⁸³

The United Kingdom has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas through amending legislation, as well as expressing continued and improved support for previous initiatives.

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

Analyst: Veniamin Veselovsky

²⁹⁷⁶ Explanatory Memorandum to the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulation 2021, UK Government (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/392/pdfs/ukxiem_20210392_en.pdf

²⁹⁷⁷ UAE, UK host anti-money laundering training sessions, Gulf News (Dubai) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uae-uk-host-anti-money-laundering-training-sessions-1.1619337665262>

²⁹⁷⁸ UAE, UK host anti-money laundering training sessions, Gulf News (Dubai) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uae-uk-host-anti-money-laundering-training-sessions-1.1619337665262>

²⁹⁷⁹ UAE, UK Launch New Landmark Partnership to Counter Illicit Financial Flows, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation (Abu Dhabi) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2021/9/17/new-news-article>

²⁹⁸⁰ ²⁹⁸⁰ UAE, UK Launch New Landmark Partnership to Counter Illicit Financial Flows, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation (Abu Dhabi) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2021/9/17/new-news-article>

²⁹⁸¹ Economic Crime (Anti-Money Laundering) Levy: Draft Legislation, HM Treasury (London) 21 September 2021.

Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/economic-crime-anti-money-laundering-levy-draft-legislation>

²⁹⁸² Explanatory Note-Economic Crime (Anti-Money Laundering) Levy, HM Treasury (London) 21 September 2021.

Access Date: 25 September 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1019449/Explanatory_Note_ECL.pdf

²⁹⁸³ Economic Crime (Anti-Money Laundering) Levy: Draft Legislation, HM Treasury (London) 21 September 2021.

Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/economic-crime-anti-money-laundering-levy-draft-legislation>

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 1 January 2020, the Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that requires financial institutions to enhance their “due diligence” regarding correspondent accounts established by foreign institutions and private banks that are maintained for non-US personal.²⁹⁸⁴ This act will increase scrutiny organizations such as Al-Qaeda’s use of money laundering to fund its terrorist activities.²⁹⁸⁵ This act also includes the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (AML Act), which seeks to codify the risk-based approach to anti-money laundering/countering terrorism financing (AML/CTF) compliance, modernize AML/CTF systems, “coordination, cooperation, and information-sharing among financial institutions, U.S. financial regulators and foreign financial regulators,”²⁹⁸⁶ as well as expand enforcement and investigation-related power of the United States Department of the Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).²⁹⁸⁷

On 1 January 2021, the Congress passed the NDAA, which aims to broaden anti-money laundering reforms, mainly through the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), which is embedded in this larger legislation.²⁹⁸⁸ The CTA creates a beneficial ownership registry with the FinCEN, and requires all reporting companies to disclose information on their beneficial owners to FinCEN.²⁹⁸⁹ The goal of this registry is to “crack down on anonymous shell companies, which have long been the vehicle of choice for money launderers, terrorists, and criminals.”²⁹⁹⁰

On 2 March 2021, the Department of State released the 2021 edition of the “International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume II: Money Laundering.”²⁹⁹¹ This report focuses on outlining the threats specific to narcotics-related money laundering in various countries around the globe, and reviews the actions these countries have taken, as well as their vulnerabilities.²⁹⁹²

²⁹⁸⁴ New legislation may portend wave of anti-money laundering enforcement. 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=1f526b36259f>

²⁹⁸⁵ New legislation may portend wave of anti-money laundering enforcement. 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=1f526b36259f>

²⁹⁸⁶ The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020: Congress Enacts the Most Sweeping AML Legislation Since Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, *The National Law Review* (Chicago) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/anti-money-laundering-act-2020-congress-enacts-most-sweeping-aml-legislation-passage>

²⁹⁸⁷ The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020: Congress Enacts the Most Sweeping AML Legislation Since Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, *The National Law Review* (Chicago) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/anti-money-laundering-act-2020-congress-enacts-most-sweeping-aml-legislation-passage>

²⁹⁸⁸ New Legislation May Portend Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement, *Forbes* (Jersey City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=5cd24621259f>

²⁹⁸⁹ New Legislation May Portend Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement, *Forbes* (Jersey City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=5cd24621259f>

²⁹⁹⁰ New Legislation May Portend Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement, *Forbes* (Jersey City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=5cd24621259f>

²⁹⁹¹ International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume II: Money Laundering, United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (Washington DC) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/21-00620-INLSR-Vol2_Report-FINAL.pdf

²⁹⁹² International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume II: Money Laundering, United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (Washington DC) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/21-00620-INLSR-Vol2_Report-FINAL.pdf

On 1 July, 2021, the FinCEN announced that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) updated and enhanced the expectations in its guidelines regarding strategic AML/CFT deficiencies.²⁹⁹³ All US financial institutions are expected to consult the FATF's statements when preparing their risk-based policies related to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.²⁹⁹⁴

The United States has fully complied with its commitment through the NDAA and the CTA. These actions have contributed to tackling the sources, techniques and channels involved in money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) activities. Furthermore, through the 2021 international Narcotics Control Strategy Report, the United States has identified specific techniques used in ML/TF crimes.

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

Analysts: Aimaan Shergill and Ian Hughes

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to tackle two of the three sources, techniques or channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 8 December 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) released a comprehensive Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework.²⁹⁹⁵ This framework contains key anti-money Laundering and combating terrorist financing (AML/CTF) principles that are applicable to EIB activities.²⁹⁹⁶ This framework aims to prevent EIB Group, as well as its governing bodies, from being associated or used for crimes involving money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF).²⁹⁹⁷

On 9 December 2020, the European Commission adopted a new Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the European Union.²⁹⁹⁸ This agenda sets out a way forward for actions to counter terrorism at the EU level, looking to better anticipate, prevent, protect and respond to terrorist threats.²⁹⁹⁹ The Counter-Terrorism Agenda aims at anticipating, preventing, protecting and responding to attacks by

²⁹⁹³ Financial Action Task Force Identifies Jurisdictions with Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Counter-Proliferation Deficiencies, United States Government (Washington) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/financial-action-task-force-identifies-jurisdictions-anti-money-laundering-and>

²⁹⁹⁴ Financial Action Task Force Identifies Jurisdictions with Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Counter-Proliferation Deficiencies, United States Government (Washington) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/financial-action-task-force-identifies-jurisdictions-anti-money-laundering-and>

²⁹⁹⁵ Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/eib-group-anti-money-laundering-policy-and-combating-finance-of-terrorism-framework>

²⁹⁹⁶ Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/eib-group-anti-money-laundering-policy-and-combating-finance-of-terrorism-framework>

²⁹⁹⁷ Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/eib-group-anti-money-laundering-policy-and-combating-finance-of-terrorism-framework>

²⁹⁹⁸ A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/pdf/09122020_communication_commission_european_parliament_the_council_eu_agenda_counter_terrorism_po-2020-9031_com-2020_795_en.pdf

²⁹⁹⁹ A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/pdf/09122020_communication_commission_european_parliament_the_council_eu_agenda_counter_terrorism_po-2020-9031_com-2020_795_en.pdf

identifying vulnerabilities and subsequently preventing attacks addressing radicalization, reducing vulnerability of cities and people, a stronger mandate for Europol, stepping up operational support and prosecution and victims' rights to better respond to attacks.³⁰⁰⁰

On 5 February 2021, European Council renewed the EU terrorist list for a further six months.³⁰⁰¹ This list sets out persons, groups, and entities subject to restrictive measures, including the freezing of their financial assets in the EU and prohibiting EU operators from making funds and economic resources available to them.³⁰⁰²

On 24 February 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the "Package for Fair and Simple Taxation."³⁰⁰³ Within this package, the EESC "proposed launching a European pact to effectively combat tax fraud, evasion and avoidance and money laundering."³⁰⁰⁴

On 29 March 2021, the European Parliament published its Anti-Money-Laundering Package 2021: titled "Strengthening the Framework."³⁰⁰⁵ This package is "an action plan for a new single EU Anti-money-laundering system," and outlines areas for future actions and proposals.^{3006,3007} Furthermore, this package focuses on a proposal to partially transfer the existing AML Directive into regulation, which will be directly application to all Member States of the EU.³⁰⁰⁸ There is also a focus on an EU-wide AML supervisor system, as well as improving coordination and support mechanism for each Member States' Financial Intelligence Units.³⁰⁰⁹

On 12 July 2021, the European Union announced its decision to establish a military training mission in Mozambique, where an Islamist insurgency has led to increased violence.³⁰¹⁰ The announcement was made in response to a request from the Mozambican authorities for additional support in

³⁰⁰⁰ Security Union: A Counter-Terrorism Agenda and stronger Europol to boost the EU's resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2326

³⁰⁰¹ Fight against terrorism: Council renews the EU terrorist list for a further six months, European Council (Brussels) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/02/05/fight-against-terrorism-council-renews-the-eu-terrorist-list-for-a-further-six-months/>

³⁰⁰² Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/142, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/142>

³⁰⁰³ Package for fair and simple taxation, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/package-fair-and-simple-taxation>

³⁰⁰⁴ Package for fair and simple taxation, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/package-fair-and-simple-taxation>

³⁰⁰⁵ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

³⁰⁰⁶ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

³⁰⁰⁷ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

³⁰⁰⁸ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

³⁰⁰⁹ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

³⁰¹⁰ Mozambique: EU sets up a military training mission to help address the crisis in Cabo Delgado, European Council (Brussels) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/12/mozambique-eu-launches-a-military-training-mission-to-help-address-the-crisis-in-cabo-delgado/>

countering the uprising.³⁰¹¹ The primary intent of the resolution is to support and train military forces and instruct them in the fight against terrorism.³⁰¹²

On 20 July 2021, the European Commission presented a package of legislative proposals to strengthen EU rules on countering money laundering and terrorist financing.³⁰¹³ This included a proposal for the creation of a new EU authority to fight money laundering.³⁰¹⁴ If approved, it would create an EU-wide anti-money laundering/anti-terrorism financing rules, as well as new regulations governing crypto assets.³⁰¹⁵

On 2 August 2021, the European Banking Authority (EBA) announced a three-month public consultation on a new set of guidelines for the role, tasks, and responsibilities of compliance officers responsible for AML/CFT.³⁰¹⁶ The EBA's proposed guidelines include a requirement for companies to appoint a compliance officer at a managerial level with responsibility for anti-money laundering policies, instructing AML/CFT officers to develop and maintain a ML/TF risk assessment framework and many others.³⁰¹⁷ This consultation will allow the EBA's to move toward a more centralized oversight system and make AML/CFT supervision more effective.³⁰¹⁸

On 13 September, the European Parliament released a Motion for a Resolution, in which they urged "the EU and Member States to increase efforts to cooperate with the US and NATO allies to combat... money laundering, terrorist financing ... in the region."³⁰¹⁹

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment through its published reports and frameworks that outlined the plans to tackle all three key areas of sources, techniques, and channels of ML/TF.

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

Analyst: Anna Ivanova

³⁰¹¹ Mozambique: EU sets up a military training mission to help address the crisis in Cabo Delgado, European Council (Brussels) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/12/mozambique-eu-launches-a-military-training-mission-to-help-address-the-crisis-in-cabo-delgado/>

³⁰¹² Mozambique: EU sets up a military training mission to help address the crisis in Cabo Delgado, European Council (Brussels) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/12/mozambique-eu-launches-a-military-training-mission-to-help-address-the-crisis-in-cabo-delgado/>

³⁰¹³ Beating financial crime: Commission overhauls anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism rules, European Commission (Brussels) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3690

³⁰¹⁴ Beating financial crime: Commission overhauls anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism rules, European Commission (Brussels) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3690

³⁰¹⁵ Beating financial crime: Commission overhauls anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism rules, European Commission (Brussels) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3690

³⁰¹⁶ EBA launches proposed guidelines on the role of AML/CFT compliance officers, Comply Advantage (London) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://complyadvantage.com/blog/eba-launches-proposed-guidelines-on-the-role-of-aml-cft-compliance-officers/>

³⁰¹⁷ EBA launches proposed guidelines on the role of AML/CFT compliance officers, Comply Advantage (London) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://complyadvantage.com/blog/eba-launches-proposed-guidelines-on-the-role-of-aml-cft-compliance-officers/>

³⁰¹⁸ EBA consults on new Guidelines on the role of AML/CFT compliance officers, European Banking Authority (Paris) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.eba.europa.eu/eba-consults-new-guidelines-role-amlcft-compliance-officers>

³⁰¹⁹ Motion for a Resolution. European Parliament (Brussels) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2021-0458_EN.pdf

9. Labour and Employment: Job Protection

“We will continue to support workers through training and reskilling policies.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | 0 | |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | -1 | | |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average Score | +0.65 (83%) | | |

Background

Since G20 first made distinctive commitments to protect the labour market and employment workforce at the 2009 London Summit.³⁰²⁰ Since then, the G20 has adopted different targets throughout the years regarding this issue area. The continually shifting focus of the G20’s goals for the labour and employment issue area has been largely influenced by the various crises and global issues that have arisen throughout the previous decade. Such events include the 2008 financial crisis and the rapid rise of technological advancements and automation of the workforce. The evolution of this commitment area’s goals not only reflect the fragility of the labour and employment commitment area, but also demonstrates the flexibility of the members regarding their responses to the crises and changes often faced by the labour market and employment workforce.

At the 2009 London Summit, the issue of labour and employment emerged for the first time as a distinctive commitment area.³⁰²¹ The G20 members declared their commitment towards supporting workers affected by the 2008 economic crisis by providing financial support and funding additional

³⁰²⁰ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

³⁰²¹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

job opportunities.³⁰²² As well, the members iterated their goal to create labour markets that treated both men and women equally.³⁰²³

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, job creation was stated as an important feature of economic recovery and therefore, a priority of the G20.³⁰²⁴ The members were particularly supportive of this measure as a means of providing “social protection, decent work and also to ensure accelerated growth in low income countries (LICs).”³⁰²⁵

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, the G20 members noted the weakness of the global economic recovery and reiterated their support for job creation as a means of effective economic recovery.³⁰²⁶ The members introduced an Action Plan for Growth and Jobs, which outlined a plan to “address short term vulnerabilities, restore financial stability and strengthen the medium-term foundations for growth.”³⁰²⁷ Additionally, the members iterated their commitment to supporting work opportunities for youth through the creation of a G20 Task Force on Employment.³⁰²⁸

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the members of the G20 released the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan as the members agreed that creating sustainable and quality jobs was the utmost priority of this summit’s agenda.³⁰²⁹ The leaders highlighted the fragile global economic recovery following the 2008 global recession and iterated their commitment towards reducing poverty and increasing the welfare of individuals around the world.³⁰³⁰ This would be achieved through job creation, skills training, and reducing barriers to education.³⁰³¹ Moreover, the members focused on creating decent work and quality jobs for youth, women, and other at-risk groups, to ensure that they were not left behind in the recovery process.³⁰³²

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, promoting inclusive economic growth and job creation remained as primary goals for the G20 members.³⁰³³ The members outlined a plethora of commitments towards spurring jobs, ensuring labour protections, enacting targeted funding with the aim of incorporating under-represented groups into the labour market, increasing social cohesion through coordinated labour and market policies, funding apprenticeships and training programs, and more

³⁰²² Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

³⁰²³ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

³⁰²⁴ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.pdf>

³⁰²⁵ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.pdf>

³⁰²⁶ Communiqué: G20 Leaders Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-communique-111104-en.html>

³⁰²⁷ 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: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

³⁰²⁸ Communiqué: G20 Leaders Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-communique-111104-en.html>

³⁰²⁹ G20 Leaders Declaration: Los Cabos Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

³⁰³⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁰³¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁰³² G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁰³³ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

effective employment services. Moreover, the G20 members recognized the importance of creating country-specific job creation action plans to operate within each member's respective constitutional laws. Finally, the G20 members committed to establishing cohesive and coordinated macroeconomic, financial, fiscal, education, skills development, innovation, employment, and social protection policies as a means of establishing inclusive and sustainable growth.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the leaders iterated their commitment towards reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women in the labour market by 25 per cent by 2025.³⁰³⁴ As well, they stated their commitment to bringing more than 100 million women into their collective workforces while while creating quality jobs.³⁰³⁵ The G20 members further built upon their inclusive policies by committing to reduce youth unemployment rates through the implementation of a collective Employment Plan.³⁰³⁶ This Employment Plan outlines a framework for investments in apprenticeships, education and training programs, and funding incentive programs for youth to pursue entrepreneurship.³⁰³⁷

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 Antalya Youth Goal was established to reduce the number of at-risk youth from being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15 per cent by 2025.³⁰³⁸ This goal was significant because it set up a framework for the G20 members to measure their success at protecting youth employment opportunities for the proceeding 10 years. In addition, the G20 presented the G20 Skills Strategy for Developing and Using Skills for the 21st Century in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the ILO.³⁰³⁹ The skills strategy outlined the need to promote inclusive economic growth through encouraging enterprises to invest in the skills of its workers, promoting the participation of under-represented workers in the labour market, investing in foundational skills such as literacy and numeracy, and reducing barriers to accessing quality education.³⁰⁴⁰

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit³⁰⁴¹ and 2017 Hamburg Summit³⁰⁴², the focus of the labour and employment commitment area primarily shifted towards responding to the effects of automation and rapid technological advances upon the labour market. The members were particularly concerned about the economic inequalities that might arise for workers who lack digital skills.³⁰⁴³ In response to

³⁰³⁴ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

³⁰³⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

³⁰³⁶ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

³⁰³⁷ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

³⁰³⁸ Annex III: G20 Policy Principles for Promoting Better Youth Employment Outcomes, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 September 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/G20-Policy-Principles-for-Promoting-Better-Youth-Unemployment-Outcomes.pdf>

³⁰³⁹ The G20 Skills Strategy for Developing and Using Skills for the 21st Century, OECD (Paris) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/The-G20-Skills-Strategy-for-Developing-and-Using-Skills-for-the-21st-Century.pdf>

³⁰⁴⁰ The G20 Skills Strategy for Developing and Using Skills for the 21st Century, OECD (Paris) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/The-G20-Skills-Strategy-for-Developing-and-Using-Skills-for-the-21st-Century.pdf>

³⁰⁴¹ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

³⁰⁴² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁰⁴³ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

these recent advancements, the G20 stated their commitment to providing digital skills for workers through partnerships within the academic and business sectors.³⁰⁴⁴

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 members emphasized their commitment to establishing an inclusive and fair framework for job creation.³⁰⁴⁵ In particular, this summit introduced the Menu of Policy Options for the Future of Work, which included measures to improve the digital and entrepreneurship skills, increasing workforce participations amongst vulnerable sectors of society, strengthening social protections, mobilizing resources from public, private, and multilateral partnerships, and promoting general vocational and skills training.³⁰⁴⁶ As well, the G20 members stated their support for promoting decent jobs for you and reiterated their commitment to the Antalya Youth Goal.³⁰⁴⁷

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the issue of labour and employment took on a youthful lens, with a particular focus on reducing barriers to meaningful youth employment by improving employment opportunities and skills training for youth.³⁰⁴⁸ The G20 members also iterated their support of increasing labour market participation amongst old age workers, women, and persons with disabilities. Additionally, the members stated their commitment towards increasing job creation and raising the quality of employment.³⁰⁴⁹

Although the labour and employment commitment has been a primary focus of the G20 since 2009, its relevance became further underscored upon the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The varying approaches adopted by governments towards containing the pandemic have resulted in detrimental ramifications upon the global economy that will likely be felt for several years to come. G20 members, as well as other countries, have been battling staggering rates of job loss and other economic challenges throughout the pandemic. Such economic circumstances thus underscore the growing significance of mitigating job loss and rebuilding strong economies in the wake of the pandemic.

With this goal in mind, the G20 leaders reiterated their continued commitment towards supporting workers through training and reskilling policies at the 2020 Riyadh Summit. Moreover, the members highlighted the devastating effects of the pandemic upon labour markets and acknowledged the millions of jobs that have been lost worldwide. Finally, the G20 leaders recognized the detrimental effects of the current labour market conditions upon the participation of women and youth within the sector. The members thus restated their commitment towards achieving the G20 Antalya Youth Goal of reducing the percentage of at-risk youth from being left behind in the labour market by 15 per cent by 2025. And although the members reiterated their commitment towards addressing and mitigating the employment barriers faced by youth as in summits past, there was a greater emphasis placed upon overall recovery from the economically damaging effects of the pandemic. Thus, the commitment made by the G20 members towards implementing training and reskilling policies highlights importance of providing workers with the skills they need to remain and re-enter the workforce as the members continue to build back their economies in light of the pandemic.

³⁰⁴⁴ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

³⁰⁴⁵ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁰⁴⁶ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁰⁴⁷ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁰⁴⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁰⁴⁹ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the members of the G20 committed to continuing to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

The term “support” means to assist or help.³⁰⁵⁰ In this context, the actions implemented by members can be defined as “supportive” to workers insofar as they are designed with the intention of helping workers by protecting jobs and providing workers with the skills necessary to either enter or re-enter the labour market. Moreover, “train” is defined as “to teach so as to make fit, qualified, or proficient.”³⁰⁵¹ Thus, “training policies” refers to programs or initiatives that provide workers who are entering the labour market with the education and skills they need to enter the workforce. Examples of such initiatives include funding workshops to provide recent university graduates with practical skills, apprenticeships and vocational training programs that provide hands-on job training, developing school and university materials that promote entrepreneurship, and national job grant programs that provide funding for workplaces to further train their employees. Finally, “reskilling” is defined as “the process of learning new skills so you can do a different job, or of training people to do a different job.”³⁰⁵² So, “reskilling policies” refer to programs or initiatives that provide skilled workers with the platform to gain additional skills that are applicable to one or more sectors outside of their own. Examples of such initiatives includes funding programs for recently unemployed workers to gain a certification in a program outside of their occupation.

To achieve full compliance, members must take national action towards supporting workers by implementing both training and reskilling policies. Members can achieve partial compliance if they take action towards supporting workers through the implementation of either training or reskilling policies. Negative compliance results from a lack of supportive measures being established for workers such that neither training nor reskilling policies are implemented.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does not take action towards supporting workers and fails to implement training OR reskilling policies. |
| 0 | G20 member takes action towards supporting workers by implementing either training OR reskilling policies. |
| +1 | G20 member takes action towards supporting workers by implementing training AND reskilling policies. |

*Compliance Director: Alyssa Atef
Lead Analyst: Meixi Zhang*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 28 July 2021, the Government of Argentina launched the Te Sumo Program to support youth employment by small and medium sized businesses.³⁰⁵³ The program provides benefits to small and medium sized businesses who conduct job training for youth for up to six months with the choice of

³⁰⁵⁰ Support, Meriam-Webster 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/support>

³⁰⁵¹ Train, Meriam-Webster 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/train>

³⁰⁵² Reskilling, Cambridge Dictionary 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reskilling>

³⁰⁵³The government launched the "Te Sumo" program to promote youth employment in SMEs throughout the country, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-el-programa-te-sumo-para-promover-el-empleo-joven-en-pymes-de-todo-el>

hiring at the end.³⁰⁵⁴ The Te Sumo Program aims to ease the difficulty youth face in entering the labour market.³⁰⁵⁵

On 11 August 2021, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security of the Nation signed an agreement with national universities to expand the Youth with More and Better Work Program to include employment and training courses for unemployed youth.³⁰⁵⁶ The Youth with More and Better Work Program was initially launched in 2015 and to assist youth aged 18-24 with accessing the employment market by providing training and development opportunities.³⁰⁵⁷ This agreement with national universities will create more training opportunities for youth, including access to “123 Introduction to Work Courses and 48 Courses to Support Employability and Social Integration.”³⁰⁵⁸

On 17 August 2021, the Ministry of Productive Development announced that it would allocate ARS2 billion to micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSME) to support institutions or organizations with strategic training projects.³⁰⁵⁹ The purpose of the benefits package is to financially assist institutions, such as business chambers or public universities, in funding training programs for MSMEs, including development resources in addition to the training of entrepreneurs and technical teams.³⁰⁶⁰ The investment is aimed to enhance “innovation, productivity and competitiveness of productive sectors and value chambers that have a territorial or regional impact.”³⁰⁶¹

On 15 September 2021, Secretary of Employment Leonardo Di Pietro met with representatives from the Argentine Industrial Union to discuss the development of professional training resources.³⁰⁶² The

³⁰⁵⁴ Te Semo, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/produccion/tesumo>

³⁰⁵⁵ The government launched the "Te Sumo" program to promote youth employment in SMEs throughout the country, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-el-programa-te-sumo-para-promover-el-empleo-joven-en-pymes-de-todo-el>

³⁰⁵⁶ Agreements with National Universities to carry out employment orientation courses, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/convenios-con-universidades-nacionales-para-la-realizar-cursos-de-orientacion-laboral>

³⁰⁵⁷ W/B: Job opportunities for half a million young adults, World Bank (Washington) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/01/15/wbargentina-job-opportunities-for-half-a-million-young-adults>

³⁰⁵⁸ Agreements with National Universities to carry out employment orientation courses, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/convenios-con-universidades-nacionales-para-la-realizar-cursos-de-orientacion-laboral>

³⁰⁵⁹ The government grants \$ 2 billion in assistance and financing for training projects for SMEs, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-otorga-2000-millones-en-asistencia-y-financiamiento-para-proyectos-de>

³⁰⁶⁰ The government grants \$ 2 billion in assistance and financing for training projects for SMEs, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-otorga-2000-millones-en-asistencia-y-financiamiento-para-proyectos-de>

³⁰⁶¹ The government grants \$ 2 billion in assistance and financing for training projects for SMEs, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-otorga-2000-millones-en-asistencia-y-financiamiento-para-proyectos-de>

³⁰⁶² Labor held a meeting with representatives of the UIA, Government of Argentina (Bueno Aires) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajo-mantuvo-una-reunion-con-representantes-de-la-uia>

discussions also included an agreement to promote vocational training that meets “current production challenges.”³⁰⁶³

Argentina has taken actions towards supporting workers by implementing training policies, such as providing training opportunities for unemployed youth and MSMEs. However, Argentina has failed to implement policies towards reskilling of workers.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Hayley Spenst

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 20 January 2021, the Department of Employment, Skills, and Employment launched a trial program to provide the opportunity for workers in the mining industry to reskill and upskill.³⁰⁶⁴ Most notably, this trial program aims to simplify trainings, increase training accessibility by reducing barriers to obtaining qualifications, improve worker mobility and resiliency within the job market, and increase support for students to help students rapidly reskill or upskill.³⁰⁶⁵ The trial program is part of the government’s continuing commitment to improve the vocational education and training system in Australia.³⁰⁶⁶

On 9 March 2021, Australia announced the expansion of its targeted wage subsidy program as part of the government’s National Economic Recovery Plan.³⁰⁶⁷ The Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy program supports businesses and training organizations to take on new apprentices and trainees.³⁰⁶⁸ The program provides a 50 per cent subsidy for wages paid to apprentices between October 2020 and September 2021.³⁰⁶⁹ The government estimates that this expansion will generate around 70,000 new apprentice and trainee roles, with the government investing around AUD1.2 billion.³⁰⁷⁰

³⁰⁶³ Meeting with the Secretary of Employment of the Ministry of Labour, Leonardo Di Pietro, Union Industrial Argentina, (Bueno Aires) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.uia.org.ar/educacion/3818/reunion-con-el-secretario-de-empleo-del-ministerio-de-trabajo-leonardo-di-pietro/>

³⁰⁶⁴ Helping Mining Workers Upskill and Reskill, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/helping-mining-workers-upskill-and-reskill>

³⁰⁶⁵ Helping Mining Workers Upskill and Reskill, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/helping-mining-workers-upskill-and-reskill>

³⁰⁶⁶ Helping Mining Workers Upskill and Reskill, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/helping-mining-workers-upskill-and-reskill>

³⁰⁶⁷ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

³⁰⁶⁸ Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

³⁰⁶⁹ Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

³⁰⁷⁰ Thousands of New Apprentices and Trainee Jobs, Liberal Party NSW (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nsw.liberal.org.au/Shared-Content/News/2021/Thousands-of-new-apprentices-and-trainee-jobs>

On 7 June 2021, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment launched a National Student Outcomes Survey for students who completed their vocational education and training in Australia.³⁰⁷¹ The purpose of the survey is to gauge student satisfaction with their training, employment, learning outcomes, and apprenticeship experiences.³⁰⁷²

On 22 July 2021, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment launched a trial program to train, upskill, and reskill entry-level data analysts in the digital economy sector.³⁰⁷³ This initiative is part of the broader Digital Skills Organization and aims to test out different approaches to designing digital training and qualification courses. The overall purpose of the trial is “to create improved qualifications and training that meets the evolving workforce needs of the digital economy.”³⁰⁷⁴ Regarding the trial program, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business Stuart Robert stated that the 2021 Federal Budget allocated AUD2 billion towards creating 10,000 additional digital skills training placements.³⁰⁷⁵ As well, Minister Robert stated that “this trial will provide a picture of what specialist digital skills are needed, improve the relationship between employers and the training system, and get more people into jobs.”³⁰⁷⁶

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. In particular, Australia has implemented measures to support training roles through the expansion of the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy, which is estimated to generate additional apprenticeships and trainee positions. As well, it invested in trial programs aimed at training, reskilling, and upskilling workers in key sectors.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dorottya Szekeley

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing job training and reskilling policies.

On 2 March 2021, the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness, along with the Ministry of Economy, partnered with the World Economic Forum to hold the first “Brazil Skills

³⁰⁷¹ Nearly 1 million students can have their say about their training, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/vocational-education-and-training-secondary-students/announcements/nearly-1-million-students-can-have-their-say-about-their-training>

³⁰⁷² Nearly 1 million students can have their say about their training, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/vocational-education-and-training-secondary-students/announcements/nearly-1-million-students-can-have-their-say-about-their-training>

³⁰⁷³ Upskilling and reskilling Australians to support booming digital sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/robert/upskilling-and-reskilling-australians-support-booming-digital-sector>
³⁰⁷⁴ Upskilling and reskilling Australians to support booming digital sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.
<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/robert/upskilling-and-reskilling-australians-support-booming-digital-sector>

³⁰⁷⁵ Upskilling and reskilling Australians to support booming digital sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/robert/upskilling-and-reskilling-australians-support-booming-digital-sector>

³⁰⁷⁶ Upskilling and reskilling Australians to support booming digital sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/robert/upskilling-and-reskilling-australians-support-booming-digital-sector>

Accelerator Initiative” meeting.³⁰⁷⁷ The Accelerator Initiative aims to upskill the Brazilian labour market through enrolling 8 million Brazilians in national job training programs.³⁰⁷⁸

On 6 July 2021, Education Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) met virtually and signed a joint declaration to improve their collaboration on education and research efforts with respect to Technical Vocational and Educational Training institutions.³⁰⁷⁹

On 18 August 2021, the Minister of Economy attended a virtual meeting with their BRICS counterparts where they collectively reaffirmed their support for training, skilling, and reskilling policies.³⁰⁸⁰ Furthermore, the BRICS members emphasized “the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on advanced technical skills for reskilling and upskilling by exchanging experience and good practices through match-making workshops, seminars, and exchange programs to develop a practical framework for ensuring appropriate required skills and knowledge for Industrial development.”³⁰⁸¹ Overall, the BRICS member committed to continuing their collective support for workers as one of several joint measures to achieve multilateral economic reform.³⁰⁸²

On 18 August 2021, BRICS Industry Ministers met virtually to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the industry and trade sectors.³⁰⁸³ During this meeting, the Ministers reiterated their commitment towards utilizing new technologies to “promote training and skills development of the related workforce and businesses through workshops, seminars, and exchange programs.”³⁰⁸⁴

On 31 August 2021, BRICS Youth Ministers met virtually to discuss youth interests and the need to implement measures to mitigate the challenges facing youth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁰⁸⁵ Further to this, the delegates reaffirmed their commitment towards continuing to skill youth through the utilization of technological tools, in addition to creating additional employment opportunities for youth.³⁰⁸⁶

While Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing a national job training program, they have yet to implement concrete actions to this end. Moreover, Brazil, has yet to take national action with respect to its commitment towards supporting workers through the implementation of reskilling policies.

³⁰⁷⁷ World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

³⁰⁷⁸ World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

³⁰⁷⁹ VIII BRICS Education Ministers’ Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-57.pdf>

³⁰⁸⁰ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³⁰⁸¹ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³⁰⁸² BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³⁰⁸³ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³⁰⁸⁴ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³⁰⁸⁵ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³⁰⁸⁶ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Simren Ravina Sharma

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitments to support workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 17 February 2021, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion declared that the Government of Canada will be investing CAD62 million over five years into the Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP).³⁰⁸⁷ The UTIP sponsors 68 projects that are a part of the Union Training and Innovation Program.³⁰⁸⁸ The UTIP employs a two-pronged strategy, investing in training equipment and materials, and aiding innovation in apprenticeships across Canada.³⁰⁸⁹ The UTIP program ensures that the quality of training within unions across Canada is upheld and reduces barriers for worker participation.³⁰⁹⁰

On 23 February 2021, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion announced that CAD4.78 million would be invested into the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program.³⁰⁹¹ This program is targeted towards helping Black youth in Canada gain meaningful employment.³⁰⁹² The program will partner with various local organizations to provide “mentorships, pre-employment preparation, essential skills training, and employment retention skills training.”³⁰⁹³

As of 2 March 2021, Canada has provided an additional CAD1.5 billion to provinces and territories through the Workforce Development Agreements (WDAs).³⁰⁹⁴ As a result, provinces and territories

³⁰⁸⁷ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

³⁰⁸⁸ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Cision Newswire (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-become-certified-in-the-skilled-trades-817896194.html>

³⁰⁸⁹ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

³⁰⁹⁰ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

³⁰⁹¹ Empowering Black youth to achieve meaningful careers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2021. Access Date 27 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/empowering-black-youth-to-achieve-meaningful-careers.html>

³⁰⁹² Empowering Black youth to achieve meaningful careers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2021. Access Date 27 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/empowering-black-youth-to-achieve-meaningful-careers.html>

³⁰⁹³ Empowering Black youth to achieve meaningful careers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2021. Access Date 27 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/empowering-black-youth-to-achieve-meaningful-careers.html>

³⁰⁹⁴ Helping workers in New Brunswick develop the skills they need to find good jobs, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/helping-workers-in-new-brunswick-develop-the-skills-they-need-to-find-good-jobs.html>

will be able to provide skills training, financial assistance, and benefits to workers and employers within the labour market who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁰⁹⁵

On 19 April 2021, the Canadian government announced a new budget which directs CAD470 million over a period of three years towards a new apprenticeship program.³⁰⁹⁶ The proposed funding will provide small to medium sized employers incentives to hire first-year apprentices.³⁰⁹⁷ The budget also proposes a plan to invest CAD960 million in a Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program.³⁰⁹⁸ This funding would provide approximately 90,000 Canadian workers with skilled work training.³⁰⁹⁹

On 15 July 2021, the Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion announced a series of investments towards the skills training of young Canadian and students through a CAD5.7 billion funding allocation made within the Government's 2021 Budget. Firstly, the Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion committed to invest over CAD371.3 million into the Canadian Summer Jobs program for the 2022-23 year.³¹⁰⁰ The purpose of this funding is to make summer skills training and learning opportunities more accessible to youth and students.³¹⁰¹ In addition to this funding, the Ministry committed to invest approximately CAD298 million over the course of three years towards a new Skills for Success initiative. The initiative will be launched in 2021-2022 and aims to help 90,000 Canadians "improve their foundational and transferrable skills."³¹⁰² Finally, the Ministry earmarked over CAD470 million towards a new Apprenticeship Service. Starting in 2021 and over the course of three years, the program aims to assist 55,000 first-year apprentices with beginning their careers in Red Seal trades.³¹⁰³

On 29 July 2021, the Minister of Labour announced the government's support for the skilled trades by providing targeted investments in training and certifications for marginalized groups, including "women, newcomers, Indigenous people, person with disabilities, and Black and racialized

³⁰⁹⁵ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

³⁰⁹⁶ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

³⁰⁹⁷ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

³⁰⁹⁸ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

³⁰⁹⁹ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

³¹⁰⁰ Support for Young Canadians on World Youth Skills Day, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/support-for-young-canadians-on-world-youth-skills-day-840372524.html>

³¹⁰¹ Support for Young Canadians on World Youth Skills Day, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/support-for-young-canadians-on-world-youth-skills-day-840372524.html>

³¹⁰² Support for Young Canadians on World Youth Skills Day, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/support-for-young-canadians-on-world-youth-skills-day-840372524.html>

³¹⁰³ Support for Young Canadians on World Youth Skills Day, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/support-for-young-canadians-on-world-youth-skills-day-840372524.html>

Canadians”.³¹⁰⁴ The funding allocation is approximately CAD2.4 million to be provided over the course of five years and aims to assist approximately 2300 apprentices with becoming certified.³¹⁰⁵ The funding package aims to create new national guidelines with the intent of enhancing diversity and inclusion within the skilled trades.³¹⁰⁶

On 3 August 2021, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion launched a call for proposals for the new Apprenticeship Service.³¹⁰⁷ The Apprenticeship Service Project, which will receive CAD470 million in funding over the course of three years, intends to support employers who were previously limited in their capacity in providing apprenticeship training opportunities.³¹⁰⁸ This service also incentivises employers to boost diversity within their apprenticeship training programs by doubling incentives for employers who hire from worker from marginalized groups, “specifically women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous people, members of the LGBTQ2+ communities, newcomers and visible minorities including Black and other racialized communities.”³¹⁰⁹

On 13 August 2021, the Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion announced CAD7.5 million funding for a project to create additional employment and reskilling programs for persons with disabilities.³¹¹⁰ This program was funded in recognition that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.³¹¹¹ This funding package, to be distributed through the Rick Hansen Foundation, will

³¹⁰⁴ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades (Winnipeg) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

³¹⁰⁵ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades (Winnipeg) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

³¹⁰⁶ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades (Winnipeg) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

³¹⁰⁷ Government launches Calls for Proposals to remove barriers and get more apprentices certified in the skilled trades

(Kitchener) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/apprenticeship-serviceutip-cfp-launch-ibew-local-804-utip-news-release.html>

³¹⁰⁸ Government launches Calls for Proposals to remove barriers and get more apprentices certified in the skilled trades

(Kitchener) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/apprenticeship-serviceutip-cfp-launch-ibew-local-804-utip-news-release.html>

³¹⁰⁹ Government launches Calls for Proposals to remove barriers and get more apprentices certified in the skilled trades

(Kitchener) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/apprenticeship-serviceutip-cfp-launch-ibew-local-804-utip-news-release.html>

³¹¹⁰ Government of Canada invests in training for persons with disabilities to create a more inclusive workforce and stronger economy (Surrey) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-for-persons-with-disabilities-to-create-a-more-inclusive-workforce-and-stronger-economy.html>

³¹¹¹ Government of Canada invests in training for persons with disabilities to create a more inclusive workforce and stronger economy (Surrey) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-for-persons-with-disabilities-to-create-a-more-inclusive-workforce-and-stronger-economy.html>

“establish a new standardized profession of ‘accessibility professional’” and improve the Foundation’s ability to design and provide instruction on how to build fully accessible spaces.³¹¹²

On 13 August 2021, the Ministry of Northern Affairs announced CAD1.4 million in funding for the Manitoba Building Trades project.³¹¹³ This funding will help Manitoba Building Trades buy new equipment and materials, which will consequently help in providing electrician apprentices with the skills and modern training that they require within skilled trades sector.³¹¹⁴ As well, the funding will contribute to ensuring that participating barriers are reduced for key groups, including “women, Indigenous people, newcomers, persons with disabilities and visible minorities, including Black and other racialized communities.”³¹¹⁵

Canada fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by promoting innovation in the apprenticeship sector and removing barriers to worker training. Moreover, investments into WDAs have enabled provinces and territories to implement reskilling programs within their respective jurisdictions.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tourang Movahedi

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment towards supporting workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 27 November 2020, President Xi Jinping announced to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that China would train 1,000 administrative and specialized personnel in the ASEAN countries’ health sector as part of the China-ASEAN Human Resources Training Program of Health Silk Road from 2020-2022.³¹¹⁶

On 9 December 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Education, in partnership with 11 local universities and the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, announced the launch of training

³¹¹² Government of Canada invests in training for persons with disabilities to create a more inclusive workforce and stronger economy (Surrey) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-for-persons-with-disabilities-to-create-a-more-inclusive-workforce-and-stronger-economy.html>

³¹¹³ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers in Manitoba become certified in the skilled trades (Winnipeg) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-workers-in-manitoba-become-certified-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

³¹¹⁴ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers in Manitoba become certified in the skilled trades (Winnipeg) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-workers-in-manitoba-become-certified-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

³¹¹⁵ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers in Manitoba become certified in the skilled trades (Winnipeg) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-workers-in-manitoba-become-certified-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

³¹¹⁶ Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At the Opening Ceremony of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1836117.shtml

programs targeted towards increasing the number of public health professionals.³¹¹⁷ The programs will emphasize on-the-job training for post-graduate and doctoral level public health education.³¹¹⁸

On 24 December 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Education held a career forum for 2021 university graduates from Hubei to provide quality employment assurance for Hubei-based graduates in response to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹¹⁹ At the forum, Vice Minister of Education Weng Tiehui announced that seven policy measures would soon be implemented by the government.³¹²⁰ Of the seven measures, notable policies include the requirement for provinces, cities, and large industries to add and fulfill quotas for hiring Hubei-based graduates, along with assistance being provided to graduates from vulnerable sectors of society to grow their employable skills and promote entrepreneurship.³¹²¹ Vice Minister Tiehui also announced the launch of a new employment service system for university graduates that will provide recent graduates access to job postings within the government.³¹²²

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced the implementation of a training program targeted at professional and technical personnel within the professions of engineering and project management.³¹²³ The training program aims to contribute towards building a national self-reliance upon the country's own scientific and technological sectors, with an emphasis on spurring innovative development.³¹²⁴ In order to contribute towards this goal, the training program intends to improve both the quality and ability of technical and professional workers.³¹²⁵ Prospective trainees are required to pass the training assessment to obtain a certificate of completion.³¹²⁶

³¹¹⁷ Universities and China CDC launch innovative programs to train more public health professionals, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506993.html

³¹¹⁸ Universities and China CDC launch innovative programs to train more public health professionals, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506993.html

³¹¹⁹ Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

³¹²⁰ Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

³¹²¹ Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

³¹²² Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

³¹²³ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

³¹²⁴ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

³¹²⁵ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

³¹²⁶ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security released a work plan announcing an increase in vocational education and training in digital technologies, with emphasis on artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing.³¹²⁷

On 2 June 2021, forestry authorities from China and 15 Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, including Slovenia, announced that they would be enhancing their cooperation efforts towards bioeconomic growth at the 3rd China-CEE High-Level Conference on Forestry Cooperation in China.³¹²⁸ As part of their cooperative efforts, China, the CEE, and Slovenia will invest in forestry education, skills training, and technical exchanges.³¹²⁹

On 21 June 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs announced the results of a training program launched in 2016 to teach farmers to use digital technologies for farming activities. Since its launch, the program has supported training sessions over 100 million farmers on how to use smartphones.³¹³⁰ The Ministry stated that learning and implementing these new digital skills enabled over 60 million farmers to sell RMB40 billion worth of agricultural products.³¹³¹

On 30 June 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced its 14th Five-Year Plan through 2021-2025.³¹³² As part of the plan, China aims to train more technicians and skilled workers while also subsidizing training programs.³¹³³

On 6 July 2021, Education Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) met virtually and signed a joint declaration to improve their collaboration on education and research efforts with respect to Technical Vocational and Educational Training institutions.³¹³⁴

On 7 July 2021, the State Council, China's Cabinet, released a long-term National Action Plan for Scientific Literacy with the aim of cultivating public scientific literacy, specifically targeting five priority groups: farmers, industrial workers, the elderly, civil servants, and state officials.³¹³⁵ The plan also includes training teachers in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, general technology, and information technology.³¹³⁶ Furthermore, China aims to spur innovation in rural regions by

³¹²⁷ Govt policy moves from past week, The State Council (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202104/28/content_WS608899f5c6d0df57f98d8b18.html

³¹²⁸ China, CEE countries to jointly boost forest bioeconomy, The State Council (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202106/02/content_WS60b7861ac6d0df57f98da9d0.html

³¹²⁹ China, CEE countries to jointly boost forest bioeconomy, The State Council (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202106/02/content_WS60b7861ac6d0df57f98da9d0.html

³¹³⁰ China trains 100m farmers how to use smartphones, The State Council (Beijing) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/23/content_WS60d2906ac6d0df57f98dbaa9.html

³¹³¹ China trains 100m farmers how to use smartphones, The State Council (Beijing) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/23/content_WS60d2906ac6d0df57f98dbaa9.html

³¹³² China to steadily improve social security benefits, The State Council (Beijing) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/30/content_WS60dc8010c6d0df57f98dc301.html

³¹³³ China to steadily improve social security benefits, The State Council (Beijing) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/30/content_WS60dc8010c6d0df57f98dc301.html

³¹³⁴ VIII BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-57.pdf>

³¹³⁵ Scientific literacy plan announced, The State Council (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/07/content_WS60e51e8dc6d0df57f98dc841.html

³¹³⁶ Scientific literacy plan announced, The State Council (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/07/content_WS60e51e8dc6d0df57f98dc841.html

providing opportunities, such as talent training, to farmers.³¹³⁷ The plan also highlights the necessity to provide industrial workers with new skills through opportunities such as training programs.³¹³⁸

On 21 July 2021, the Ministry of Education and five other ministries announced their intention to improve the quality of vocational education and raise student enrollment by 1 million students in 2021 by encouraging apprenticeships and offering specialized training, among other targeted measures.³¹³⁹

On 4 August 2021, the State Council affirmed its support for improving the quality of teachers in rural areas of China's central and western regions.³¹⁴⁰ To this end, the government aims to provide targeted training for 10,000 college students in 2021 so as to ensure they enter the sector with the skills necessary to impart a higher caliber of education within China's rural regions.³¹⁴¹

On 18 August 2021, the Minister of Industry and Information Technology attended a virtual meeting with their BRICS counterparts where they collectively reaffirmed their support for training, skilling, and reskilling policies.³¹⁴² Furthermore, the BRICS members emphasized “the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on advanced technical skills for reskilling and upskilling by exchanging experience and good practices through match-making workshops, seminars, and exchange programs to develop a practical framework for ensuring appropriate required skills and knowledge for Industrial development.”³¹⁴³ Overall, the BRICS member committed to continuing their collective support for workers as one of several joint measures to achieve multilateral economic reform.³¹⁴⁴

On 18 August 2021, BRICS Industry Ministers met virtually to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the industry and trade sectors.³¹⁴⁵ During this meeting, the Ministers reiterated their commitment towards utilizing new technologies to “promote training and skills development of the related workforce and businesses through workshops, seminars, and exchange programs.”³¹⁴⁶

On 27 August 2021, the State Council launched its Five-Year Plan from 2021-2025, which contained measures to support employment and bolster the job market.³¹⁴⁷ As part of this plan, the government

³¹³⁷ Scientific literacy plan announced, The State Council (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/07/content_WS60e51e8dc6d0df57f98dc841.html

³¹³⁸ Scientific literacy plan announced, The State Council (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/07/content_WS60e51e8dc6d0df57f98dc841.html

³¹³⁹ Govt policy moves from past week, The State Council (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7762fc6d0df57f98dd503.html

³¹⁴⁰ China to train teachers for central, western regions, The State Council (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/04/content_WS6109cab3c6d0df57f98ddf6.html

³¹⁴¹ China to train teachers for central, western regions, The State Council (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/04/content_WS6109cab3c6d0df57f98ddf6.html

³¹⁴² BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³¹⁴³ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³¹⁴⁴ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³¹⁴⁵ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³¹⁴⁶ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³¹⁴⁷ State Council unveils plan to boost employment, The State Council (Beijing) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202108/27/content_WS6128ec70c6d0df57f98df447.html

aims to create 5.5 million jobs in urban areas and support local training programs and workshops to improve the skills of young workers.³¹⁴⁸

On 31 August 2021, BRICS Youth Ministers met virtually to discuss youth interests and the need to implement measures to mitigate the challenges facing youth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁴⁹ Further to this, the delegates reaffirmed their commitment towards continuing to skill youth through the utilization of technological tools, in addition to creating additional employment opportunities for youth.³¹⁵⁰

On 8 September 2021, Ministry of Education reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the number and quality of educators in rural regions by supporting teacher training programs.³¹⁵¹ Through a program initially launched in 2006, the Ministry has a total of 1.03 million university graduates to teach in rural schools throughout the central and western regions and anticipates hiring 84,300 rural teachers in 2021.³¹⁵² Additionally, the Ministry launched a new teacher training program for rural regions in July 2021 and received an enrollment rate of 9,530 students.³¹⁵³

China has fully complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by investing in measures to both train future employees to enter the labour market and upskill current workers within the labour market. China has further demonstrated their commitment to supporting workers by investing in rural development and emphasizing reskilling for the transition into the digital age.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Chan

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment towards supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 20 January 2021, Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Elisabeth Borne announced a set of measures by which the ministry-sponsored Employment Center and local employment missions will use to provide training courses in accordance with the 1 Youth 1 Solution plan.³¹⁵⁴ Although 1 Youth 1 Solution was initially announced as part of the France Relaunch COVID-19 recovery package on 3 September 2020, these recent updates provide a concrete action plan for regional authorities to implement youth training programs as mandated by the central

³¹⁴⁸ Govt outlines plan to beef up employment, The State Council (Beijing) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html

³¹⁴⁹ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³¹⁵⁰ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³¹⁵¹ Educators to be trained for rural areas, The State Council (Beijing) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/09/content_WS613963d8c6d0df57f98dfe78.html

³¹⁵² Educators to be trained for rural areas, The State Council (Beijing) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/09/content_WS613963d8c6d0df57f98dfe78.html

³¹⁵³ Educators to be trained for rural areas, The State Council (Beijing) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/09/content_WS613963d8c6d0df57f98dfe78.html

³¹⁵⁴ Official Bulletin: Work, Employment, Vocational training, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2021.4.travail.pdf>

government.³¹⁵⁵ It states that both local missions and the regional Employment Center office will work with local officials overseeing the implementation of the 1 Youth 1 Solution plan to create objectives for training people under the age of 30.³¹⁵⁶ This action reflects France's commitment to providing the 131,000 training courses mandated by the 1 youth 1 solution plan, along with its broader goal of training its workforce to hold jobs in strategic and emerging sectors.³¹⁵⁷

On 26 April 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire announced that EUR50 million will be used to retrain cast-metal workers made redundant by the automotive industry's shift towards electric vehicles.³¹⁵⁸

On 27 April 2021, Minister Le Maire and German Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz held a joint press conference regarding their national recovery and resilience plans. France and Germany announced plans for the EU to invest EUR750 billion towards support vocational training programs as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.³¹⁵⁹ The National Recovery and Resilience Plan details plans on the allocation of funds provided by the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan is a part of the France Relaunch plan, which aims to provide an economic recovery from COVID-19 in manner which will support a competitive and environmentally sustainable industry.³¹⁶⁰

On 27 May 2021, the Government of France marked its first recognition of the Alternation for DuoDay.³¹⁶¹ This day was established by the government to promote the inclusion and integration of people with disabilities in the workforce through the government's work-study program.³¹⁶² Moreover, the Alternation for DuoDay aims to encourage both employers to offer apprenticeships for youth or adult talents as a means of retraining, and for employees to connect with potential employers through the government's work-study program.³¹⁶³

On 6 July 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration announced that it signed a contract with the Ministry of Industry and EIT InnoEnergy to establish the European Battery

³¹⁵⁵ Launch of the Recovery Plan on September 3, 2020, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/lancement-plan-relance-3-septembre-2020>

³¹⁵⁶ Official Bulletin: Work, Employment, Vocational training, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2021.4.travail.pdf>

³¹⁵⁷ Official Bulletin: Work, Employment, Vocational training, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2021.4.travail.pdf>

³¹⁵⁸ France Plans \$61M Fund to Help Auto Workers Threatened by Shift to EVs, Automotive News Europe (Detroit) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://europe.autonews.com/automakers/france-plans-61m-fund-help-auto-workers-threatened-shift-evs>

³¹⁵⁹ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

³¹⁶⁰ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

³¹⁶¹ Boost inclusive work-study programs and improve training and professional integration for people with disabilities, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/dynamiser-l-alternance-inclusive-et-ameliorer-la-formation-et-l-insertion>

³¹⁶² Boost inclusive work-study programs and improve training and professional integration for people with disabilities, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/dynamiser-l-alternance-inclusive-et-ameliorer-la-formation-et-l-insertion>

³¹⁶³ Work-study program by DuoDay - Presentation of the system, State Secretariat for Disabled People (Paris) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://handicap.gouv.fr/grands-dossiers/duoday-un-duo-dans-le-monde-du-travail/duoday-2021/alternance-par-duoday/alternance>

Academy.³¹⁶⁴ The Academy aims to respond to the need for the requalification of workers in the automotive industry as it shifts towards electric vehicles.³¹⁶⁵

On 8 July 2021, Minister Borne, Minister Delegate of Integration Brigitte Klinket, High Commissioner for Employment and Business Engagement Thibaut Guilluy, High Commissioner for Skills Carine Seiler, and interministerial delegate for the development of apprenticeship in priority neighbourhoods of city policy Patrick Toulmet presented updates on the progress achieved by the 1 Youth 1 Solution plan after a year of its implementation.³¹⁶⁶ After allocating EUR9 million towards this program, the French government was able to secure training for 350,000 young people under the age of 30, with 90,000 of those participants undertaking training for industries key for the member's economic recovery.³¹⁶⁷ In addition, 525,600 youth assumed apprenticeships in 2020 and 800,000 youth excluded from employment participated in employment integration programs between August 2020 and May 2021.³¹⁶⁸

On 21 July 2021, the Government of France publicly stated that they signed a three-year agreement with the Association for the Management of the Fund for the Integration of People with Disabilities (AGEFIPH) on 19 July 2021 to further invest in creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities.³¹⁶⁹ As part of this agreement, the government will invest in training and skills development for people with disabilities.³¹⁷⁰ In addition, the agreement will also ensure supports for businesses employing people with disabilities, provide incentives for hiring people with disabilities, and develop partnerships to ensure inclusivity in professional settings.³¹⁷¹

³¹⁶⁴ EIT InnoEnergy and the French State are committed to accelerating the training of employees in new professions linked to the development of the industrial sector of the electric battery, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/eit-innoenergy-et-l-etat-francais-s-engagent-pour-accelerer-la-formation-des>

³¹⁶⁵ EIT InnoEnergy and the French State are committed to accelerating the training of employees in new professions linked to the development of the industrial sector of the electric battery, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/eit-innoenergy-et-l-etat-francais-s-engagent-pour-accelerer-la-formation-des>

³¹⁶⁶ The 1 year of the “1 youth, 1 solution” plan, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/les-1-an-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

³¹⁶⁷ The 1 year of the “1 youth, 1 solution” plan, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/les-1-an-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

³¹⁶⁸ The 1 year of the “1 youth, 1 solution” plan, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/les-1-an-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

³¹⁶⁹ Integration into employment of people with disabilities – strengthened collaboration between the State and Agefiph, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/insertion-dans-l-emploi-des-personnes-en-situation-de-handicap-collaboration>

³¹⁷⁰ Integration into employment of people with disabilities – strengthened collaboration between the State and Agefiph, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/insertion-dans-l-emploi-des-personnes-en-situation-de-handicap-collaboration>

³¹⁷¹ Integration into employment of people with disabilities – strengthened collaboration between the State and Agefiph, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/insertion-dans-l-emploi-des-personnes-en-situation-de-handicap-collaboration>

On 6 September 2021, the Government of France launched the Relance Train to promote France Relance.³¹⁷² As part of the campaign, the Relance Train will travel throughout 12 regions of mainland France to promote the employment and youth tenets of the plan to participating passengers.³¹⁷³ The campaign will also offer coaching sessions and job matching services in the Employment Villages setup within the train station.³¹⁷⁴ The Relance Train will remain at each station for 48 hours before departing for its next destination and will continue travelling throughout France until 2 October, 2021.³¹⁷⁵

On 6 September 2021, Prime Minister Castex announced the extension of the France Relance plan to support apprenticeships until June 30, 2022.³¹⁷⁶

France has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. The member has achieved this by establishing plans to fund worker training programs and by allocating funding towards retraining programs for displaced workers within the automotive industry.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Trachsell

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 10 December 2020, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs developed a funding guideline for their Secure Apprenticeships program (also called the Secure Training Places) program to include additional training contracts and expand enterprise eligibility for receiving funding.³¹⁷⁷ The Ministry also significantly eased funding requirements and extended transfer bonuses and grants for training wages until mid-2021.³¹⁷⁸ Finally, the program expansion will provide a training bonus to companies that enrolled in training programs beginning from 24 June 2020 to 31 July 2020.³¹⁷⁹

³¹⁷² The Relance Train: for our territories and our jobs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/le-train-de-la-relance-pour-nos-territoires-et-nos-emplois>

³¹⁷³ The Relance Train: for our territories and our jobs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/le-train-de-la-relance-pour-nos-territoires-et-nos-emplois>

³¹⁷⁴ The Relance Train: for our territories and our jobs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/le-train-de-la-relance-pour-nos-territoires-et-nos-emplois>

³¹⁷⁵ The Relance Train: for our territories and our jobs, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/le-train-de-la-relance-pour-nos-territoires-et-nos-emplois>

³¹⁷⁶ Start of apprenticeship 2021: the mobilization continues!, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/rentree-de-l-apprentissage-2021-la-mobilisation-se-poursuit>

³¹⁷⁷ More Support for Training Companies in the Corona Pandemic, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/mehr-unterstuetzung-ausbildungsbetriebe-corona-pandemie.html>

³¹⁷⁸ More Support for Training Companies in the Corona Pandemic, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/mehr-unterstuetzung-ausbildungsbetriebe-corona-pandemie.html>

³¹⁷⁹ More Support for Training Companies in the Corona Pandemic, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/mehr-unterstuetzung-ausbildungsbetriebe-corona-pandemie.html>

On 22 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Education Minister Anja Karliczek launched the Digital Education Initiative in an online event as part of Germany's ongoing efforts to offer continuing education for all.³¹⁸⁰ This initiative is specifically aimed towards re-skilling students and workers to be oriented for working within the increasingly digitized workforce.³¹⁸¹ Under this initiative, the government is funding multiple programs including the "Vocational Training 4.0" initiative, which aims to ensure that vocational training and education is catered towards the future by incorporating IT and media literacy into curriculums.³¹⁸² This includes identifying and addressing the training needs of selected occupations at an early stage.³¹⁸³ For the first time, the Chancellor announced her patronage of an app, called "Stadt | Land | DatenFluss," created by the German Adult Education Centre Association and aimed at providing accessible digital skills training to workers.³¹⁸⁴

On 17 March 2021, Germany further expanded the Secure Apprenticeships Program to allow more firms to be eligible for funding by increasing the threshold of the maximum number of company workers from 249 workers to 499 workers so as to expand program eligibility.³¹⁸⁵ Small and medium-sized enterprises, which are particularly at-risk of shouldering economic burdens during the COVID-19 pandemic, were already receiving funding through the program if they either hired new or additional trainees or acquired workers from companies that became insolvent due to the COVID-19 pandemic for further training.³¹⁸⁶

On 27 April 2021, Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz and the French Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire held a joint press conference regarding their national recovery and resilience plans. France and Germany announced plans for the EU to invest EUR750 billion towards supporting vocational training programs as part of Germany's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.³¹⁸⁷

³¹⁸⁰ New Digital Education initiative in Germany supported by Chancellor Merkel, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/neue-initiative-digitale-bildung-deutschland-digitaloffensive-mit-kanzlerin-support>

³¹⁸¹ New Digital Education initiative in Germany supported by Chancellor Merkel, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/neue-initiative-digitale-bildung-deutschland-digitaloffensive-mit-kanzlerin-support>

³¹⁸² What the Federal Government is doing to boost digital learning, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/initiative-digitale-bildung-1860804>

³¹⁸³ What the Federal Government is doing to boost digital learning, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/initiative-digitale-bildung-1860804>

³¹⁸⁴ New Digital Education Initiative in Germany supported by Chancellor Merkel, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/neue-initiative-digitale-bildung-deutschland-digitaloffensive-mit-kanzlerin-support>

³¹⁸⁵ Germany boosts incentives for companies offering vocational training, Reuters (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-germany-retraining-idUSL8N2LE5TY>

³¹⁸⁶ Secure Apprenticeship Positions, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Arbeit/Aus-und-Weiterbildung/Ausbildungsfoerderung/ausbildungsplaetze-sichern.html#doce1bfb4b9-205f-44a8-a24d-0f415f01a033bodyText1>

³¹⁸⁷ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

On 4 May 2021, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi),³¹⁸⁸ jointly gathered actors from German specialist networks under the motto, “Back for the future.”³¹⁸⁹ The purpose of the conference was to discuss solutions to both pre-existing and newly emerging problems, such as economic recovery from the pandemic and the continuous drop in the working-age and skilled worker population.³¹⁹⁰ The meeting provided a platform for the German government to gather with several industry actors and develop solutions through networking opportunities and specialized forums.³¹⁹¹

On 28 May 2021, Chancellor Merkel participated in an online discussion and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to digitalizing technical and vocational education training.³¹⁹² During the discussion, Minister Karliczek also echoed the importance of digitalizing said structures – especially for youth – and stated that skill centres have been established by the government to provide training for teaching staff.³¹⁹³

On 4 June 2021, the BMAS, BMWi, and an array of other partners from the Alliance for Initial and Further Training came together to mark the launch of the Summer of Vocational Training.³¹⁹⁴ This initiative seeks to balance the supply and demand of the training market for “initial and further training.”³¹⁹⁵ The initiative is aimed at securing a better future for youth affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and promoting training opportunities for young people.³¹⁹⁶

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. In particular, Germany has established a set of comprehensive vocational training and apprenticeship programs that will increase the country’s inventory jobs, assist job seekers

³¹⁸⁸ Partners of the Alliance for Initial and Further Training launch ‘Summer of Vocational Training’ initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210604-partners-alliance-for-training-initiative.html>

³¹⁸⁹ Commitment by Return and Skilled Worker Initiative Pays Off, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2021/zurueckfuer-die-zukunft-engagement-rueckkehr-und-fachkraefteinitiativen.html>

³¹⁹⁰ Commitment by Return and Skilled Worker Initiative Pays Off, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2021/zurueckfuer-die-zukunft-engagement-rueckkehr-und-fachkraefteinitiativen.html>

³¹⁹¹ Commitment by Return and Skilled Worker Initiative Pays Off, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2021/zurueckfuer-die-zukunft-engagement-rueckkehr-und-fachkraefteinitiativen.html>

³¹⁹² Strengthening and digitalising technical and vocational education and training (TVET), Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/dialogue-vocational-training-1919304>

³¹⁹³ Strengthening and digitalising technical and vocational education and training (TVET), Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/dialogue-vocational-training-1919304>

³¹⁹⁴ Partners of the Alliance for Initial and Further Training launch ‘Summer of Vocational Training’ initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210604-partners-alliance-for-training-initiative.html>

³¹⁹⁵ Partners of the Alliance for Initial and Further Training launch ‘Summer of Vocational Training’ initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210604-partners-alliance-for-training-initiative.html>

³¹⁹⁶ Partners of the Alliance for Initial and Further Training launch ‘Summer of Vocational Training’ initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210604-partners-alliance-for-training-initiative.html>

in gaining employment, and increase the accessibility of digital reskilling initiatives aimed at preparing workers for the future.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nouran El Atreby

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 17 June 2021, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Gangwar signed a Statement of Intent with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).³¹⁹⁷ Most notably, the joint effort aims to combine efforts from the Ministry and UNICEF towards providing skilling opportunities for youth.³¹⁹⁸ Minister Gangwar affirmed that improving employment outcomes, especially for youth, women, and vulnerable individuals, is a priority for the government.³¹⁹⁹

On 22 June 2021, Minister Gangwar reaffirmed India's commitment skills training at the G20 Education, Labour and Employment Ministers meeting.³²⁰⁰ Minister Gangwar stated that, "India is strengthening educational and skilling efforts to ensure quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage."³²⁰¹ Additionally, Minister of State for Education Shri Sanjay Dhotre attended the meeting and discussed the steps taken by India to improve education and prepare youth to enter the workforce through vocational training programs.³²⁰²

On 6 July 2021, Education Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) met virtually and signed a joint declaration to improve their collaboration on education and research efforts with respect to Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) institutions.³²⁰³

On 16 July 2021, Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda jointly announced the launch of the School Innovation Ambassador Training Program.³²⁰⁴ As part of the initiative, the program intends to train 50,000 teachers on a variety of

³¹⁹⁷ Shri Gangwar reiterates commitment to improve employment outcomes for the youth in India, Ministry of Labour & Employment (Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727860>

³¹⁹⁸ Shri Gangwar reiterates commitment to improve employment outcomes for the youth in India, Ministry of Labour & Employment (Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727860>

³¹⁹⁹ Shri Gangwar reiterates commitment to improve employment outcomes for the youth in India, Ministry of Labour & Employment (Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1727860>

³²⁰⁰ Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar says, India is strengthening educational and skilling efforts to ensure quality education, Ministry of Labour & Employment (Delhi) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1729517>

³²⁰¹ Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar says, India is strengthening educational and skilling efforts to ensure quality education, Ministry of Labour & Employment (Delhi) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1729517>

³²⁰² G20 Education Ministers reiterate commitment to ensure continuity of quality education during the pandemic, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1729758>

³²⁰³ VIII BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-57.pdf>

³²⁰⁴ Union Education Minister and Union Tribal Affairs Minister jointly launch School Innovation Ambassador Training Program, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736139>

subjects related to innovation and business.³²⁰⁵ Overall, this initiative aims to improve teachers' professional development and further build upon the skills imparted by teachers to students.³²⁰⁶

On 12 August 2021, Minister Pradhan attended the Confederation of Indian Industry's annual meeting where he reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the skills of youth.³²⁰⁷ He stated that the government intends to achieve this by implementing technology to reduce interruptions in skill development caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁰⁸ As well, Minister Pradhan emphasized the government's intention to reskill and upskill teachers to meet the needs of India's rapidly changing society.³²⁰⁹ Finally, the minister acknowledged that the government intends to build infrastructure to support internet access in villages so as to make digital education and training opportunities more widely accessible.³²¹⁰

On 18 August 2021, representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry attended a virtual meeting with their BRICS counterparts where they collectively reaffirmed their support for training, skilling, and reskilling policies.³²¹¹ Furthermore, the BRICS members emphasized "the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on advanced technical skills for reskilling and upskilling by exchanging experience and good practices through match-making workshops, seminars, and exchange programs to develop a practical framework for ensuring appropriate required skills and knowledge for Industrial development."³²¹² Overall, the BRICS member committed to continuing their collective support for workers as one of several joint measures to achieve multilateral economic reform.³²¹³

On 18 August 2021, BRICS Industry Ministers met virtually to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the industry and trade sectors.³²¹⁴ During this meeting, the Ministers reiterated their commitment towards utilizing new technologies to "promote training and skills development of the related workforce and businesses through workshops, seminars, and exchange programs."³²¹⁵

³²⁰⁵ Union Education Minister and Union Tribal Affairs Minister jointly launch School Innovation Ambassador Training Program, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736139>

³²⁰⁶ Union Education Minister and Union Tribal Affairs Minister jointly launch School Innovation Ambassador Training Program, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736139>

³²⁰⁷ Government is working to create greater synergy between education and skills for making a future-ready workforce – Union Education Minister, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745099>

³²⁰⁸ Government is working to create greater synergy between education and skills for making a future-ready workforce – Union Education Minister, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745099>

³²⁰⁹ Government is working to create greater synergy between education and skills for making a future-ready workforce – Union Education Minister, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745099>

³²¹⁰ Government is working to create greater synergy between education and skills for making a future-ready workforce – Union Education Minister, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745099>

³²¹¹ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³²¹² BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³²¹³ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³²¹⁴ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³²¹⁵ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

On 31 August 2021, BRICS Youth Ministers met virtually to discuss youth interests and the need to implement measures to mitigate the challenges facing youth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³²¹⁶ Further to this, the delegates reaffirmed their commitment towards continuing to skill youth through the utilization of technological tools, in addition to creating additional employment opportunities for youth.³²¹⁷

On 22 September 2021, Minister Pradhan reaffirmed the government's commitments to providing education and skilling opportunities through the expansion of technological platforms.³²¹⁸ The Minister emphasized the importance of reducing the digital divide and improve accessibility to education and skilling platforms and identified this as a key initiative for the government.³²¹⁹

India has partially complied with its commitment to support workers through training and reskilling policies by implementing a training program for teachers to gain skills in areas such as innovation and business. However, India has failed to implement reskilling initiatives for workers.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Bubneet Dhillon

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 23 February 2021, Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartarto announced the batch 12 of the Pre-Employment Card Program.³²²⁰ This program was first introduced in April 2020 as a development and social protection program because of the labour-market repercussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.³²²¹ The Pre-Employment Card Program is a semi-social assistance service, consisting of both monetary and skills-based compensation.³²²² It is a free program open to anyone over 18 years of age and not currently enrolled in formal education.³²²³ The Ministry of Manpower is set to collaborate with credible institutions and instructors to assist those who are unemployed, seeking job training, or working in the informal sector.³²²⁴ Participants are granted non-cash credits to purchase online courses on eight digital platforms accessible through the Employment

³²¹⁶ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³²¹⁷ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³²¹⁸ Union Education Minister holds a meeting on Universalisation of Quality Education through Digital Education, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1757000>

³²¹⁹ Union Education Minister holds a meeting on Universalisation of Quality Education through Digital Education, Ministry of Education (Delhi) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1757000>

³²²⁰ Government Officially Opens Batch 12 Of the Pre-employment Card Program, VOI (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://voi.id/en/news/34984/government-officially-opens-batch-12-of-the-pre-employment-card-program>

³²²¹ Government Officially Opens Batch 12 Of the Pre-employment Card Program, VOI (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://voi.id/en/news/34984/government-officially-opens-batch-12-of-the-pre-employment-card-program>

³²²² Government Officially Opens Batch 12 Of the Pre-employment Card Program, VOI (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://voi.id/en/news/34984/government-officially-opens-batch-12-of-the-pre-employment-card-program>

³²²³ Gov't Kicks Off This Year's Pre-Employment Card Program, Office of Assistant to Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-kicks-off-this-years-pre-employment-card-program/>

³²²⁴ Gov't Kicks Off This Year's Pre-Employment Card Program, Office of Assistant to Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-kicks-off-this-years-pre-employment-card-program/>

Information System.³²²⁵ Courses are available on a host of subjects, including languages, graphic design, computer science, aesthetics and customer service.³²²⁶ After course completion, participants are awarded with a certificate and monthly payments of IDR600,000 which can be used to buy necessities.³²²⁷ Program objectives include “developing new and improved skills of the workforce, increasing their productivity and competitiveness in the labour market and supporting entrepreneurship development.”³²²⁸ A budget of IDR10 trillion has been allocated for this program, with IDR1 million going towards training assistance in the first semester of 2021.³²²⁹

On 8 June 2021, Vice President Ma’ruf Amin, while joined by the Minister of Manpower Ida Fauziyah, reaffirmed Indonesia’s commitment to funding Community Work Training Centres (BLKs) to “develop tailored vocational trainings that meet the demands of the labor market and industrial sector.”³²³⁰ Community BLKs are local institutions dedicated to providing vocational training and education in a variety of sectors, including but not limited to marine engineering, refrigeration, automotive engineering, hospitality, language, fashion and textile design, culinary arts, industrial relations, and so on. The purpose of Community BLKs is to reduce unemployment and create additional job opportunities. Minister Fauziyah also iterated that the Ministry has allocated budget to continue supporting Community BLKs and has also created a program to train managers and instructors at Community BLKs.³²³¹

On 28 June 2021, Minister Fauziyah launched the first development stage for Community BLKs in 2021.³²³² Minister Fauziyah stated that “The establishment of Community-based BLK is a form of effort to spread work training institutions so that they can be accessed by citizens who live far away from the available work training institution locations.”³²³³ Moreover, the Ministry aims to bring the

³²²⁵ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

³²²⁶ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

³²²⁷ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

³²²⁸ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

³²²⁹ Gov’t Kicks Off This Year’s Pre-Employment Card Program, Office of Assistant to Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-kicks-off-this-years-pre-employment-card-program/>

³²³⁰ VP: Work Trainings Tailored to Meet Labor Market, Industry Demands, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/vp-work-trainings-tailored-to-meet-labor-market-industry-demands/>

³²³¹ VP: Work Trainings Tailored to Meet Labor Market, Industry Demands, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/vp-work-trainings-tailored-to-meet-labor-market-industry-demands/>

³²³² Manpower Minister launches stage 1 Community-based BLK establishment, Antara News (Jakarta) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/186346/manpower-minister-launches-stage-1-community-based-blk-establishment>

³²³³ Manpower Minister launches stage 1 Community-based BLK establishment, Antara News (Jakarta) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/186346/manpower-minister-launches-stage-1-community-based-blk-establishment>

standards of training provided by the institutions in line with the demands of various industries and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).³²³⁴

On 23 September 2021, the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration signed a joint agreement with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology to commit to providing vocational education and training to Indonesia villages.³²³⁵ Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Wikan Sakarinto stated that the goal of the agreement is to foster graduates who possess the skills and knowledge to obtain employment within a variety of sectors and industries.³²³⁶ The agreement will focus on helping students develop soft skills through training, conducting institutional research, providing internships for students, and providing scholarships for students.³²³⁷

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by expanding their Pre-Employment Card Program, which provides both training and reskilling opportunities for workers who are unemployed, seeking employment, or looking to upgrade their skills.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Bianca Piccone

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 12 December 2020, the Italian government implemented a national plan to create additional pathways for workers to both obtain new skills training and upgrade their existing skills.³²³⁸ The plan consists of a three-pronged approach to directly connect with low-skilled and under-qualified adults to prevent alienation from the job market, upgrading basic skills and offering reskilling programs, and synchronizing in-demand labour market skills with educational offerings and training programs.³²³⁹ This three-pronged approach aims to create an effective process to both train and reskill workers, while reducing barriers to entering the labour market.³²⁴⁰

³²³⁴ Manpower Minister launches stage 1 Community-based BLK establishment, Antara News (Jakarta) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/186346/manpower-minister-launches-stage-1-community-based-blk-establishment>

³²³⁵ Ministries collaborate to push innovation in villages, Antara News (Jakarta) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/190713/ministries-collaborate-to-push-innovation-in-villages>

³²³⁶ Ministries collaborate to push innovation in villages, Antara News (Jakarta) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/190713/ministries-collaborate-to-push-innovation-in-villages>

³²³⁷ Ministries collaborate to push innovation in villages, Antara News (Jakarta) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/190713/ministries-collaborate-to-push-innovation-in-villages>

³²³⁸ Italy: National strategic plan for upskilling and reskilling adults, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/italy-national-strategic-plan-upskilling-and-reskilling-adults>

³²³⁹ Italy: National strategic plan for upskilling and reskilling adults, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/italy-national-strategic-plan-upskilling-and-reskilling-adults>

³²⁴⁰ Italy: National strategic plan for upskilling and reskilling adults, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/italy-national-strategic-plan-upskilling-and-reskilling-adults>

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies signed a decree to focus on the training and retraining of assets within the labour market.³²⁴¹ In particular, the decree requires that all collective agreements must provide training programs and that time be allotted for skills development courses.³²⁴² This decree aims to provide more training and upskilling resources that will benefit both workers and employers.³²⁴³

On 17 September 2021, the European Commission approved the EUR4.7 billion in funding to Italy as part of the Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU) plan.³²⁴⁴ Through this funding instrument, Italy will allocate EUR 4.7 billion to support employment in industries hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁴⁵ Most notably, Italy will invest in youth employment and allocate EUR1 billion towards the creation of the New Skills Fund. The New Skills Fund will provide emergency training courses for workers and provide supplemental funding for working hours that are missed due to extenuating external factors beyond the workers' control.³²⁴⁶

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. The member has implemented a decree to ensure that employers ensure training programs for their employees and has developed a national approach to combat underemployment and unemployment through providing support for the training and reskilling of low-skilled and under-qualified adults.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hayley Spens

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 31 January 2021, the Ministry of Defense released a report detailing Japan's Defense Budget and Programs. In the report, the Ministry outlined plans for the enhancement of re-employment support programs for uniformed officers. The ministry's plans include offering new vocational training courses with an emphasis on training and reskilling female officers.³²⁴⁷

On 12 February 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held a "Novel Coronavirus Response" meeting to discuss implementing training and reskilling programs as a means to alleviating pressure on the

³²⁴¹ New Skills Fund, 500 million euros in 2021: applications until 30 June, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Thessaloniki) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Fondo-Nuove-Competenze-500-milioni-di-euro-nel-2021-domande-sino-al-30-giugno.aspx>

³²⁴² New Skills Fund, 500 million euros in 2021: applications until 30 June, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Thessaloniki) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Fondo-Nuove-Competenze-500-milioni-di-euro-nel-2021-domande-sino-al-30-giugno.aspx>

³²⁴³ New Skills Fund, 500 million euros in 2021: applications until 30 June, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Thessaloniki) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Fondo-Nuove-Competenze-500-milioni-di-euro-nel-2021-domande-sino-al-30-giugno.aspx>

³²⁴⁴ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

³²⁴⁵ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

³²⁴⁶ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

³²⁴⁷ Defense Programs and Budget of Japan (Tokyo) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mod.go.jp/e/d_act/d_budget/2021/20210201.pdf

Japanese labour.³²⁴⁸ The government increased the scope of their “Support System for Job Seekers” program where non-permanent workers, women, single parents, and the unemployed will be granted subsidies if they partake in public training qualification courses, such as vocational or IT training.³²⁴⁹

On 16 March 2021, Prime Minister Suga expanded the budget for the “Support System for Job Seekers” program and discussed preparing training modules for single parents to enable them to receive job training while on government subsidies.³²⁵⁰

On 8 June 2021, the Prime Minister Suga held his third meeting to address the government’s emergency response for non-permanent workers affected by COVID-19.³²⁵¹ The meeting reviewed training programs and concluded that training programs in the country were being underused.³²⁵² In response, the Prime Minister released a new plan to reduce the wait time between applications and job training as well as increase exposure of these programs to Emergency Small Amount Funds recipients.³²⁵³ Additionally, more resources allocated to universities to create education and training courses for students to work in rapidly-growing industries, including the green and digital sectors, for instance.³²⁵⁴

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by promoting public participation in training and reskilling programs through granting subsidies to vulnerable citizens.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Simren Ravina Sharma

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 25 November 2020, President Moon Jae-in announced the Korean government’s plan to train individuals to promote artificial intelligence (AI) in connection with the Korean New Deal. The government has established 12 graduate schools which specialise in AI.³²⁵⁵ The government also set a

³²⁴⁸ 55th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202102/_00007.html

³²⁴⁹ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00014.html

³²⁵⁰ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00014.html

³²⁵¹ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus (Tokyo) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202106/_00012.html

³²⁵² Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus (Tokyo) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202106/_00012.html

³²⁵³ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus (Tokyo) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202106/_00012.html

³²⁵⁴ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus (Tokyo) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202106/_00012.html

³²⁵⁵ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Event to Promote AI in Connection with Korean New Deal, Office of the President (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/914>

target of fostering 100,000 AI experts through expanding upskilling programs for industrial site workers to learn AI and gain employment in the AI sector.³²⁵⁶

On 7 December 2020, the Korean Economic Policy Bureau released its 2021 Economic Policies, which included the expansion of the young adult jobs program to provide employment for 100,000 qualifying young Koreans.³²⁵⁷ The program focuses on providing work experience and training in a variety of areas, including digital jobs and remote work.³²⁵⁸ The policy measure also underlined a commitment to supporting companies that provide training programs with public project opportunities.³²⁵⁹

On 16 February 2021, President Moon announced that the government will expand the employment safety net, advance vocational training by providing practical job-searching assistance, foster the national employment support program, encourage youth entrepreneurship initiatives, develop a plan for women who are primary caregivers to re-enter the workforce.³²⁶⁰ This request was made to all Korean ministries and agencies to help overcome the state of employment in January 2020.³²⁶¹

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labour (MOEL) announced that it will improve its vocational training system to collaborate with businesses, universities, and private institutions to allow non-technology majors to be employed in digital technology sectors.³²⁶² It projects a future workforce of approximately 17,000 people working within the technological industry.³²⁶³ MOEL will expand talent development projects by leveraging the inter-ministerial collaboration budget system. This will allow youth to enter rapidly growing industries, such as the technology and environmental sectors.³²⁶⁴ MOEL will also create vocational training programs targeted at specific industries to allow for unemployed persons to become re-employed.³²⁶⁵ This announcement supports the employment of vulnerable groups who were negatively affected by the employment crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. MOEL will also fund the establishment of the Lifelong Skills Development for All program, which will allow adults to gain vocational employment skills.³²⁶⁶ The program will cover a range of skills-based learnings, including digital proficiency and humanities knowledge.³²⁶⁷

³²⁵⁶ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Event to Promote AI in Connection with Korean New Deal, Office of the President (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/914>

³²⁵⁷ 2021 Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5033>

³²⁵⁸ 2021 Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5033>

³²⁵⁹ 2021 Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5033>

³²⁶⁰ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at 7th Cabinet Meeting, Office of the President (Seoul) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/943>

³²⁶¹ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at 7th Cabinet Meeting, Office of the President (Seoul) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/943>

³²⁶² 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³²⁶³ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³²⁶⁴ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³²⁶⁵ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³²⁶⁶ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³²⁶⁷ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

On 1 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-Ki announced the development of training programs for medical personnel to support the export of Korea's disease control system.³²⁶⁸

On 13 April 2021, President Moon publicly requested his cabinet to strengthen vocational training, with emphasis on training in future industries such as digital, data, artificial intelligence, and software.³²⁶⁹

On 26 May 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong announced that the government would support workers' transition to new industries and reemployment as part of the phasing-out process of the National Strategy for 2050 Carbon Neutrality.³²⁷⁰

On 7 June 2021, President Moon announced at the International Labour Organization's World of Work Summit that the Korean New Deal would facilitate a fair transition for workers amidst changing economic and social structures by cultivating talent in software, AI and green technology and revamping job training programs.³²⁷¹ To this end, the government will invest KRW140 billion in technological and green industries with the aim of creating 1.5 million jobs by 2025 while also supporting workers to transition into new jobs within said industries.³²⁷² The aim of this deal is to help stimulate the country's economic recovery post-COVID-19.³²⁷³

On 18 June 2021, MOEL launched the Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services at the 20th Presidential Committee on Jobs.³²⁷⁴ The set of measures aim to stimulate post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery through targeted investments in employment and recruitment support services, the creation of remote digital employment support services, the creation of a national employment insurance, and the expansion of infrastructure to help find jobs for individuals struggling to find employment, and financial supports for businesses and unemployed individuals negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁷⁵ Most notably the set of measures introduces the creation of the Corporate Recruitment Support Package, which will provide additional training and support to workers as of July 2021.³²⁷⁶ In addition, the measures outline mandatory training for service providers of paid job placements every two years.³²⁷⁷

³²⁶⁸ 7th Meeting to Promote BIG3, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5100>

³²⁶⁹ Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at 16th Cabinet Meeting, Office of the President (Seoul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/968>

³²⁷⁰ Investment in Green New Deal to reach 3.8% of GDP by 2025, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=198621>

³²⁷¹ Keynote Address by President Moon Jae-in at ILO's World of Work Summit, Office of the President (Seoul) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1015>

³²⁷² Keynote Address by President Moon Jae-in at ILO's World of Work Summit, Office of the President (Seoul) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1015>

³²⁷³ Keynote Address by President Moon Jae-in at ILO's World of Work Summit, Office of the President (Seoul) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1015>

³²⁷⁴ MOEL announces "Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services" to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

³²⁷⁵ MOEL announces "Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services" to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

³²⁷⁶ MOEL announces "Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services" to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

³²⁷⁷ MOEL announces "Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services" to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605

On 14 July 2021, President Moon announced the Human New Deal, as a part of the previously announced Digital and Green New Deals. The Human New Deal aims to provide vocational training in growing industries such as system semiconductors, biohealth, future cars, and software development.³²⁷⁸ The purpose of the deal is to further drive innovation within Korea's technological sectors while creating jobs for young people.³²⁷⁹

On 9 September 2021, President Moon announced support for skilled workers in their return to shipyards during a local ceremony for ship builders and their suppliers.³²⁸⁰ The government affirmed their support for the current 8,000 workers within the shipbuilding and shipping industries, while committing to expanding job opportunities and hiring additional workers by 2022.³²⁸¹ To this end, the government will invest in workforce education centres and vocational training opportunities to support current and future workers in said industries.³²⁸² By providing enhanced support to the shipbuilding and shipping workforces, the government aims to bolster the previously struggling industries and prevent economic downturn.³²⁸³

On 16 September 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labor announced that the Presidential Committee on Jobs passed the Measures to Support National Lifelong Vocational Competency Development.³²⁸⁴ The measures serve the purpose of restructuring the vocational training system by increasing accessibility to all citizens who intend to gain new employment through vocational training.³²⁸⁵ As well, the package introduced a number of new measures including new digital training modules, pilot programs in 2021 for specialized training for platform workers, customized training for self-employed workers, increased special training allowances, specialized training for middle-aged individuals experiencing job instability, the expansion of on-the-job training to combine digital skills training, digital and technological training for youth, customized training for small and medium enterprises who find it challenging to utilize external training institutions, and vocational training for specialized industries through joint training centres.³²⁸⁶

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by investing in measures to both train future employees to enter the labour

³²⁷⁸ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Presentation for Korean New Deal 2.0 Plans, Office of the President (Seoul) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1032>

³²⁷⁹ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Presentation for Korean New Deal 2.0 Plans, Office of the President (Seoul) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1032>

³²⁸⁰ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Ceremony to Announce Win-Win Vision for Korea's Ship Builders and Their Suppliers, Office of the President (Seoul) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1057>

³²⁸¹ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Ceremony to Announce Win-Win Vision for Korea's Ship Builders and Their Suppliers, Office of the President (Seoul) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1057>

³²⁸² Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Ceremony to Announce Win-Win Vision for Korea's Ship Builders and Their Suppliers, Office of the President (Seoul) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1057>

³²⁸³ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Ceremony to Announce Win-Win Vision for Korea's Ship Builders and Their Suppliers, Office of the President (Seoul) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1057>

³²⁸⁴ Measures to Support National Lifelong Vocational Competency Development" passed by the Presidential Committee on Jobs, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1612

³²⁸⁵ Measures to Support National Lifelong Vocational Competency Development" passed by the Presidential Committee on Jobs, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1612

³²⁸⁶ Measures to Support National Lifelong Vocational Competency Development" passed by the Presidential Committee on Jobs, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1612

market and upskill current workers within the labour market. Korea has further demonstrated their commitment to supporting workers by investing in youth entrepreneurship and stimulating job growth within rapidly growing sectors of the economy through training and reskilling initiatives. Finally, Korea has demonstrated its overall support for workers by making targeted investments in training and reskilling as a means of stimulating post-Covid-19 economic recovery.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Chan

Mexico: -1

Mexico has failed to comply with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 22 June 2021, the “ Interinstitutional Table for Comprehensive Attention to Mexican Families in Return, the heads of the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Relations, Public Education, and Labor and Social Security, as well as autonomous and decentralized organizations” discussed progress and improvements in programs for repatriated Mexican migrants.³²⁸⁷ The secretariat heads of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Ministry of Education signed a “General Collaboration Agreement.”³²⁸⁸ This agreement updates the existing Mexico Recognize Your Experience program to focus on skills certification.³²⁸⁹

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.³²⁹⁰

Analyst: Aline Nayir

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 19 January 2021, the University of the Ministry of Construction announced a series of free online conferences throughout the month of January.³²⁹¹ There were three webinars hosted throughout the

³²⁸⁷ Returning and repatriated Mexican migrant families have new support options in education, health and economic development, Ministry of Interior (Mexico City) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/familias-mexicanas-migrantes-en-retorno-y-repatriadas-tiene-nuevas-opciones-de-apoyo-en-educacion-salud-y-desarrollo-economico-275389?idiom=es>

³²⁸⁸ Returning and repatriated Mexican migrant families have new support options in education, health and economic development, Ministry of Interior (Mexico City) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/familias-mexicanas-migrantes-en-retorno-y-repatriadas-tiene-nuevas-opciones-de-apoyo-en-educacion-salud-y-desarrollo-economico-275389?idiom=es>

³²⁸⁹ Returning and repatriated Mexican migrant families have new support options in education, health and economic development, Ministry of Interior (Mexico City) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/familias-mexicanas-migrantes-en-retorno-y-repatriadas-tiene-nuevas-opciones-de-apoyo-en-educacion-salud-y-desarrollo-economico-275389?idiom=es>

³²⁹⁰ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.reuters.com/>, <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/>, <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar>, <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>, <https://laborrights.org/>, <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/>, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/>, <https://www.shrm.org/>, <https://www.gob.mx/segob>, <https://www.gob.mx/sedena>, <https://www.banxico.org.mx/noticias/noticias001.html>, <https://www.gob.mx/sct>, <https://wecglobal.org/>, <https://ioewec.newsletter.ioe-emp.org/industrial-relations-and-labour-law-november-2020/news/>, <https://www.ilo.org/>, https://strabajo.edomex.gob.mx/capacitacion_trabajo, <https://icati.edomex.gob.mx/>

month of January dedicated to facilitating discussions on and providing digitization training for the construction sector.³²⁹² All attendees received a participation certificate from the University of the Ministry of Construction.³²⁹³

On 26 January 2021, the University of the Ministry of Construction announced a series of free online conferences for the month of February.³²⁹⁴ These webinars covered a range of topics, including “Artificial Intelligence for Solving the Problem of the Construction Industry” and “Information Modeling of Territorial Planning Projects and Legal Regulation in Digital Urban Planning.”³²⁹⁵ There were seven educational webinars hosted during the month of February. All attendees received a participation certificate from the University of the Ministry of Construction.³²⁹⁶

On 15 March 2021, the University of the Ministry of Construction and the City of Moscow’s Department of Urban Development Policy announced a “Digital Standards in Construction” conference to be held on 17-18 March 2021.³²⁹⁷ The conference focused on discussing state policies on the digitalisation of urban planning, implementation of BIM technologies in the construction process, and the implementation of “new educational standards in the construction industry.”³²⁹⁸ All attendees received a participation certificate from the University of the Ministry of Construction.³²⁹⁹

On 25 June 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved the allocation of RUB1.3 billion in grants towards the launch of intellectual training programs at the university level.³³⁰⁰ The funding will

³²⁹¹ Webinars on information modeling technologies in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-yanvare-na-ploshch/>

³²⁹² Webinars on information modeling technologies in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-yanvare-na-ploshch/>

³²⁹³ Webinars on information modeling technologies in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 January 2021. Date Accessed: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-yanvare-na-ploshch/>

³²⁹⁴ Webinars Building Information Modeling Technologies, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-fevrale-na-ploshch/>

³²⁹⁵ Webinars Building Information Modeling Technologies, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-fevrale-na-ploshch/>

³²⁹⁶ Webinars Building Information Modeling Technologies, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Date Accessed: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-fevrale-na-ploshch/>

³²⁹⁷ The introduction of digital standards in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vnedrenie-tsifrovyykh-standartov-v-stroitelstvo-obsudyat-na-konferentsii-v-moskve-17-18-marta/>

³²⁹⁸ The introduction of digital standards in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vnedrenie-tsifrovyykh-standartov-v-stroitelstvo-obsudyat-na-konferentsii-v-moskve-17-18-marta>

³²⁹⁹ The introduction of digital standards in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vnedrenie-tsifrovyykh-standartov-v-stroitelstvo-obsudyat-na-konferentsii-v-moskve-17-18-marta/>

³³⁰⁰ The government approved the rules for the provision of grants for the training of specialists in the field of intellectual property, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://government.ru/docs/42672/>

enable a minimum of 3,500 pedagogical and scientific workers to receive retraining in intellectual property and create “specialized disciplines” in 250 organizations.³³⁰¹ Moreover, the funding package will be provided to universities through 2021-2024.³³⁰²

On 6 July 2021, Education Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) met virtually and signed a joint declaration to improve their collaboration on education and research efforts with respect to Technical Vocational and Educational Training institutions.³³⁰³

On 18 August 2021, representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade attended a virtual meeting with their BRICS counterparts where they collectively reaffirmed their support for training, skilling, and reskilling policies.³³⁰⁴ Furthermore, the BRICS members emphasized “the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on advanced technical skills for reskilling and upskilling by exchanging experience and good practices through match-making workshops, seminars, and exchange programs to develop a practical framework for ensuring appropriate required skills and knowledge for Industrial development.”³³⁰⁵ Overall, the BRICS member committed to continuing their collective support for workers as one of several joint measures to achieve multilateral economic reform.³³⁰⁶

On 18 August 2021, BRICS Industry Ministers met virtually to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the industry and trade sectors.³³⁰⁷ During this meeting, the Ministers reiterated their commitment towards utilizing new technologies to “promote training and skills development of the related workforce and businesses through workshops, seminars, and exchange programs.”³³⁰⁸

On 31 August 2021, BRICS Youth Ministers met virtually to discuss youth interests and the need to implement measures to mitigate the challenges facing youth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³³⁰⁹ Further to this, the delegates reaffirmed their commitment towards continuing to skill youth through the utilization of technological tools, in addition to creating additional employment opportunities for youth.³³¹⁰

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through implementing training policies aimed at retraining workers to enter the field of intellectual property. The member, however, has failed to implement concrete actions towards reskilling its workforce.

³³⁰¹ The government approved the rules for the provision of grants for the training of specialists in the field of intellectual property, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://government.ru/docs/42672/>

³³⁰² The government approved the rules for the provision of grants for the training of specialists in the field of intellectual property, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://government.ru/docs/42672/>

³³⁰³ VIII BRICS Education Ministers’ Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-57.pdf>

³³⁰⁴ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³³⁰⁵ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³³⁰⁶ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³³⁰⁷ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³³⁰⁸ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³³⁰⁹ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³³¹⁰ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Tourang Movabedi

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling programs.

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Tourism's Human Capital Development Agency launched their "Your Future is in Tourism" campaign.³³¹¹ The campaign contributes to Saudi Arabia's goal to expand the country's tourism sector and create 100,000 industry jobs by the end of 2021.³³¹² The campaign offers various qualification and training programs to equip citizens both within in or newly entering the tourism sector with the necessary skills to meet international standards.³³¹³ These programs will help recent graduates gain "basic skills" and strengthen experienced workers' pre-existing skills within the sector.³³¹⁴

On 8 April 2021, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology announced the implementation of the Distance Cooperative Training Program.³³¹⁵ The program is intended to better prepare recent university graduates entering the workforce by providing said graduates with "educational and practical activities" such as counselling sessions and specialized courses.³³¹⁶ This program is focused on skill development in "communications and information technology."³³¹⁷ This program aims to help recent graduates obtain skills needed for the digital demands of the labour market.³³¹⁸

On 25 August 2021, Saudi Arabia announced a funding package of SAR4 billion in cooperation with several private sector actors to invest in a variety of digital initiatives.³³¹⁹ Most notably, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology announced the launch of a future skills camp,

³³¹¹ "Your Future is in Tourism" campaign meant to help create 1mln jobs for Saudis, ZAWYA (Dubai) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Your_Future_is_in_Tourism_campaign_meant_to_help_create_1mln_jobs_for_Saudis-ZAWYA20210320053615/

³³¹² "Your Future is in Tourism" campaign meant to help create 1mln jobs for Saudis, ZAWYA (Dubai) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Your_Future_is_in_Tourism_campaign_meant_to_help_create_1mln_jobs_for_Saudis-ZAWYA20210320053615/

³³¹³ Tourism Human Capital Development Programs, Ministry of Tourism (Riyadh) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eservices.taqat.sa/Eservices_Individual/ProgramDetails.aspx?Id=9

³³¹⁴ Tourism Human Capital Development Programs, Ministry of Tourism (Riyadh) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eservices.taqat.sa/Eservices_Individual/ProgramDetails.aspx?Id=9

³³¹⁵ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the "Distance Cooperative Training Program," Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

³³¹⁶ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the "Distance Cooperative Training Program," Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

³³¹⁷ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the "Distance Cooperative Training Program," Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

³³¹⁸ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the "Distance Cooperative Training Program," Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

³³¹⁹ Saudi Arabia to unveil Wednesday giant Tech initiatives for entrepreneurs, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/610162/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Arabia-to-unveil-Wednesday-giant-Tech-initiatives-for-entrepreneurs>

which will comprise of over 40 virtual training camps dedicated to teaching skills relevant to a variety of sectors and industries.³³²⁰

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by offering training to youth entering the workforce in tandem with reskilling programs for workers embarking on a new career.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aline Nayir

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 3 March 2021, the Minister for the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities introduced the National Youth Policy.³³²¹ The National Youth Policy is intended to support South African youth over the span of ten years.³³²² The first measures announced under the program include a basic income grant to ease youth unemployment rates, a national work-readiness training program, and an additional grant program to encourage youth entrepreneurship and foster over 100,000 young entrepreneurs within the next three years.³³²³

On 14 May 2021, Minister for Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande announced that the Department for Higher Education and Training has entered into a partnership with the German government to improve upon South Africa's skills training system.³³²⁴ Through this partnership, the South African government will adopt apprenticeship-based technical vocational education and training (TVET) colleges, similar to that of the system implemented in Germany.³³²⁵ In the German system, "more than half of German students enter dual vocational and educational training programs as a route into employment."³³²⁶ Moreover, students have access to select a program among 326 professional trades.³³²⁷ The purpose of this partnership is to utilize a structure of TVET to prepare

³³²⁰ Saudi Arabia to unveil Wednesday giant Tech initiatives for entrepreneurs, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/610162/SAUDI-ARABIA/Saudi-Arabia-to-unveil-Wednesday-giant-Tech-initiatives-for-entrepreneurs>

³³²¹ Basic income grant and removal of work experience requirements proposed for people under 35 in South Africa, Business Tech (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/472492/basic-income-grant-and-removal-of-work-experience-requirements-proposed-for-people-under-35-in-south-africa/>

³³²² Basic income grant and removal of work experience requirements proposed for people under 35 in South Africa, Business Tech (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/472492/basic-income-grant-and-removal-of-work-experience-requirements-proposed-for-people-under-35-in-south-africa/>

³³²³ Basic income grant and removal of work experience requirements proposed for people under 35 in South Africa, Business Tech (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/472492/basic-income-grant-and-removal-of-work-experience-requirements-proposed-for-people-under-35-in-south-africa/>

³³²⁴ South Africa to follow 'German system' for training workers: minister, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/490513/south-africa-to-follow-german-system-for-training-workers-minister/>

³³²⁵ South Africa to follow 'German system' for training workers: minister, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/490513/south-africa-to-follow-german-system-for-training-workers-minister/>

³³²⁶ South Africa to follow 'German system' for training workers: minister, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/490513/south-africa-to-follow-german-system-for-training-workers-minister/>

³³²⁷ South Africa to follow 'German system' for training workers: minister, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/490513/south-africa-to-follow-german-system-for-training-workers-minister/>

South African youth with the technical skills they need to obtain work, while also providing existing employees with the opportunity to upskill or reskill.³³²⁸ Moreover, the adoption of the TVET structure is intended to mitigate job loss and stimulate the South African economy in the wake of the economic challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.³³²⁹

On 5 June 2021, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu launched the Lulwazi Lwethu Youth Skills Centre in the Nyanga Township of Cape Town.³³³⁰ The centre will provide young people with the opportunity to engage in skills training programs and become prepared for entering the workforce.³³³¹ The Youth Skills Centre was opened in response to the high rate of youth unemployment in the state.³³³²

On 14 June 2021, President Cyril Ramphosa reaffirmed his government's commitment to address youth unemployment within South Africa.³³³³ Additionally, the President stated that "creating more opportunities for young people, and supporting young people to access these opportunities, is the government's foremost priority."³³³⁴ In order to tackle this issue, the President reaffirmed that the government would explore a variety of avenues, including further investments in skills development or implementing active labour market policies.³³³⁵ The President acknowledged that it was critical to not only reach as many young people as possible, but to do so in a rapid and timely manner.³³³⁶ In June 2021, Statistics South Africa reported that the youth (15-34 years) unemployment rate was 46.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2021.³³³⁷

³³²⁸ South Africa to follow 'German system' for training workers: minister, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/490513/south-africa-to-follow-german-system-for-training-workers-minister/>

³³²⁹ South Africa to follow 'German system' for training workers: minister, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/490513/south-africa-to-follow-german-system-for-training-workers-minister/>

³³³⁰ Minister Lindiwe Zulu opens Lulwazi Lethu youth skills centre in Nyanga, 5 June, South African Government (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zulu-officially-open-lulwazi-lethu-youth-skills-centre-nyanga-3-jun-2021-0000>

³³³¹ Minister Lindiwe Zulu opens Lulwazi Lethu youth skills centre in Nyanga, 5 June, South African Government (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zulu-officially-open-lulwazi-lethu-youth-skills-centre-nyanga-3-jun-2021-0000>

³³³² Minister Lindiwe Zulu opens Lulwazi Lethu youth skills centre in Nyanga, 5 June, South African Government (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zulu-officially-open-lulwazi-lethu-youth-skills-centre-nyanga-3-jun-2021-0000>

³³³³ Ramaphosa on South Africa's 46% youth unemployment problem, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/498177/ramaphosa-on-south-africas-46-youth-unemployment-problem/>

³³³⁴ Ramaphosa on South Africa's 46% youth unemployment problem, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/498177/ramaphosa-on-south-africas-46-youth-unemployment-problem/>

³³³⁵ Ramaphosa on South Africa's 46% youth unemployment problem, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/498177/ramaphosa-on-south-africas-46-youth-unemployment-problem/>

³³³⁶ Ramaphosa on South Africa's 46% youth unemployment problem, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/498177/ramaphosa-on-south-africas-46-youth-unemployment-problem/>

³³³⁷ Ramaphosa on South Africa's 46% youth unemployment problem, Business Tech (Pretoria) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/498177/ramaphosa-on-south-africas-46-youth-unemployment-problem/>

On 6 July 2021, Education Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) met virtually and signed a joint declaration to improve their collaboration on education and research efforts with respect to TVET institutions.³³³⁸

On 14 July 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that the government entered into a joint agreement with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As part of this agreement, the member will collaborate with the UNDP to upskill youth and women in skills pertaining to the automotive sector.³³³⁹ The agreement intends to enhance vocational training and economic empowerment through skills development and intensified training at TVET colleges.³³⁴⁰

On 18 August 2021, representatives from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Competition attended a virtual meeting with their BRICS counterparts where they collectively reaffirmed their support for training, skilling, and reskilling policies.³³⁴¹ Furthermore, the BRICS members emphasized “the importance of strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on advanced technical skills for reskilling and upskilling by exchanging experience and good practices through match-making workshops, seminars, and exchange programs to develop a practical framework for ensuring appropriate required skills and knowledge for Industrial development.”³³⁴² Overall, the BRICS member committed to continuing their collective support for workers as one of several joint measures to achieve multilateral economic reform.³³⁴³

On 18 August 2021, BRICS Industry Ministers met virtually to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the industry and trade sectors.³³⁴⁴ During this meeting, the Ministers reiterated their commitment towards utilizing new technologies to “promote training and skills development of the related workforce and businesses through workshops, seminars, and exchange programs.”³³⁴⁵

On 31 August 2021, BRICS Youth Ministers met virtually to discuss youth interests and the need to implement measures to mitigate the challenges facing youth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³³⁴⁶ Further to this, the delegates reaffirmed their commitment towards continuing to skill youth through the utilization of technological tools, in addition to creating additional employment opportunities for youth.³³⁴⁷

³³³⁸ VIII BRICS Education Ministers’ Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-57.pdf>

³³³⁹ SA signs agreement with United Nations Development Programme to improve critical skills, IOL (Pretoria) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/careers/sa-signs-agreement-with-united-nations-development-programme-to-improve-critical-skills-41463c64-3a46-5ef9-b4ce-59ad53b3109f>

³³⁴⁰ SA signs agreement with United Nations Development Programme to improve critical skills, IOL (Pretoria) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/careers/sa-signs-agreement-with-united-nations-development-programme-to-improve-critical-skills-41463c64-3a46-5ef9-b4ce-59ad53b3109f>

³³⁴¹ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³³⁴² BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³³⁴³ BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration 2021, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-37.pdf>

³³⁴⁴ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³³⁴⁵ 5th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/presspdf/press-77.pdf>

³³⁴⁶ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

³³⁴⁷ Joint Statement of BRICS Ministers Responsible for Youth, BRICS India 2021 (New Delhi) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://brics2021.gov.in/brics/public/uploads/docpdf/getdocu-36.pdf>

On 31 August 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that South Africa’s “universities and colleges are in the process of adapting their curricula to be relevant to skills required by South Africa and the rest of the world.”³³⁴⁸ The curricula alignment will support skills development and job creation with the aim of preparing graduates to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to obtain permanent employment.³³⁴⁹ The change in curricula offerings is intended to bring the curricula offered in TVET universities in alignment with domestic and international labour market demands, while the curricula offered in TVET colleges will become aligned with local employer and community needs.³³⁵⁰

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to continue supporting workers by reworking their TVET colleges, promoting youth skills training and entrepreneurship, launching the Lulwazi Lwethu Youth Skills Centre, committing to support upskilling and training for women, and updating university and college curricula to support skills development and job creation.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dorottya Szekeley

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Education announced it will be accepting internship applications from university students for the nation’s Internship Mobilization Project as of 2021.³³⁵¹ An online portal was created to deliver accessible information about youth internship opportunities and gaining merit and proficiency in employment.³³⁵² The education ministry also cooperated with vocational high schools to increase the production capacity of the schools despite the COVID-19 pandemic.³³⁵³

On 17 December 2020, the EU delegation to Turkey signed the last eight contracts under the “Facility for Refugees in Turkey,” with monetary aid to be used by Turkey to assist refugee projects.³³⁵⁴ The country has allocated funding for technical education, vocational training, private sector employment, and entrepreneur enterprises to support refugees.³³⁵⁵

³³⁴⁸ Universities are updating their courses to help address South Africa’s skills shortage, Business Tech (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/517384/universities-are-updating-their-courses-to-help-address-south-africas-skills-shortage/>

³³⁴⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, South African Government (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-higher-education-science-and-innovation-statement-scarce-critical-skills-and>

³³⁵⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, South African Government (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-higher-education-science-and-innovation-statement-scarce-critical-skills-and>

³³⁵¹ Vocational High School Aim 1 Billion Lira Production, TR Ministry of Education (Ankara) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/meslek-liseleri-bu-yil-1-milyar-lira-uretim-geliri-hedefliyor/icerik/2879>

³³⁵² Vocational High School Aim 1 Billion Lira Production, TR Ministry of Education (Ankara) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/meslek-liseleri-bu-yil-1-milyar-lira-uretim-geliri-hedefliyor/icerik/2879>

³³⁵³ Internship Applications Started Within the Scope of Internship Mobilization Project, TR Ministry of Education (Ankara) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/staj-seferberligi-projesi-kapsaminda-staj-basvurulari-basladi/icerik/2819>

³³⁵⁴ EU finishes contracting \$7.3B refugee deal with Turkey, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-finishes-contracting-73b-refugee-deal-with-turkey/2080358>

³³⁵⁵ EU finishes contracting \$7.3B refugee deal with Turkey, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-finishes-contracting-73b-refugee-deal-with-turkey/2080358>

On 27 January 2021, Turkey's efforts at refugee job protection were also acknowledged at the closing event of the "Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System" in Ankara.³³⁵⁶ Co-financed by Turkey and implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the project has allowed Turkey to enroll 678 people in a variety of job training programs throughout the past three years.³³⁵⁷

On 28 April 2021, Deputy Minister of National Education Mahmut Özer chaired a meeting to discuss next steps for the ongoing projects aimed at integrating Syrian refugees into the workforce through vocational training.³³⁵⁸ The meeting evaluated improvements in technical education projects and vocational training centres.³³⁵⁹ Through the ministry's ongoing projects, the Turkish government aims to increase the per cent of Syrian trainees in these centres from 2 per cent to 10 per cent.³³⁶⁰

On 28 June 2021, the Ministry of National Education announced a change to bolster the enrolment of refugees in job training programs.³³⁶¹ In particular, the Ministry confirmed that it will eliminate the previously required Turkish language proficiency certification for Syrians under the status of temporary protection who apply for vocational classes.³³⁶² The highly demanded change is expected to remove the language barrier that exists within the Turkish workforce.³³⁶³

On 18 August 2021, the Ministry of National Education provided an update regarding the 1000 Schools in Vocational Education Project.³³⁶⁴ Minister of National Education Mahmut Özer chaired a review meeting of the project where he announced that the project had hosted 40,466 professional development training programs for teachers and that 99,474 teachers attended said programs.³³⁶⁵ The project was initially launched in September 2020 and pursued throughout 2020-2021 with a funding allocation of LIR820 million.³³⁶⁶ The milestones achieved through the project are part of the

³³⁵⁶ Closing Event of the Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System Project, UNHCR (Ankara) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/27161-closing-event-of-the-reinforcement-of-turkeys-national-asylum-system-project.html>

³³⁵⁷ Closing Event of the Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System Project, UNHCR (Ankara) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/27161-closing-event-of-the-reinforcement-of-turkeys-national-asylum-system-project.html>

³³⁵⁸ Access of Syrian Refugees to Vocational Education Centers Will Be Provided for Their Social and Economic Integration, Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education (Ankara) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.meb.gov.tr/access-of-syrian-refugees-to-vocational-education-centers-will-be-provided-for-their-social-and-economic-integration/haber/23098/en>

³³⁵⁹ Syrian refugees in Turkey receive vocational training, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syrian-refugees-in-turkey-receive-vocational-training/2223451>

³³⁶⁰ Syrian refugees in Turkey receive vocational training, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syrian-refugees-in-turkey-receive-vocational-training/2223451>

³³⁶¹ Turkey Eases Vocational Training Challenge for Syrian Refugees, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/education/turkey-eases-vocational-training-challenge-for-syrian-refugees>

³³⁶² Turkey Eases Vocational Training Challenge for Syrian Refugees, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/education/turkey-eases-vocational-training-challenge-for-syrian-refugees>

³³⁶³ Turkey Eases Vocational Training Challenge for Syrian Refugees, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/education/turkey-eases-vocational-training-challenge-for-syrian-refugees>

³³⁶⁴ 820 million Liras support to 100 schools in vocational education project, Ministry of National Education (Istanbul) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.meb.gov.tr/820-million-liras-support-to-1000-schools-in-vocational-education-project/haber/23864/en>

³³⁶⁵ 820 million Liras support to 100 schools in vocational education project, Ministry of National Education (Istanbul) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.meb.gov.tr/820-million-liras-support-to-1000-schools-in-vocational-education-project/haber/23864/en>

³³⁶⁶ 820 million Liras support to 100 schools in vocational education project, Ministry of National Education (Istanbul) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.meb.gov.tr/820-million-liras-support-to-1000-schools-in-vocational-education-project/haber/23864/en>

member's broader initiative to promote training programs and vocational education centres throughout Turkey.³³⁶⁷

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through implementing training policies. The member has invested in measures aimed at providing vocational training and support for entrepreneurship for refugees, along with an internship program aimed at training and preparing youth for the workforce. Turkey, however, has yet to take action towards implementing reskilling policies.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nouran El Atreby

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 9 December 2020, the Department of Education provided an update that approximately 400 free courses “will be available to adults without a full qualification at Level 3 (A-level equivalent) from April 2021 to help them gain in-demand skills and open up further job opportunities.”³³⁶⁸ This initiative is a part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee program that was first announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson in September 2020.³³⁶⁹ The Lifetime Skills Guarantee program is intended to provide an accessible avenue for adults to gain employable skills and improve their opportunities for securing or upgrading their employment.³³⁷⁰

On 9 December 2020, the Department of Education provided an update about the expansion of the free skills boot camps facilitated by an increase of GBP43 million in funding for the program.³³⁷¹ The initiative is part of the broader Lifetime Skills Guarantee program.³³⁷² The boot camps are 12 to 16 weeks in length and offer courses on digital and technical skills.³³⁷³ Moreover, the bootcamps are designed to help participants gain skills specific to their desired sector of employment and improve their likelihood of securing an employment interview.³³⁷⁴ The additional funding “will enable greater

³³⁶⁷ 820 million Liras support to 100 schools in vocational education project, Ministry of National Education (Istanbul) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.meb.gov.tr/820-million-liras-support-to-1000-schools-in-vocational-education-project/haber/23864/en>

³³⁶⁸ Adults to gain new skills on 400 free courses, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adults-to-gain-new-skills-on-400-free-courses>

³³⁶⁹ Major expansion of post-18 education and training to level up and prepare workers for post-COVID economy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-expansion-of-post-18-education-and-training-to-level-up-and-prepare-workers-for-post-covid-economy>

³³⁷⁰ Adults to gain new skills on 400 free courses, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adults-to-gain-new-skills-on-400-free-courses>

³³⁷¹ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

³³⁷² Major expansion of post-18 education and training to level up and prepare workers for post-COVID economy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-expansion-of-post-18-education-and-training-to-level-up-and-prepare-workers-for-post-covid-economy>

³³⁷³ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

³³⁷⁴ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

availability across the country and a wider range of course subjects on offer to meet the skills needs of local areas.”³³⁷⁵

On 3 March 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced that the government is providing an additional GBP126 million in funding for their Plan for Jobs program.³³⁷⁶ This funding will be used to establish an additional 40,000 traineeships and enable businesses to hire apprentices by paying businesses a GBP3,000 incentive for each apprentice hired, double the original amount offered to businesses.³³⁷⁷

On 11 May 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson presented a set of legislative measures to further support pandemic recovery, guarantee that workers have access to equal opportunities, and build upon the progress initially established by the Lifetime Skills Guarantee program.³³⁷⁸ Such new measures include the establishment of a “statutory role” for employers to participate in the Skills Accelerator program and assist in planning publicly-funded training program, the creation of a new and more flexible student loans program, and the granting of greater authority to the Secretary of State for Education to intervene in post-secondary institutions that do not address local needs.³³⁷⁹

On 18 May 2021, the Prime Minister’s Skills and Post-16 Education Bill was presented in Parliament.³³⁸⁰ The purpose of the Bill is to create additional pathways for workers to enter skilled professions.³³⁸¹

On 1 June 2021, the Department for Education announced that employers of all sizes can apply for up to EUR3000 in additional funding for each new apprentice hired.³³⁸² The measure was initially introduced in the 2021 Budget presented on 3 March 2021 and open to applications as of 1 June 2021.³³⁸³ The purpose of this incentive is to encourage employers to create more jobs and provide greater opportunities for workers to gain skills and develop their talent.³³⁸⁴

³³⁷⁵ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

³³⁷⁶ Budget 2021 sets path for recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-sets-path-for-recovery>

³³⁷⁷ Budget 2021 sets path for recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-sets-path-for-recovery>

³³⁷⁸ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

³³⁷⁹ Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

³³⁸⁰ New legislation to help transform opportunities for all, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legislation-to-help-transform-opportunities-for-all>

³³⁸¹ New legislation to help transform opportunities for all, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legislation-to-help-transform-opportunities-for-all>

³³⁸² Cash boost for apprenticeships launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-for-apprenticeships-launched>

³³⁸³ Cash boost for apprenticeships launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-for-apprenticeships-launched>

³³⁸⁴ Cash boost for apprenticeships launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-for-apprenticeships-launched>

On 11 June 2021, the Department for Education announced a series of initiatives to train and upskill workers and to also improve accessibility for adults to access alternatives to university degrees.³³⁸⁵ Firstly, the government will allocate up to EUR10 million for Institutes of Technology to create technical modular courses aimed at educating participants about a wide variety of STEM professions, including engineering, manufacturing, and construction.³³⁸⁶ These courses aim to engage adults and provide the opportunity for workers to reskill or upskill.³³⁸⁷ In addition, the government also announced an allocation of EUR2 million towards the creation of training modular courses dedicated to training and reskilling employees in the high value manufacturing sector.³³⁸⁸ Finally, the government also announced the launch of Growth Fund, to which they allocated EUR18 million.³³⁸⁹ The Growth Fund intends to encourage higher education providers to expand their trainings and course offerings for technical education by providing the necessary equipment and private-sector partnerships.³³⁹⁰ Through key investments in equipment and private-sector partnerships, the intended outcome is to improve upon the training provided, learning outcomes, and enhance the skills gained by students.³³⁹¹

On 15 July 2021, the Department for Education announced the expansion of their Skills Bootcamp program to offer 16,000 additional fully funded placements for adults to train or upskill through the program.³³⁹² The government intends to address a wide range of sectors by providing trainings in green skills, coding, and software development.³³⁹³

On 3 August 2021, the Department for Education, Department for Digital Culture, Media, and Sport, and Her Majesty's Treasury jointly announced the launch of a EUR7 million fund to support the implementation of apprenticeships in sectors including the cultural, agricultural, and construction sectors.³³⁹⁴ As part of the announcement, the fund will setup several agencies that will help establish apprenticeship opportunities at the local level and collaborate with employees to help workers gain

³³⁸⁵ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁸⁶ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁸⁷ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁸⁸ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁸⁹ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁹⁰ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁹¹ More high-quality degree alternatives to boost adult skills and job prospects, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-high-quality-degree-alternatives-to-boost-adult-skills-and-job-prospects>

³³⁹² Skills training boosted across the country, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

³³⁹³ Skills training boosted across the country, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

³³⁹⁴ Cash boost to create new flexible approach to apprenticeships, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-to-create-new-flexible-approach-to-apprenticeships>

the skills they need.³³⁹⁵ The funds will be available for the fiscal years of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, during which organizations can apply for funding ranging from EUR100,000 to EUR1 million to establish said regional agencies.³³⁹⁶

On 6 September 2021, the Department of Education announced the EUR10 million extension of its early years professional development program (PDP) to approximately 50 local authorities throughout England in the 2021-2022 academic year.³³⁹⁷ The PDP will provide high-quality online learning for early years staff to help further their professional development and improve learning outcomes for children in the subjects of math and language.³³⁹⁸ Overall, the PDP aims to strengthen the early years curriculum and “close the gap for disadvantaged children.”³³⁹⁹

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. The United Kingdom has invested in and implemented a number of measures aimed at supporting the retraining and upskilling of workers in a variety of sectors. Moreover, these targeted investments aim to prevent job loss, create additional jobs in key sectors, increase job accessibility, and ensure an equitable economic recovery.

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

Analyst: Bubneet Dhillon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment towards supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 14 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will award USD40 million to fund training programs in the healthcare sector as part of the H1B Rural Healthcare Grant Program.³⁴⁰⁰ The announcement notes that employers in the healthcare sector, non-profit healthcare organizations affiliated with medical facilities, healthcare industry and/or occupation associations and similar entities are eligible to receive the grant.³⁴⁰¹ Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training John Pallasch described the action as aiming to provide “more and better trained healthcare workers” to underserved rural areas, while also “boosting economic opportunity.”³⁴⁰²

³³⁹⁵ Cash boost to create new flexible approach to apprenticeships, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-to-create-new-flexible-approach-to-apprenticeships>

³³⁹⁶ Cash boost to create new flexible approach to apprenticeships, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-to-create-new-flexible-approach-to-apprenticeships>

³³⁹⁷ Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

³³⁹⁸ Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

³³⁹⁹ Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

³⁴⁰⁰ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$40 Million to Address Rural Health Care Workforce Shortages, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210114-0>

³⁴⁰¹ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$40 Million to Address Rural Health Care Workforce Shortages, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210114-0>

³⁴⁰² U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$40 Million to Address Rural Health Care Workforce Shortages, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210114-0>

On 15 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will allocate USD40 million to community colleges through the Strengthening Community College Training Grants program to increase their capacity to train workers for entering the labour market.³⁴⁰³ This action aims to help unemployed workers find employment by providing training, especially in “critical industries, such as health care, logistics and cybersecurity.”³⁴⁰⁴ Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training John Pallasch described the action as aiming to “help workers to reskill with industry-recognized credentials and accelerated pathways to degrees.”³⁴⁰⁵

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will invest USD145 million in funding for reskilling and training programs as part of the H-1B One Workforce Grant Program.³⁴⁰⁶ This action aims to reskill current workers and train new workers for “critical industries, such as IT, advanced manufacturing and transportation.”³⁴⁰⁷ Assistant Secretary Pallasch described the action as reflecting One Workforce’s larger goal of creating “pathways for local job seekers to enter middle- to high-skilled occupations.”³⁴⁰⁸

On 31 March 2021, the White House announced the launch of President Joseph Biden’s American Jobs Plan, which includes a commitment to investing in workforce development.³⁴⁰⁹ Although no further actions have yet to be implemented in accordance with the plan, the plan itself calls on Congress to invest in worker training, including a USD40 billion investment “in a new Dislocated Workers Program and sector-based training.”³⁴¹⁰

On 9 April 2021, the White House announced President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2022 Discretionary Funding Request, which includes a commitment to investing in workforce development.³⁴¹¹ Although the budget will not come into effect until 1 October 2021, the budget plans to invest in worker training and reskilling, including a USD3.7 billion investment in “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grants to make training available to dislocated workers, low-income adults and disadvantaged youth hurt by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.”³⁴¹²

On 29 June 2021, the Department of Labor announced an investment of approximately USD43 million towards grants for workers disproportionately affected by the economic challenges brought

³⁴⁰³ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>

³⁴⁰⁴ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>

³⁴⁰⁵ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>

³⁴⁰⁶ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>

³⁴⁰⁷ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>

³⁴⁰⁸ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>

³⁴⁰⁹ Fact Sheet: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

³⁴¹⁰ Fact Sheet: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

³⁴¹¹ The President’s FY 2022 Discretionary Request, The White House (Washington) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FY2022-Discretionary-Request.pdf>

³⁴¹² The President’s FY 2022 Discretionary Request, The White House (Washington) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FY2022-Discretionary-Request.pdf>

upon by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴¹³ The grants will be managed by the Employment and Training Administration department and distributed to workers through the Equitable Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants program.³⁴¹⁴ The grants will primarily be targeted towards workers who are from “historically marginalized communities or groups, and those unemployed for an extended period or who have exhausted unemployment insurance or other pandemic unemployment insurance programs”.³⁴¹⁵ Applicants may choose to either develop “comprehensive workforce services – including career, training and supportive services – to help participants gain employment” or “purchase, build or expand virtual technology platforms, software systems, or services for job search, career guidance, training or other allowable activities.”³⁴¹⁶ The purpose of the grants is to assist workers in re-entering the workforce and further stimulate economic recovery.³⁴¹⁷

On 15 July 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will allocate USD92.6 million towards the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers Program.³⁴¹⁸ The program provides funding for both training and reskilling programs, in addition to financial supports for individuals enrolled in the training process.³⁴¹⁹ The purpose of this program is to help workers whose employment has been negatively impacted by foreign trade through providing training opportunities for said workers to transition into new employment.³⁴²⁰ Furthermore, this program aims to ensure an equitable economic recovery as a result of the economic challenges brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴²¹

On 19 August 2021, the Department of Labor announced that the allocation of funding for the Equitable Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants had been increased to 90 million USD. The grants are intended to provide identified workers with the training they need to re-

³⁴¹³ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$43M in Funds to Support Reemployment of Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210629>

³⁴¹⁴ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$43M in Funds to Support Reemployment of Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210629>

³⁴¹⁵ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$43M in Funds to Support Reemployment of Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210629>

³⁴¹⁶ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$43M in Funds to Support Reemployment of Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210629>

³⁴¹⁷ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$43M in Funds to Support Reemployment of Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210629>

³⁴¹⁸ U.S. Department of Labor Announces More Than \$92M in Funding for Training, Employment Services, Wage Subsidies for Workers Harmed by Foreign Trade, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210715-0>

³⁴¹⁹ U.S. Department of Labor Announces More Than \$92M in Funding for Training, Employment Services, Wage Subsidies for Workers Harmed by Foreign Trade, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210715-0>

³⁴²⁰ U.S. Department of Labor Announces More Than \$92M in Funding for Training, Employment Services, Wage Subsidies for Workers Harmed by Foreign Trade, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210715-0>

³⁴²¹ U.S. Department of Labor Announces More Than \$92M in Funding for Training, Employment Services, Wage Subsidies for Workers Harmed by Foreign Trade, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210715-0>

enter the job market.³⁴²² Moreover, the purpose of these grants is for the government to “ensure an equitable recovery” by providing supports for workers who have been disproportionately affected by the economic challenges brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴²³

On 25 August 2021, the Department of Labor announced that they awarded USD22 million of a total of USD90 million allocated towards the Equitable Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants program.³⁴²⁴

On 10 September 2021, the Department of Labor announced funding availability towards the expansion of the registered apprenticeship programs in industries heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴²⁵ As part of this funding availability, the Employment and Training Administration department requested proposals from intermediaries “looking to expand apprenticeship opportunities in industries affected disproportionately by the pandemic, increase opportunities for under-represented populations and leverage existing resources to support and sustain Registered Apprenticeship programs at the local and national level.”³⁴²⁶ The funding will be allocated for industries such as the care economy sector, transportation sector, supply chains, and electric power generation, transmission, and distribution.³⁴²⁷

The U.S. has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. It has done so by funding both public and private sector initiatives to provide training and reskilling opportunities to current and future workers, in addition to workers disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

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

Analyst: Alexander Trachsell

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 24 November 2020, the Council of the EU ratified a recommendation on vocational education and training for “Sustainable Competitiveness, Social Fairness and Resilience.”³⁴²⁸ This measure highlights the reforms necessary for building the lifelong systems required to support a resilient

³⁴²² U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$90M in Grants to support Training, Employment, Services for Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210819-0>

³⁴²³ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$90M in Grants to support Training, Employment, Services for Workers Displaced by the Pandemic, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210819-0>

³⁴²⁴ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$22M in grants for Training, Employment Services to Workers Displaced by Pandemic’s Impacts, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210825>

³⁴²⁵ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Available Funding to Promote, Develop, Expand Registered Apprenticeship in Critical, Non-Traditional Industries, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210910>

³⁴²⁶ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Available Funding to Promote, Develop, Expand Registered Apprenticeship in Critical, Non-Traditional Industries, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210910>

³⁴²⁷ U.S. Department of Labor Announces Available Funding to Promote, Develop, Expand Registered Apprenticeship in Critical, Non-Traditional Industries, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 20 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210910>

³⁴²⁸ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training_vet_en

labour market in Europe.³⁴²⁹ The recommendation includes the support for granting additional funding to the Centres of Vocational Excellence, an institution that coordinates with local partners such as employers, research centres, and development agencies, to develop “skills ecosystems,” that aid in regional worker development.³⁴³⁰ The Centres of Vocation Excellence aim to provide jobseekers and existing employees with the skills and training needed by local employers.³⁴³¹

Starting in 2021, the European Commission sector on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion released funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling workers, accessible through financial intermediaries, national authorities, and the European Commission.³⁴³² As part of the package of funding instruments, a program called “InvestEU” was created to provide social investment and offer its participants a skills-based curriculum that will encompass the demand and supply aspect of acquiring in-demand skills. This program is targeted towards students and learners, small and medium sized enterprises, and instructors.³⁴³³ The expected budget from 2021-2027 for the program is EUR26.2 billion.³⁴³⁴ The European Commission is also offering grants through the ESF + EaSI Strand, with a dedicated budget of EUR676 million to be released throughout 2021-2027.³⁴³⁵ This grant program offers “support for innovative approaches in the field of upskilling and reskilling.”³⁴³⁶ The European Commission is incentivizing member states to fund public and private initiatives toward training and reskilling the workforce.³⁴³⁷

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission released the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. This Action Plan outlines 20 key principles for “fair and well-functioning labour markets” and “proposes headline targets for the EU to reach by 2030.”³⁴³⁸ The three EU targets to reach by 2030 are to have 78 per cent of the population aged 20 to 64 employed by 2030, 60 per cent of adults participating in training every year by 2030 and the reduction of at least 15 million people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.³⁴³⁹ The Action Plan lays out quarterly deadlines regarding upskilling to be met during the current mandate which extends until the end of 2024.³⁴⁴⁰

³⁴²⁹ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training-vet_en

³⁴³⁰ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training-vet_en

³⁴³¹ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training-vet_en

³⁴³² EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁴³³ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁴³⁴ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁴³⁵ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁴³⁶ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁴³⁷ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

³⁴³⁸ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

³⁴³⁹ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

³⁴⁴⁰ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

On 4 March 2021, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis reflected on the Action Plan as he called for an investment in “high-quality and inclusive education, training, skills and innovation.”³⁴⁴¹ He called for EU members to look at how to invest in training and skills development, specifically, digital skills, as the EU copes with the new realities brought on by COVID-19.³⁴⁴² Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis also called on Member States to develop policy packages that combine temporary and permanent measures to address the labour market challenges caused by the pandemic.³⁴⁴³ These initiatives should reflect hiring and transition incentives, initiatives to boost up-skilling and re-skilling, and improving employment services.³⁴⁴⁴

On 22 April 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation regarding the subject of life-long learning.³⁴⁴⁵ In an effort to build a diverse and sustainable workforce, the European Commission is considering the implementation of short, targeted learning courses to help workers gain accredited “micro-credentials.”³⁴⁴⁶ The goal of this initiative is to improve job opportunities by creating formal learning courses for workers to gain the skills demanded of them by the rapidly-evolving job market.³⁴⁴⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic, along with the green and digital transitions, have highlighted the necessity for up-skilling and re-skilling as a means of ensuring that citizens can fully participate in society and reach their fullest professional potential.³⁴⁴⁸ These goals are in unison with the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.³⁴⁴⁹

On 27 April 2021, Minister Bruno Le Maire and German Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz held a joint press conference regarding their national recovery and resilience plans. France and Germany announced plans for the EU to invest EUR750 billion towards support vocational training programs as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.³⁴⁵⁰ The National Recovery and Resilience Plan

³⁴⁴¹ Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

³⁴⁴² Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

³⁴⁴³ Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

³⁴⁴⁴ Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

³⁴⁴⁵ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁴⁶ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁴⁷ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁴⁸ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁴⁹ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁵⁰ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

details plans on the allocation of funds provided by the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility.³⁴⁵¹

On 28 April 2021, the European Commission launched an additional public consultation forum in regards to individual learning accounts, which is a training incentive program that grants individuals training whether be spent on “quality-assured training, guidance, or validation services.”³⁴⁵² The public consultation was conducted via online survey to promote organizations and private citizens to share their opinions on whether or not individual learning accounts are effective in helping adults learn necessary job skills.³⁴⁵³

On 25 June 2021, the European Commission announced the adoption of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy Legislative Package by the European Parliament.³⁴⁵⁴ The legislation comprises of EUR373 billion in funding for social, climate change, and economic policies identified through the European Social Fund Plus, Common Provisions Regulation, Just Transition Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund Regulation, and Interreg.³⁴⁵⁵ Notably, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Nicolas Schmit stated that “The European Social Fund Plus invests in people. It helps workers to re-skill and up-skill, to be ready for the transition to a green and digital economy.”³⁴⁵⁶ This package places an emphasis upon the need for digital and green skills training for workers to meet evolving economic demands.³⁴⁵⁷

On 1 July 2021, the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy Legislative Package came into effect.³⁴⁵⁸

On 1 July 2021, the European Commission endorsed Slovenia's EUR2.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, established to embrace green and digital transformations to strength economic resilience. Of the funds administered, the Commission found that EUR114 million would be devoted to strengthening digital skills of students, employees, and public servants.³⁴⁵⁹ The plan also includes investments to reduce the digital divide through strengthening digital skills at all levels of the education system, life-long learners, and the workforce, particularly healthcare workers.³⁴⁶⁰ The

³⁴⁵¹ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Maire and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

³⁴⁵² Individual learning accounts: public consultation launched, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1511&newsId=9994&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁵³ Individual learning accounts: public consultation launched, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1511&newsId=9994&furtherNews=yes>

³⁴⁵⁴ Commission welcomes the adoption of €373 billion Cohesion policy legislative package 2021-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3058

³⁴⁵⁵ Commission welcomes the adoption of €373 billion Cohesion policy legislative package 2021-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3058

³⁴⁵⁶ Commission welcomes the adoption of €373 billion Cohesion policy legislative package 2021-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3058

³⁴⁵⁷ Commission welcomes the adoption of €373 billion Cohesion policy legislative package 2021-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3058

³⁴⁵⁸ New Cohesion legislation has entered into force on 1 July, Association of European Border Regions (Gronau) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.aebr.eu/new-cohesion-legislation-enters-into-force-on-1-july/>

³⁴⁵⁹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Slovenia's €2.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3330

³⁴⁶⁰ Questions and answers: European Commission endorses Slovenia's €2.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3331

Commission considers Slovenian plan to address both social and economic challenges brought on by COVID-19.³⁴⁶¹

On 2 July 2021, the European Commission endorsed Lithuania's EUR2.2 billion recovery and resilience plan. This plan has a stated intention to improve the modernize healthcare facilities through general education, vocational training, adult learning, and increased funding of higher education. Lithuania's plan allocates 32 per cent of its funding to digital transition, aimed to support private and public sector, skills and connectivity to increase the competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy.³⁴⁶²

On 8 July 2021, the European Commission endorsed Croatia's recovery and resilience plan. Croatia's plan includes support for new labour market policies, through helping people develop green and digital skills. Croatia also proposed EUR789 million toward public and private building renovations and the upskilling and education of workers in the energy and post-earthquake renovation sector.³⁴⁶³

On 8 July 2021, the European Commission endorsed Cyprus's EUR1.2 billion recovery and resilience plan. The plan contributes 23 per cent of the EUR1.2 billion toward digital transition through training teachers and implementing skills training programs for the broader community.³⁴⁶⁴ Furthermore, the plan seeks to improve education and training through reforming secondary school curricula, establishing vocational education and training schools and introducing a higher education graduate tracking system to address skill mismatches. These plans are made with the intention of improving the quality and resiliency of the labour market, through improving digital literacy, soft skills, and entrepreneurship skills of the workforce.³⁴⁶⁵

On 13 July 2021, the European Council adopted the proposals set forth by the European Commission to disburse the first round of resilience and recovery grants to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain.³⁴⁶⁶ This first round of grants will serve as pre-financing for each member's recovery and resilience plan.³⁴⁶⁷ Upon satisfactory completion of targets as determined by the Council, each member will be eligible for further funding.³⁴⁶⁸ Overall, the EU has allocated EUR672.5 billion in funding for its

³⁴⁶¹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Slovenia's €2.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3330

³⁴⁶² Questions and answers: European Commission endorses Lithuania's €2.2 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3369

³⁴⁶³ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Croatia's recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3487

³⁴⁶⁴ Questions and answers: European Commission endorses Cyprus's €1.2 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3486

³⁴⁶⁵ Questions and answers: European Commission endorses Cyprus's €1.2 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3486

³⁴⁶⁶ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

³⁴⁶⁷ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

³⁴⁶⁸ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

members' recovery and resilience plans.³⁴⁶⁹ Several of the individual plans commit to funding vocational training, apprenticeships, and skilling, upskilling, and reskilling programs.³⁴⁷⁰ The plans are part of the EU's broader NextGenerationEU (NGEU) fund, which is a stimulus package to assist the members of the EU with their post-COVID-19 recovery.³⁴⁷¹

On 16 July 2021, the European Commission endorsed Ireland's recovery and resilience plan.³⁴⁷² Ireland's plan will allocate 32 per cent of total funding toward digital transition measures; specifically, digital upskilling in public administration, school administration and private businesses.³⁴⁷³

On 19 July 2021, the European Commission endorsed Czechia's EUR7 billion recovery and resilience plan. Czechia's plan will allocated 22 per cent of total funding towards digital skills education, with a focus on upskilling and reskilling programs.³⁴⁷⁴

On 29 July 2021, the European Commission approved EUR4.7 billion in funding to Spain as part of the Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU) plan.³⁴⁷⁵ Through this funding instrument, the EU will grant EUR3.7 billion to Spain to support employment in industries hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁷⁶ Most notably, Spain will invest in vocational training opportunities for students in higher education and skills development provided by municipalities and non-profit organizations for individuals seeking employment in Castilla – La Mancha.³⁴⁷⁷ As well, the EU will fund vocational and professional training systems in Cantabria, launch a vocational training centre in Melilla, and invest in vocational education and training programs in Ceuta.³⁴⁷⁸

On 29 July 2021, European Union and its Member States attended the Global Education Summit as Team Europe and reaffirmed their commitment towards investing in skills training for teachers and ensuring adequate skills training for future workers.³⁴⁷⁹ As part of this commitment, Team Europe

³⁴⁶⁹ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

³⁴⁷⁰ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

³⁴⁷¹ Recovery plan for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en

³⁴⁷² NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Ireland's recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/el/ip_21_3727

³⁴⁷³ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Ireland's recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/el/ip_21_3727

³⁴⁷⁴ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Czechia's €7 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3745

³⁴⁷⁵ EU Cohesion policy: €3.7 billion from REACT-EU to support measures for recovery and digital and green transition in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3867

³⁴⁷⁶ EU Cohesion policy: €3.7 billion from REACT-EU to support measures for recovery and digital and green transition in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3867

³⁴⁷⁷ EU Cohesion policy: €3.7 billion from REACT-EU to support measures for recovery and digital and green transition in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3867

³⁴⁷⁸ EU Cohesion policy: €3.7 billion from REACT-EU to support measures for recovery and digital and green transition in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3867

³⁴⁷⁹ Global Education Summit: Team Europe pledges leading contribution of €1.7 billion to the Global Partnership for Education, European Commission (Brussels) 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3906

announced an allocation of EUR1.7 billion for the Global Partnership for Education to fund the transformation of education infrastructure in up to 90 countries and territories.³⁴⁸⁰

On 3 August 2021, the European Commission released EUR12.1 million in pre-financing to Luxembourg, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Luxembourg under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸¹ Additionally, the European Commission released EUR770 million in pre-financing to Belgium, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Belgium under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸²

On 9 August 2021, the European Commission released EUR4 billion in pre-financing to Greece, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Greece under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸³

On 17 August 2021, the European Commission released EUR9 billion in pre-financing to Spain, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Spain under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸⁴ Moreover, the European Commission also released EUR289 million to Lithuania, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Spain under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸⁵

On 19 August 2021, the European Commission released EUR5.1 billion in pre-financing to France, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for France under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸⁶

On 26 August 2021, the European Commission released EUR2.25 billion in pre-financing to Germany, which meets approximately 9 per cent of the total financial allocation for Germany's Recovery and Resilience Plan.³⁴⁸⁷

On 2 September 2021, the European Commission released EUR201 million in pre-financing to Denmark, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Denmark under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸⁸

³⁴⁸⁰ Global Education Summit: Team Europe pledges leading contribution of €1.7 billion to the Global Partnership for Education, European Commission (Brussels) 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3906

³⁴⁸¹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €12.1 million in pre-financing to Luxembourg, European Commission (Brussels) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4024

³⁴⁸² NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €770 million in pre-financing to Belgium, European Commission (Brussels) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4023

³⁴⁸³ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €4 billion in pre-financing to Greece, European Commission (Brussels) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4068

³⁴⁸⁴ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €9 billion in pre-financing to Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4223

³⁴⁸⁵ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €289 million in pre-financing to Lithuania, European Commission (Brussels) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4224

³⁴⁸⁶ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €5.1 billion in pre-financing to France, European Commission (Brussels) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4225

³⁴⁸⁷ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €2.25 billion in pre-financing to Germany, European Commission (Brussels) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/ip_21_4402

³⁴⁸⁸ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €201 million in pre-financing to Denmark, European Commission (Brussels) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4532

On 9 September 2021, the European Commission released EUR157 million in pre-financing to Cyprus, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Cyprus under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁸⁹

On 10 September 2021, the European Commission released EUR237 million in pre-financing to Latvia, which meets approximately 13 per cent of the total financial allocation for Latvia under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Fund.³⁴⁹⁰

On 15 September 2021, the European Commission delivered a State of the Union address where they reaffirmed their commitment to embarking on a Path to the Digital Decade.³⁴⁹¹ The proposed path aims to embark on the digital transformations of the economy and broader society by 2030.³⁴⁹² The address highlighted the importance of investing in digital skills training.³⁴⁹³

On 17 September 2021, the European Commission approved EUR4.7 billion in funding to Italy as part of the (REACT-EU) plan.³⁴⁹⁴ Through this funding instrument, the EU will grant EUR 4.7 billion to Italy to support employment in industries hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁹⁵ Most notably, Italy will invest in youth employment and allocate EUR1 billion towards the creation of the New Skills Fund. The New Skills Fund will provide emergency training courses for workers and provide supplemental funding for working hours that are missed due to extenuating external factors beyond the workers' control.³⁴⁹⁶

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by investing in skills training centres, providing additional funding in the education and training sectors to bolster skills development, launching a social program to support the training, reskilling, and upskilling of workers, and creating a targeted program for students and small businesses to acquire in-demand skills.

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

Analyst: Bianca Piccone

³⁴⁸⁹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €157 million in pre-financing to Cyprus, European Commission (Brussels) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4624

³⁴⁹⁰ NextGenerationEU: European Commission disburses €237 million in pre-financing to Latvia, European Commission (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4625

³⁴⁹¹ European Commission disburses €2.25 billion in pre-financing to Germany, European Commission (Brussels) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4630

³⁴⁹² European Commission disburses €2.25 billion in pre-financing to Germany, European Commission (Brussels) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4630

³⁴⁹³ State of the Union: Commission proposes a Path to the Digital Decade to deliver the EU's digital transformation by 2030, European Commission (Brussels) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

³⁴⁹⁴ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

³⁴⁹⁵ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

³⁴⁹⁶ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

10. Gender: Inequalities

“As many women have been disproportionately affected by the crisis, we will work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| 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 | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.85 (93%) | |

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls across numerous spheres, such as health, economics, security and social protection.³⁴⁹⁷ According to UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the crisis’s economic impact will considerably raise women’s poverty rate, with approximately 47 million females being pushed into extreme destitution by 2021.³⁴⁹⁸ Impoverished girls who already face health and safety challenges managing their menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive health without access to clean water and other basic needs are even more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus and its consequences.³⁴⁹⁹ In April 2020, the UN Secretary-General acknowledged that “limited gains in gender equality and women’s rights made over the decades are in danger of being rolled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” making it

³⁴⁹⁷ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁴⁹⁸ COVID-19 will widen poverty gap between women and men, new UN Women and UNDP data shows, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/_COVID-19_will_widen_poverty_gap_between_women_and_men_.html

³⁴⁹⁹ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

imperative to address the outbreak's regressive effects on gender equality.³⁵⁰⁰ Such impacts can be exacerbated for the most vulnerable groups of women, such as migrant workers, refugees, marginalized racial and ethnic groups, single-parent households and youth.³⁵⁰¹

School closures, overburdened health systems, and existing gender norms have created an increased demand on females to undertake unpaid care and domestic work, such as catering to their family's basic survival needs and caring for the sick.³⁵⁰² For women, this creates obstacles in balancing paid work or entering the labour force. UN Women estimates that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to a "prolonged dip in women's income and labour force participation."³⁵⁰³ Besides, young women and girls living in poverty, with disabilities or in rural, isolated locations are more likely to abandon their education to compensate for increased care and domestic work at home.³⁵⁰⁴ Evidence from past epidemics reveals that such females are at an exceptionally high risk of not returning to school even after a pandemic is over.³⁵⁰⁵ Estimates show that an additional 11 million girls may abandon their education by the end of the COVID-19 crisis.³⁵⁰⁶ They are also more prone to child marriage and other kinds of violence as a means to alleviate their families' economic burdens.³⁵⁰⁷ Hence, the pandemic's economic impacts are likely to increase sexual exploitation and disrupt efforts to end child marriage.³⁵⁰⁸ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that an additional 3 million child marriages will occur between 2020 and 2030.³⁵⁰⁹

Concerning the health response to COVID-19, currently, women represent 70 per cent of the global health workforce.³⁵¹⁰ Nevertheless, they are paid considerably less than their male counterparts.³⁵¹¹ The gender pay gap in the health sector, at 25 per cent, is higher than the 16 per cent overall gender

³⁵⁰⁰ Put women and girls at centre of COVID-19 recovery: UN Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061452>

³⁵⁰¹ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

³⁵⁰² How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁰³ Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women, United Nations (New York) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/report/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en-1.pdf>

³⁵⁰⁴ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁰⁵ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁰⁶ Over 11 million girls may not go back to school after the COVID-19 crisis, UNESCO (Paris) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/girlseducation>

³⁵⁰⁷ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁰⁸ New UNFPA projections predict calamitous impact on women's health as COVID-19 pandemic continues, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/new-unfpa-projections-predict-calamitous-impact-womens-health-covid-19-pandemic-continues>

³⁵⁰⁹ New UNFPA projections predict calamitous impact on women's health as COVID-19 pandemic continues, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/new-unfpa-projections-predict-calamitous-impact-womens-health-covid-19-pandemic-continues>

³⁵¹⁰ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

³⁵¹¹ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

pay gap in other sectors.³⁵¹² According to UN Women, “women typically earn less and hold less secure jobs than men. With plummeting economic activity, women are particularly vulnerable to layoffs and loss of livelihoods.”³⁵¹³

The outbreak of COVID-19 has also left women vulnerable to a “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence.³⁵¹⁴ Emerging data and reports have shown a notable surge in domestic abuse.³⁵¹⁵ In numerous countries, violence reports and emergency calls have risen by 25 per cent since distancing measures, quarantine and movement restrictions were enacted.³⁵¹⁶ In November 2020, UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said that “violence against women is also a pandemic – one that pre-dates the virus and will outlive it...there has never been a more important moment to resolve to put our combined resources and commitment behind the biggest issues, and to end violence against women and girls, for good.”³⁵¹⁷

At the 2009 London Summit, G20 members briefly mentioned building “a fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”³⁵¹⁸ They also committed to “support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and through active labour market policies.”³⁵¹⁹

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 members committed to “advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace, and responsibilities in care-giving.”³⁵²⁰ In regards to fostering inclusion, G20 leaders recognized the need to encourage and expand economic opportunities for women.³⁵²¹ They pledged to “take concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women’s full economic and social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies.”³⁵²²

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the focus on gender-equality peaked when compared to previous years.³⁵²³ G20 leaders focused on endorsing financial education for women and girls, committing to

³⁵¹² COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

³⁵¹³ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

³⁵¹⁴ Gender-based violence: We must flatten the curve of this shadow pandemic, Africa Renewal (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/november-december-2020/gender-based-violence-we-must-flatten-curve-shadow-pandemic>

³⁵¹⁵ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵¹⁶ COVID-19: Emerging gender data and why it matters, UN Women (New York) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-emerging-gender-data-and-why-it-matters>

³⁵¹⁷ Gender-based violence: We must flatten the curve of this shadow pandemic, Africa Renewal (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/november-december-2020/gender-based-violence-we-must-flatten-curve-shadow-pandemic>

³⁵¹⁸ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

³⁵¹⁹ The G20 London Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-09-london.html>

³⁵²⁰ The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

³⁵²¹ The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

³⁵²² The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

³⁵²³ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

craft and take targeted actions to increase “incentives, financial literacy, education and consumer protection for...vulnerable groups such as women.”³⁵²⁴

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members agreed to reduce “the gap in participation rates between men and women in [G20 members] by 25 per cent by 2025,...[and] to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force.”³⁵²⁵ The Brisbane Action Plan committed to tackling long-term and structural unemployment, “[supporting citizens] particularly youth and women, to gain and maintain quality employment [as well as] enhancing social cohesion and reducing inequality.”³⁵²⁶

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders committed to reducing gender compensation gaps and take “further action to improve the quality of female employment and eliminate employment discrimination.”³⁵²⁷ They planned to address such issues by promoting “effective wage policies, removing barriers women face when striving for higher-paying, higher-quality jobs, tackling occupational and sectoral segregation and fostering women’s career prospects including through entrepreneurship.”³⁵²⁸ Additionally, they also acknowledged the need to provide quality education, training, social protection policies and legal reforms to females, promoting policies that “help women and men reconcile work and family lives in a more equitable manner.”³⁵²⁹ They also committed to “provide women with protection against all forms of violence.”³⁵³⁰

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members pledged to “continue to promote initiatives aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and gender-based violence.”³⁵³¹ Leaders also recognized the need to promote women’s economic empowerment through “access to quality and affordable care infrastructure and parental leave.”³⁵³² G20 members also committed to encourage and “promote women’s access to leadership and decision-making positions.”³⁵³³

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders focused on addressing the gender gap in unpaid care work, recognizing that it “remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market.”³⁵³⁴ They were also resolute to end all forms of discrimination against women, combat stereotypes and

³⁵²⁴ The 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-13-stpetersburg.html>

³⁵²⁵ The 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-14-brisbane.html>

³⁵²⁶ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

³⁵²⁷ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

³⁵²⁸ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

³⁵²⁹ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

³⁵³⁰ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

³⁵³¹ The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

³⁵³² The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

³⁵³³ The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

³⁵³⁴ The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

support “girls’ and women’s education and training, including providing quality primary and secondary education.”³⁵³⁵

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders committed to “work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities,” with the recognition that women have been “disproportionately affected” by the pandemic and the intention to not “undermine the progress made in recent decades” to empower women.³⁵³⁶ “Women” is understood to mean female individuals aged 18 years or more.³⁵³⁷ “Girls” refers to female individuals below the age of 18 years.³⁵³⁸

To “work to ensure” is understood to mean applying international diplomacy to make something certain to happen.³⁵³⁹ This can include drafting proposals, encouraging new initiatives or putting forward new ideas.³⁵⁴⁰

“Pandemic” is understood to mean the COVID-19 crisis.³⁵⁴¹

To “widen” is understood to mean increasing the scope or extent of something.³⁵⁴²

“Gender inequalities” is understood to mean unequal access to or enjoyment of rights in various social, legal and cultural situations due to one’s sex and/or gender identity.³⁵⁴³ As the COVID-19 pandemic has strained resources and limited institutional capabilities of numerous countries, this commitment outlines the pandemic’s disproportionate effects on women in three key spheres: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence.³⁵⁴⁴ As part of this commitment, G20 members must take actions directed at the three spheres mentioned in response to efforts to mitigate the pandemic’s impacts on women.

“Health” is understood to mean a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.³⁵⁴⁵ Examples of actions that support women’s health affected by the COVID-19 pandemic include enacting provisions for pre- and post-natal healthcare, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, promoting education on menstrual hygiene, providing quality care and support for survivors of gender-based violence, funding greater

³⁵³⁵ The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

³⁵³⁶ G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁵³⁷ Gender: Education and Training, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/11-2019-osaka-final-compliance-gender-education.pdf>

³⁵³⁸ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva) 20 November 1989. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

³⁵³⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁴⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁴¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁴² Widen, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/widen>

³⁵⁴³ Gender Inequality, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1182>

³⁵⁴⁴ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁴⁵ Constitution of the World Health Organization, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution>

access to essential medicines or health insurance coverage, and reallocating resources to ensure access to clean water and sanitation facilities.³⁵⁴⁶

“Economic security” is understood to mean the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity.³⁵⁴⁷ Examples of actions that support women’s economic security disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic include enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks such as providing unemployment insurance relief, drafting proposals to ensure women’s access to social protections like paid sick leave, funding efforts to reduce pandemic-related lay-offs and job cuts, increasing access to affordable childcare support, and recognizing the importance of unpaid care and domestic work.³⁵⁴⁸

“Gender-based violence” is understood to mean harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender and includes sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private as well as threats of violence, coercion and manipulation.³⁵⁴⁹ Examples of actions that support women who experience gender-based violence due to situations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic include reallocating and increasing health, social, judicial and/or police services to respond to such cases, enacting national response plans with measures to eliminate all forms of violence, increasing security measures to prevent violence against women in deserted urban or rural public spaces and transportation services, and drafting proposals to aid or support women trapped at home with their abusers.³⁵⁵⁰

To “undermine” is understood to mean weakening or ruining something by degrees.³⁵⁵¹ Examples include resisting or impairing efforts put forth by other actors.³⁵⁵²

“Progress made in recent decades” is understood to mean the relevant UN declarations, processes, and calls to action to empower women and girls.³⁵⁵³ Goal 3 of the UN Millennium Development Goals aimed to promote gender equality and empower women with a specific target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education by no later than 2015.³⁵⁵⁴ Although much progress was made towards women’s equality in education and employment, the UN recognized the need to address other areas of gender inequality such as violence against women and women’s unequal access to opportunities in the labour market.³⁵⁵⁵ As part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5 also aims to achieve gender equality and empower all

³⁵⁴⁶ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁴⁷ What is Economic Security?, International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva) 18 June 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/introduction-economic-security>

³⁵⁴⁸ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁴⁹ Gender-based Violence, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/gender-based-violence.html>

³⁵⁵⁰ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

³⁵⁵¹ Undermine, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/undermine>

³⁵⁵² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁵³ G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁵⁵⁴ The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations (New York) 1 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

³⁵⁵⁵ The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations (New York) 1 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

women and girls with targets including eliminating all forms of violence against women and recognizing unpaid care and domestic work.³⁵⁵⁶

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is.³⁵⁵⁷ A G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss gender inequalities.³⁵⁵⁸ For strong actions, a G20 member would have to initiate a program or new law, and/or contribute financial or technical assistance to ensure the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities in relation to the health, economic security and/or gender-based violence spheres previously stated.³⁵⁵⁹

Actions on the domestic level would include verbal reaffirmations, allocating money and budgetary resources, creating new offices, departments, and/or programs, and/or enacting domestic legislations to reduce gender inequalities.³⁵⁶⁰ Actions on the international level would include sponsoring, signing or ratifying international treaties, financing or sending personnel to international organizations such as UN Women, and/or providing international financial support directly and/or through international institutions in support of women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶¹

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member can take strong actions in two spheres and some action in one sphere to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence. Alternatively, the G20 member can take strong actions in all three spheres to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately that have been mentioned previously.

For a score of partial compliance, the G20 member has taken strong actions in one sphere and some actions in the other two spheres to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in at least one of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and/or Gender-Based Violence. Alternatively, the G20 member can take strong actions in at least one of the three spheres to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately that have been mentioned previously.

For a score of non-compliance, the G20 member has completed less than the aforementioned criteria.

³⁵⁵⁶ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations (New York) 25 September 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

³⁵⁵⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁵⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁵⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁶⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁶¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member has NOT taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in ANY of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken weak steps in only ONE of the three spheres (health, economic security OR gender-based violence). |
| 0 | G20 member has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in at least ONE of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken strong steps in ONE sphere and weak steps in the other TWO spheres (health, economic security OR gender-based violence). |
| +1 | G20 member has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in ALL three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken strong steps in at least TWO spheres and weak steps in ONE other sphere (health, economic security AND/OR gender-based violence). |

Compliance Director: Brandon Yih

Lead Analyst: Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas launched the “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women” campaign.³⁵⁶² This campaign aims to eradicate and raise awareness surrounding gender-based violence in the field of production and the workplace.³⁵⁶³

On 10 December 2020, Argentina hosted the Women Economic Forum, an annual global business conference and gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders.³⁵⁶⁴ The purpose of this forum is to promote and pursue initiatives for women’s empowerment and economic entrepreneurship.³⁵⁶⁵ The conference was attended by over 150 allied countries and global chapters.³⁵⁶⁶

On 11 December 2020, the National Congress passed the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy Bill (IVE) along with the Bill for Comprehensive Healthcare during Pregnancy and Early Childhood.³⁵⁶⁷ The IVE Bill legalized abortion in Argentina and the Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta stated that women will no longer be forced “to carry out a clandestine abortion and put her life or health at risk.”³⁵⁶⁸

On 16 December 2020, Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta and the Executive Director of the YPF Foundation Ofelia Cedola signed a strengthening and technical

³⁵⁶² Campaign “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women,” Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/campana-tolerancia-cero-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

³⁵⁶³ Campaign “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women,” Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/campana-tolerancia-cero-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

³⁵⁶⁴ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

³⁵⁶⁵ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

³⁵⁶⁶ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

³⁵⁶⁷ Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta: “It will be law,” Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/elizabeth-gomez-alcorta-sera-ley>

³⁵⁶⁸ Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta: “It will be law,” Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/elizabeth-gomez-alcorta-sera-ley>

cooperation agreement to implement joint projects on gender, equality and diversity policies in the energy, science and technology sectors.³⁵⁶⁹ This agreement will also promote greater participation of women in the energy sector through scholarships and other programs.³⁵⁷⁰

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (MGyD) inaugurated the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence in Moreno.³⁵⁷¹ The main objective of this Network is to implement prevention and protection policies for people affected by gender-based violence throughout the entire country.³⁵⁷²

On 14 January 2021, President Alberto Fernandez alongside the Minister of Health Ginés González García, signed the enactment of the IVE Bill and the Law on Comprehensive Healthcare During Pregnancy and Early Childhood.³⁵⁷³ Both laws aim to support women's reproductive decisions.³⁵⁷⁴ President Fernandez emphasized that this law would end the criminalization of women who undertake abortion and prevent them from all the dangers that clandestine termination entails.³⁵⁷⁵

On 28 January 2021, the MGyD, in coordination with the Ministry of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Province of Buenos Aires and the municipalities of Ensenada and Berisso, launched the first day of the national prevention campaign, “United Argentina Against Gender Violence.”³⁵⁷⁶ This campaign aims to generate and make tools available for the prevention of gender-based violence in all parts of Argentina through audiovisual contents, digital training workshops and other campaign tools.³⁵⁷⁷

³⁵⁶⁹ We signed a strengthening and technical cooperation agreement with the YPF Foundation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generos/firmamos-un-convenio-de-fortalecimiento-y-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-fundacion-ypf>

³⁵⁷⁰ We signed a strengthening and technical cooperation agreement with the YPF Foundation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generos/firmamos-un-convenio-de-fortalecimiento-y-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-fundacion-ypf>

³⁵⁷¹ We inaugurated in Moreno the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inauguramos-en-moreno-la-primera-sede-de-la-red-de-asistencia-integral-de-las-violencias>

³⁵⁷² We inaugurated in Moreno the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inauguramos-en-moreno-la-primera-sede-de-la-red-de-asistencia-integral-de-las-violencias>

³⁵⁷³ The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

³⁵⁷⁴ The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

³⁵⁷⁵ The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

³⁵⁷⁶ In Ensenada, we held the first day of the “United Argentina Against Gender Violence” campaign, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-en-ensenada-la-primera-jornada-de-la-campana-argentina-unida-contra-las>

³⁵⁷⁷ In Ensenada, we held the first day of the “United Argentina Against Gender Violence” campaign, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-en-ensenada-la-primera-jornada-de-la-campana-argentina-unida-contra-las>

On 13 February 2021, the MGyD created the Integrated System of Cases of Gender-Based Violence.³⁵⁷⁸ This initiative aims to nationally systemize available information on cases and complaints of incidents of gender-based violence, in order to support the creation of public policies aimed at preventing gender-based violence throughout Argentina.³⁵⁷⁹

On 24 February 2021, Argentina ratified the International Labor Organization Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace.³⁵⁸⁰ The agreement outlines the challenges and harassment that women endure in the workplace and provides legislative suggestions to prevent and punish violence against women in the public sector.³⁵⁸¹

On 3 March 2021, Argentina announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity policies within the framework of the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence.³⁵⁸² The territorial centers will consist of interdisciplinary teams that will develop actions aimed at the prevention of violence, access to justice, and promotion of gender equality.³⁵⁸³ Argentina announced an investment of ARS2.1 billion into this project.³⁵⁸⁴

On 8 March 2021, President Fernandez alongside the Minister of Women, Gender, and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, the Minister of the Interior Eduardo de Pedro and provincial governors signed the Federal Agreement for a United Argentina against Gender Violence.³⁵⁸⁵ The agreement seeks to prevent and address femicides and gender-based violence, and to strengthen the provincial and municipal gender areas.³⁵⁸⁶ Furthermore, the agreement also promotes a hierarchization and strengthening of provincial gender areas, who are responsible for comprehensive assistance and protection of those in situations of gender-based violence.³⁵⁸⁷

³⁵⁷⁸ The Government created a system of integration of information on cases of gender-based violence, Erreius (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.erreius.com/actualidad/14/civil-persona-y-patrimonio/Nota/1064/el-gobierno-creo-un-sistema-de-integracion-de-la-informacion-sobre-los-casos-de-violencia-de-genero>

³⁵⁷⁹ The Government created a system of integration of information on cases of gender-based violence, Erreius (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.erreius.com/actualidad/14/civil-persona-y-patrimonio/Nota/1064/el-gobierno-creo-un-sistema-de-integracion-de-la-informacion-sobre-los-casos-de-violencia-de-genero>

³⁵⁸⁰ The Ratification Process of ILO Convention Was Completed, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/culmino-el-proceso-de-ratificacion-del-convenio-190-de-la-oit-0>

³⁵⁸¹ The Ratification Process of ILO Convention Was Completed, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/culmino-el-proceso-de-ratificacion-del-convenio-190-de-la-oit-0>

³⁵⁸² The National Government announced the construction of comprehensive territorial centers, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

³⁵⁸³ The National Government announced the construction of comprehensive territorial centers, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

³⁵⁸⁴ The national government will invest 2.1 billion pesos for the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-invertira-2100-millones-de-pesos-para-la-construccion-de-centros>

³⁵⁸⁵ Gomez Alcorta will tour all the provinces of the country to implement the Federal Agreement to Prevent and Address Gender Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-recorrera-todas-las-provincias-del-pais-para-poner-en-marcha-el-acuerdo>

³⁵⁸⁶ Gomez Alcorta will tour all the provinces of the country to implement the Federal Agreement to Prevent and Address Gender Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-recorrera-todas-las-provincias-del-pais-para-poner-en-marcha-el-acuerdo>

³⁵⁸⁷ Federal Agreement for a United Argentina against Gender Violence is signed, San Luis News Agency (San Luis) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://agenciasanluis.com/notas/2021/03/08/firman-el-acuerdo-federal-para-una-argentina-unida-contra-la-violencia-de-genero/>

On 15 March 2021, Minister Alcorta issued a joint statement alongside European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and Namibia's Minister of Gender Equality Doreen Sioka at the General Discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women.³⁵⁸⁸ The statement reaffirmed the need to ensure compliance with international obligations on gender equality and the need to eradicate the feminization of poverty and violence against women and girls.³⁵⁸⁹

On 16 March 2021, the MGYD in partnership with the Comprehensive Medical Attention Program launched a series of regional meetings on "older people against gender-based violence" with the focus on retirement centers across Argentina.³⁵⁹⁰ These regional meetings aim to generate tools for prevention and early detection of gender-based violence and promote actions to combat gender-based violence as part of the national prevention campaign, "United Argentina Against Gender-Based Violence."³⁵⁹¹ These regional meetings started in Buenos Aires on 16 March 2021 and will continue until 1 September 2021, ending with the Cuyo Region of Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis.³⁵⁹²

On 31 March 2021, Argentina and 20 countries (Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.³⁵⁹³ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.³⁵⁹⁴

On 8 April 2021, Minister Alcorta signed agreements with the Argentine Central Workers' Central Union to promote the gender perspective and equal participation of women in the union sphere.³⁵⁹⁵

³⁵⁸⁸ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

³⁵⁸⁹ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

³⁵⁹⁰ We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

³⁵⁹¹ We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

³⁵⁹² We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

³⁵⁹³ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

³⁵⁹⁴ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

³⁵⁹⁵ We work together with the workers' federations for greater participation of women and diversity in union spaces, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-junto-las-centrales-de-trabajadores-por-una-mayor-participacion-de-mujeres-y>

This agreement seeks to recognize the structural inequalities present in the work force and reduce situations of violence.³⁵⁹⁶

On 14 April 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security's Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the Workplace of the Ministry Pamela Ares participated in United Nations Women Argentina's first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socioeconomic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective.³⁵⁹⁷ This initiative focuses on strengthening the economic autonomy of women in Argentina by increasing their participation in the labour market with more equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work as well as promoting better working conditions.³⁵⁹⁸ Undersecretary Ares highlighted the need for a maternity and paternity leave regime to promote equality in the labour market.³⁵⁹⁹

On 21 April 2021, Minister Alcorta and the Executive Director of the National Agency for Controlled Materials Ramiro Urristi signed a cooperation agreement aimed at jointly developing projects on gender, equality, diversity, preventive measures with attention on gender-based violence.³⁶⁰⁰ One project is the Federal Disarmament Campaign with a Gender Perspective, which focuses on controlling the possession and carrying of weapons by people with a history of gender-based violence.³⁶⁰¹

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Social Development Daniel Arroyo and the Minister of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Province of Buenos Aires Estela Díaz signed a cooperation agreement to promote the active inclusion of victims of gender-based violence in the Empower Work program.³⁶⁰² This program aims to implement socio-productive, socio-labour and/or socio-community projects in Buenos Aires with the participation of victims of gender-based violence to help such persons strengthen their economic autonomy.³⁶⁰³

On 3 May 2021, Minister Arroyo and the Secretary of Socio-Urban Integration Fernanda Miño launched the Integrar es Salud ("Integrate is Health") program to manage the health emergency and

³⁵⁹⁶ We work together with the workers' federations for greater participation of women and diversity in union spaces, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-junto-las-centrales-de-trabajadores-por-una-mayor-participacion-de-mujeres-y>

³⁵⁹⁷ First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

³⁵⁹⁸ First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

³⁵⁹⁹ First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

³⁶⁰⁰ We work together with the ANMaC to prevent and address situations of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-de-manera-conjunta-con-la-anmac-para-prevenir-y-abordar-las-situaciones-de>

³⁶⁰¹ We work together with the ANMaC to prevent and address situations of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-de-manera-conjunta-con-la-anmac-para-prevenir-y-abordar-las-situaciones-de>

³⁶⁰² Empower Work will include people in situations of gender-based violence in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero-de-la-provincia-de>

³⁶⁰³ Empower Work will include people in situations of gender-based violence in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero-de-la-provincia-de>

strengthen community care in COVID-19 hotspot neighborhoods.³⁶⁰⁴ This program will equip and manage the continued operation of community spaces, promote health and preventive actions by health and social work teams, provide teaching materials and new internet and telephone access points for youth and their families, and generate work in local communities led by socio-productive enterprises.³⁶⁰⁵ Argentina has invested over ARS614 million into this program and aims to reach over 32,000 families in 219 hotspot neighborhoods across 20 provinces in the first stage.³⁶⁰⁶

On 8 May 2021, the MGYD launched a series of territorial operations as part of the Programa Acompañar (“Accompany Program”), which provides economic and psychosocial support to people facing situations of gender-based violence.³⁶⁰⁷ This program provides economic support equivalent to the Salario Mínimo, Vital y Móvil (“Minimum Living and Mobile Salary”) for six months with the municipal state providing psychosocial support.³⁶⁰⁸ The Minimum Living and Mobile Salary is the lowest remuneration that a person without family should receive in cash within a single legal working day in order to guarantee adequate food, decent housing, education, clothing, healthcare, transportation and other social services.³⁶⁰⁹

On 12 May 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero, Minister Alcorta, and the Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies Cecilia Merchán, presented the National Plan for Equality in Diversity (2021-2023).³⁶¹⁰ This plan includes over 200 commitments that will be assumed by various Argentinean ministries and agencies in order to reduce gender and sexual identity inequalities in work, health, education, politics, and more areas of life.³⁶¹¹

On 1 June 2021, Director of Economy, Equality and Gender Mercedes D’Alessandro hosted a meeting with Secretary of Equality and Diversity Cecilia Merchán, alongside Undersecretary of Parliamentary Affairs of the Chief of Staff Cecilia Gomez Mirada to advance the implementation of public policies which guarantee equal access to menstrual management.³⁶¹² These public policies aim

³⁶⁰⁴ We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

³⁶⁰⁵ We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

³⁶⁰⁶ We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

³⁶⁰⁷ Territorial operations started to accompany people in situations of gender violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/empezaron-los-operativos-territoriales-para-acompanar-personas-situacion-de-violencia-de>

³⁶⁰⁸ Territorial operations started to accompany people in situations of gender violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/empezaron-los-operativos-territoriales-para-acompanar-personas-situacion-de-violencia-de>

³⁶⁰⁹ How much is the Minimum Living and Mobile Salary in Argentina, *Ámbito Financiero* (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/economia/salario/cuanto-es-el-minimo-vital-y-movil-la-argentina-n5100480>

³⁶¹⁰ The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

³⁶¹¹ The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

³⁶¹² Initiatives to achieve Equal Access to Menstrual Management, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciativas-para-lograr-un-acceso-igualitario-la-gestion-menstrual>

to identify and develop initiatives to ensure all females have equal access to menstrual management and to help close gender inequality gaps.³⁶¹³

On 4 June 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiera alongside Minister Alcorta and the Minister of Justice and Human Rights Martin Soria announced the launch of the *Acerar Derechos* Program.³⁶¹⁴ The *Acerar Derechos* program creates various teams of lawyers, psychologists, and social workers that will be distributed federally in order to provide support to victims of gender violence.³⁶¹⁵ The program aims to provide free legal and social support to victims of gender violence across Argentina and promote the well-being and security of Argentinian women.³⁶¹⁶

On 2 August 2021, the MGyD introduced the National Program Sowing Equality for Women and LGBTI+ in Rural Areas.³⁶¹⁷ This initiative aims to ensure the full development of women and LGBTI+ populations in rural areas using an intersectional and intercultural approach built on human rights as well as to reduce socio-economic or cultural inequalities.³⁶¹⁸ This initiative also addresses the issue of gender-based violence in rural areas.³⁶¹⁹ This program is a part of the Government of Argentina's Plan for Equality in Diversity 2021-2023.³⁶²⁰

On 18 August 2021, Minister Alcorta signed a supplementary act with the Secretariat of Media and Public Communication and with Radio y Televisión Argentina (RTA).³⁶²¹ This agreement aims to

³⁶¹³ Initiatives to achieve Equal Access to Menstrual Management, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciativas-para-lograr-un-acceso-igualitario-la-gestion-menstrual>

³⁶¹⁴ The Government launched a comprehensive policy of access to justice for people in situations of gender violence, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 June 2021. Access date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-una-politica-integral-de-acceso-la-justicia-para-personas-en-situacion-0>

³⁶¹⁵ The Government launched a comprehensive policy of access to justice for people in situations of gender violence, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 June 2021. Access date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-una-politica-integral-de-acceso-la-justicia-para-personas-en-situacion-0>

³⁶¹⁶ The Government launched a comprehensive policy of access to justice for people in situations of gender violence, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 June 2021. Access date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-una-politica-integral-de-acceso-la-justicia-para-personas-en-situacion-0>

³⁶¹⁷ We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

³⁶¹⁸ We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

³⁶¹⁹ We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

³⁶²⁰ We present the National Program Sowing Equality for women and LGBTI+ in rural areas, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-programa-nacional-sembrar-igualdad-para-mujeres-y-lgbti-en-la-ruralidad>

³⁶²¹ We continue working with the public media to disseminate campaigns and programs with a gender and diversity perspective, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seguimos-trabajando-con-los-medios-publicos-para-la-difusion-de-campanas-y-programas-con>

promote, diffuse and transmit the public policies, campaigns and programs by the MGyD for the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of women's and LGBTI+ rights.³⁶²²

On 18 August 2021, the MGyD and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights introduced the Federal Penitentiary Complex IV (CPFIV) survey on experiences of gender-based violence of women and LGBTI+ in confinement settings.³⁶²³ This survey was designed within the framework of the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence and the survey is aimed at identifying variables that reinforce gender-based violence in federal penitentiaries.³⁶²⁴

On 24 August 2021, the National Directorate of Policies for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence's technical team hosted the first training for preventing gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace.³⁶²⁵ This training is aimed at companies owned by or affiliated with the Government of Argentina such as Aerolíneas Argentinas, Banco Nación and Casa de Moneda.³⁶²⁶ Over 100 participants were trained on early detection and monitoring of situations of gender-based violence and a second training workshop will be held on 31 August 2021.³⁶²⁷

On 3 September 2021, Minister Alcorta signed an agreement with President of Dioxitek SA Santiago Sartori to implement the Igualar Program at the state-owned nuclear energy company.³⁶²⁸ This agreement aims to reduce the inequality for women and LGBTI+ peoples in the labor and manufacturing sectors.³⁶²⁹

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to help reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by demonstrating strong actions in all three spheres of Economic Security,

³⁶²² We continue working with the public media to disseminate campaigns and programs with a gender and diversity perspective, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seguimos-trabajando-con-los-medios-publicos-para-la-difusion-de-campanas-y-programas-con>

³⁶²³ We present a survey to address gender-based violence in confinement contexts, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-una-encuesta-para-el-abordaje-de-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-contextos>

³⁶²⁴ We present a survey to address gender-based violence in confinement contexts, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-una-encuesta-para-el-abordaje-de-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-contextos>

³⁶²⁵ We started training on gender-based violence in the workplace for companies with State participation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-el-ambito-laboral-para>

³⁶²⁶ We started training on gender-based violence in the workplace for companies with State participation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-el-ambito-laboral-para>

³⁶²⁷ We started training on gender-based violence in the workplace for companies with State participation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/iniciamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-violencias-por-motivos-de-genero-en-el-ambito-laboral-para>

³⁶²⁸ Gomez Alcorta signed an agreement with Dioxitek SA for the implementation of the Igualar Program, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-dioxitek-sa-para-la-implementacion-del-programa-igualar>

³⁶²⁹ Gomez Alcorta signed an agreement with Dioxitek SA for the implementation of the Igualar Program, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-dioxitek-sa-para-la-implementacion-del-programa-igualar>

Gender-Based Violence and Health such as implementing programs to assist survivors of gender-based violence and introducing gender-sensitive economic programs and training workshops to reduce gender inequality gaps.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Leena Badri

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston announced a provision of AUD1.125 million to be shared by three Indigenous organisations over the next two years to trial new family violence services in the Northern Territory.³⁶³⁰

On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) endorsed the terms of reference for the Women's Safety Taskforce.³⁶³¹ This is in line with Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcement on 29 May 2020 concerning the establishment of an NFRC Taskforce on Women's Safety to reduce violence against women and their children.³⁶³²

On 30 December 2020, Prime Minister Morrison announced a provision of up to AUD36 million from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy over the next three years.³⁶³³ This fund will be used to deliver more girls academies to "support more than 5,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls across the country."³⁶³⁴

On 26 February 2021, the Council of Australian Governments released the first progress report on the implementation of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.³⁶³⁵ The report stated the completion of 18 initiatives per original schedule and one initiative ahead of schedule.³⁶³⁶

³⁶³⁰ International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2020/international-day-elimination-violence-against-women>

³⁶³¹ Establishment of a National Federation Reform Council Women's Safety Taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/establishment-national-federation-reform-council-women's-safety-taskforce>

³⁶³² Establishment of a National Federation Reform Council Women's Safety Taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/establishment-national-federation-reform-council-women's-safety-taskforce>

³⁶³³ More support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2020/more-support-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-girls-and-young-women>

³⁶³⁴ More support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2020/more-support-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-girls-and-young-women>

³⁶³⁵ Release of first progress report for the Fourth Action Plan, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/release-first-progress-report-fourth-action-plan>

³⁶³⁶ Release of first progress report for the Fourth Action Plan, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/release-first-progress-report-fourth-action-plan>

On 8 March 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced an AUD18 million campaign to protect women from family and domestic violence.³⁶³⁷ This is the third in the series of Stop it at the Start campaigns.³⁶³⁸ The series aim to influence young people and intervene before attitudes and behaviours develop that may lead to violence against women and gender inequality.³⁶³⁹

On 6 April 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and Minister for Women Marise Payne co-chaired the first Cabinet Taskforce meeting on women's security and economic security.³⁶⁴⁰ The meeting was focused on identifying and addressing gaps in existing programs on women's issues.³⁶⁴¹

On 12 April 2021, Australia released the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.³⁶⁴² This Plan builds on the first National Action Plan to protect women's human rights and increase their participation in peace and security processes.³⁶⁴³ Additionally, the National Action Plan includes tackling increased gender-based violence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁴⁴

On 27 April 2021, Minister Payne attended the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.³⁶⁴⁵ There were discussions about practical measures towards gender equality and women's human rights in the region, including ways to support women and girls impacted by COVID-19.³⁶⁴⁶ Through the new Pacific Women Lead program, Australia would be increasing support for regional gender equality through an investment of AUD170 million over five years.³⁶⁴⁷

³⁶³⁷ Remarks, International Women's Day, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

³⁶³⁸ Future Women Leadership Summit 2021, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/future-women-leadership-summit-2021>

³⁶³⁹ Stop it at the Start campaign, Department of Social Services (Canberra) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

³⁶⁴⁰ Remarks, Cabinet Women's Taskforce Meeting – Australian Parliament House, ACT, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-cabinet-womens-taskforce-meeting-australian-parliament-house-act>

³⁶⁴¹ Women's cabinet taskforce discusses 'practical' budget measures in first meeting, The Guardian (London) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/06/womens-cabinet-taskforce-discusses-practical-budget-measures-in-first-meeting>

³⁶⁴² Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

³⁶⁴³ Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

³⁶⁴⁴ Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

³⁶⁴⁵ Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

³⁶⁴⁶ Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

³⁶⁴⁷ Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

On 11 May 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced a landmark package of almost AUD3.4 billion to support women's rights in the 2021-2022 Budget.³⁶⁴⁸ This package includes AUD1.1 billion for women's safety, AUD1.9 billion to support women's economic security of which AUD1.7 billion is for improving the affordability of childcare services, and AUD351.6 million for measures to enhance women's health and wellbeing.³⁶⁴⁹ The new Budget aims to combat domestic violence through the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS), especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, improve family and justice responses, address sexual harassment, increase women's workforce participation, promote women's leadership opportunities, and support women's healthcare.³⁶⁵⁰

On 22 May 2021, the Government of Australia announced its commitment of AUD39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program as a part of the effort to re-open, recover and reform Australia's economy.³⁶⁵¹ Organizations of the program will use the funds to increase women's opportunities and support women's development in five areas: job creation, economic security, workforce participation, leadership, and safety.³⁶⁵²

On 22 June 2021, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade raised a joint fund of USD140,000 in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Vietnam, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Embassy of Japan in Hanoi, in order to provide Dignity Kits to 5,100 female workers in Vietnam's Bac Giang and Bac Ninh provinces.³⁶⁵³ Targeting underprivileged women, the Dignity Kits include humanitarian aid products to protect women's reproductive health and basic rights and to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence.³⁶⁵⁴ The Dignity Kits include over 20 items such as sanitary pads, underwear, face masks and flashlights.³⁶⁵⁵

On 6 September 2021, the Government of Australia hosted the virtual National Summit on Women's Safety to address key issues such as women's "economic security and financial independence, perpetrator interventions, and responding to sexual violence."³⁶⁵⁶ The Summit, which lasts until 7 September 2021, included keynote addresses, panel discussions and closed roundtables

³⁶⁴⁸ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

³⁶⁴⁹ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

³⁶⁵⁰ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

³⁶⁵¹ \$39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/398-million-projects-under-womens-leadership-and-development-program>

³⁶⁵² \$39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/398-million-projects-under-womens-leadership-and-development-program>

³⁶⁵³ KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do

³⁶⁵⁴ KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do

³⁶⁵⁵ KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do

³⁶⁵⁶ National Summit key step towards ending violence against women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/national-summit-key-step-towards-ending-violence-against-women>

with experts, advocates and service providers, which will build on the existing National Plan to aid the development of the next plan.³⁶⁵⁷

Australia has taken strong concrete steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres that affect women disproportionately (Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence) such as allocating budgetary funds for women's safety and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and introducing campaigns to prevent domestic violence.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in the recent decades.

On 26 November 2020, Minister of Women, Family and Human Rights Damares Alves hosted the second National Meeting of Policy Organizations for Women to strengthen dialogue among Brazil's federal, state and municipal leaders.³⁶⁵⁸ The meeting focused on women facing unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to prevent femicide.³⁶⁵⁹

On 26 November 2020, Brazil allocated BRL335 million to expand access and care for pregnant women and premature newborns in the Unified Health System during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁶⁰ This investment is a part of Brazil's goals for reducing neonatal infant mortality rates, childhood mortality rates and maternal mortality rates.³⁶⁶¹

On 7 December 2020, the Head of the National Secretariat of Policies for Women (SNPM) Cristiane Britto led a virtual meeting with United Nations Women and the European Union to discuss good practices for the prevention and mitigation of political violence against women.³⁶⁶² This meeting focused on exchanging experiences between nations and aimed to guarantee political rights to women and strengthen inclusive democracy in Brazil.³⁶⁶³

³⁶⁵⁷ National Summit key step towards ending violence against women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/national-summit-key-step-towards-ending-violence-against-women>

³⁶⁵⁸ Debate on the prevention of femicide and unemployment among women marks the opening of a meeting with OPMs, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/novembro/debate-sobre-prevencao-do-feminicidio-e-desemprego-de-mulheres-marcam-abertura-de-encontro-com-opms>

³⁶⁵⁹ Debate on the prevention of femicide and unemployment among women marks the opening of a meeting with OPMs, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/novembro/debate-sobre-prevencao-do-feminicidio-e-desemprego-de-mulheres-marcam-abertura-de-encontro-com-opms>

³⁶⁶⁰ Federal Government invests R\$335 million to expand care and prevention of prematurity, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-investe-r-335-milhoes-para-ampliar-o-cuidado-e-prevencao-a-prematuridade>

³⁶⁶¹ Federal Government invests R\$335 million to expand care and prevention of prematurity, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-investe-r-335-milhoes-para-ampliar-o-cuidado-e-prevencao-a-prematuridade>

³⁶⁶² Authorities discuss good practices in preventing political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/autoridades-discutem-boas-praticas-de-prevencao-a-violencia-politica-contra-mulheres>

³⁶⁶³ Authorities discuss good practices in preventing political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/autoridades-discutem-boas-praticas-de-prevencao-a-violencia-politica-contra-mulheres>

On 8 December 2020, Brazil invested BRL13 million in the state of Bahia for actions to prevent and combat violence against women.³⁶⁶⁴ This funding includes integrating the Safe and Protected Woman program, guaranteeing services to women experiencing violent situations, maintaining buses in the sewing production units, purchasing trunk trucks, and acquiring more than 8,000 food baskets as part of contingency plans to address impacts by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁶⁵

On 9 December 2020, Brazil established an intersectoral committee under the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH), to be responsible for elaborating on the National Plan to Combat Femicide.³⁶⁶⁶ This committee also includes members from the SNPM, the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), the Ministry of Citizenship, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education.³⁶⁶⁷

On 12 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL15 million to the state of Goiás for the construction of three Brazilian Women's Houses (CMB), professional training courses for women in need, and over 1700 food baskets for vulnerable women in the state.³⁶⁶⁸

On 14 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL5.2 million to prevent violence against women in the state of Acre.³⁶⁶⁹ These funds will be used for the construction of three CMBs and the reinforcement of public policies for women in socially vulnerable situations, including a project focused on combating violence against indigenous women in the countryside.³⁶⁷⁰

On 20 December 2020, the MMFDH launched the Qualifica Mulher ("Qualify Women") pilot project, which aims to create a network of partnerships among governmental authorities and private entities in order to increase the employability of women facing socially vulnerable situations.³⁶⁷¹ This project offers professional courses in person or online and facilitates financial education and entrepreneurship workshops.³⁶⁷² The COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor in the implementation

³⁶⁶⁴ In Bahia, Minister Damares announces investment of R\$13 million in public policies for women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/na-bahia-ministra-damares-anuncia-investimento-de-r-13-mi-em-politicas-publicas-para-mulheres>

³⁶⁶⁵ In Bahia, Minister Damares announces investment of R\$13 million in public policies for women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/na-bahia-ministra-damares-anuncia-investimento-de-r-13-mi-em-politicas-publicas-para-mulheres>

³⁶⁶⁶ Government institutes group for the elaboration of the National Plan to Combat Femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-institui-grupo-para-elaboracao-do-plano-nacional-de-enfrentamento-ao-feminicidio>

³⁶⁶⁷ Government institutes group for the elaboration of the National Plan to Combat Femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-institui-grupo-para-elaboracao-do-plano-nacional-de-enfrentamento-ao-feminicidio>

³⁶⁶⁸ Federal Government invests R\$15 million in shares for women in GO, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-investe-r-15-mi-em-acoes-para-as-mulheres-em-go>

³⁶⁶⁹ Federal Government allocates R\$5.2 million to prevent violence against women in AC, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-destina-r-5-2-mi-para-prevencao-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-no-ac>

³⁶⁷⁰ Federal Government allocates R\$5.2 million to prevent violence against women in AC, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-destina-r-5-2-mi-para-prevencao-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-no-ac>

³⁶⁷¹ Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

³⁶⁷² Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

of the Qualifica Mulher project as an initiative to promote women's economic autonomy.³⁶⁷³ More than 25,700 women have received training and attended entrepreneurship workshops.³⁶⁷⁴

On 28 January 2021, the MJSP launched and coordinated Operation "Resguardo" in 26 states and the Federal District.³⁶⁷⁵ The operation's goal is to combat and prevent crimes of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in domestic settings.³⁶⁷⁶ As part of this operation, police investigated complaints and surveyed open court orders specific to violence against women.³⁶⁷⁷ Complaints from Ligue 180, a free service for reporting human rights violations and violence against women launched by the MMFDH, assisted this operation.³⁶⁷⁸ In total, more than 10,300 attackers were arrested.³⁶⁷⁹

On 29 January 2021, the Ministry of Health allocated more than BRL11.2 million to the municipality of Manaus in order to reinforce care and support for pregnant women and postpartum women during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁸⁰ This funding supplements institutional support for managers and healthcare professionals in Primary Health Care units and maternity hospitals.³⁶⁸¹

On 23 February 2021, Minister Alvez hosted a meeting with the Special Secretary of Policies and Promotion of Women in Rio de Janeiro, Joyce Gama, on the development of nano-entrepreneurship for women in order to address the rise in female unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic

³⁶⁷³ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

³⁶⁷⁴ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

³⁶⁷⁵ Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

³⁶⁷⁶ Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

³⁶⁷⁷ Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

³⁶⁷⁸ Operation to protect women and reporting channels are highlighted in live, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/operacao-de-protecao-as-mulheres-e-canais-de-denuncias-sao-destaque-em-live>

³⁶⁷⁹ Operation to protect women and reporting channels are highlighted in live, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/operacao-de-protecao-as-mulheres-e-canais-de-denuncias-sao-destaque-em-live>

³⁶⁸⁰ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$11.2 million to assist pregnant women and postpartum women in Manaus, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-de-r-11-2-milhoes-para-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas-em-manaus>

³⁶⁸¹ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$11.2 million to assist pregnant women and postpartum women in Manaus, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-de-r-11-2-milhoes-para-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas-em-manaus>

and the need to invest in women's economic autonomy.³⁶⁸² At the meeting, the topic of violence against women during the pandemic was also addressed with concern.³⁶⁸³

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello and the First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro opened the Flores da Lapa Reference Center in Rio de Janeiro, which aims to guarantee full protection for socially vulnerable women with a focus on female victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence.³⁶⁸⁴ The Ministry of Health reallocated BRL13 million to the municipality of Rio de Janeiro in order to support the new Reference Center's operations.³⁶⁸⁵

On 16 March 2021, Minister Alvez reaffirmed the importance of women's work for a post-pandemic economic recovery at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.³⁶⁸⁶ Minister Alvez highlighted Brazil's public policies of income transfers during the COVID-19 pandemic like emergency aid, training programs to promote women's economic autonomy, and measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women.³⁶⁸⁷ At the forum, the three countries emphasized their commitment to reduce gender inequality and further encourage mutual cooperation on such issues.³⁶⁸⁸

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a series of video lessons in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization to guide health professionals on good practices for assisting pregnant and puerperal women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁸⁹ This series includes 10 videos addressing topics such as risk factors for pregnant women with COVID-19, laboratory diagnoses, telemedicine and prenatal care.³⁶⁹⁰

On 5 April 2021, the MMFDH signed cooperation agreements with the municipalities of Hortolandia and Guaruja in the state of São Paulo in order to streamline and improve the flow of

³⁶⁸² Ministry discusses actions to promote nano-entrepreneurship among women in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/ministerio-discute-aco-es-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

³⁶⁸³ Ministry discusses actions to promote nano-entrepreneurship among women in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/ministerio-discute-aco-es-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

³⁶⁸⁴ Minister Pazuello and First Lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, inaugurated service to assist women in situations of social vulnerability, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuello-e-primeira-dama-michelle-bolsonaro-inauguram-servico-para-atender-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-social>

³⁶⁸⁵ Minister Pazuello and First Lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, inaugurated service to assist women in situations of social vulnerability, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuello-e-primeira-dama-michelle-bolsonaro-inauguram-servico-para-atender-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-social>

³⁶⁸⁶ Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

³⁶⁸⁷ Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

³⁶⁸⁸ Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

³⁶⁸⁹ Ministry of Health and PAHO launch video classes to qualify the assistance to pregnant women and puerperal women, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-e-opas-lancam-videoaulas-para-qualificacao-da-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas>

³⁶⁹⁰ Ministry of Health and PAHO launch video classes to qualify the assistance to pregnant women and puerperal women, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-e-opas-lancam-videoaulas-para-qualificacao-da-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas>

reports on and responses to human rights violations.³⁶⁹¹ These agreements aim to improve the reporting platforms of Dial 100 and Dial 180, which are free services operating 24 hours for people to report human rights violations and violence against women respectively.³⁶⁹²

On 7 April 2021, the MMFDH supported the launch of the “Todos por Elas” project, which is an educational platform using videos and interactive material to foster dialogue and combat violence against women.³⁶⁹³ This project was developed by the Commercial, Industrial and Services Association of Goiás and focuses on companies and their employees.³⁶⁹⁴

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry of Health allocated BRL247 million to states and municipalities to improve quality healthcare access for pregnant women and postpartum women using prenatal services from public healthcare networks.³⁶⁹⁵ This funding goes towards strengthening early identification and monitoring of pregnant and postpartum women with flu syndromes or severe acute respiratory syndromes with suspicion or confirmation of COVID-19.³⁶⁹⁶ This investment is aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁹⁷

On 20 April 2021, Minister Alves, Governor of the Federal District Ibaneis Rocha and First Lady Bolsonaro attended the opening of the first CMB in Ceilandia, the most populated region in the Federal District.³⁶⁹⁸ During this event, a Technical Cooperation Agreement of the Safe and Protected Women Program was signed by figures from the federal and district governments, the Court of Justice of the Federal District and Territories, and the Public Defender’s Office of the Federal District.³⁶⁹⁹ This Agreement aims to expand existing public services for female victims of violence

³⁶⁹¹ Dial 100 and Dial 180 are integrated into two municipalities in Sao Paulo, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/disque-100-e-ligue-180-sao-integrados-a-dois-municipios-de-sao-paulo>

³⁶⁹² Dial 100 and Dial 180 are integrated into two municipalities in Sao Paulo, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/disque-100-e-ligue-180-sao-integrados-a-dois-municipios-de-sao-paulo>

³⁶⁹³ All for them: platform trains companies and employees on combating violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/todos-por-elas-plataforma-capacita-empresas-e-funcionarios-sobre-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

³⁶⁹⁴ All for them: platform trains companies and employees on combating violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/todos-por-elas-plataforma-capacita-empresas-e-funcionarios-sobre-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

³⁶⁹⁵ Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

³⁶⁹⁶ Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

³⁶⁹⁷ Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

³⁶⁹⁸ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

³⁶⁹⁹ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

through specialized services from the public healthcare system, opportunities for justice, social assistance networks, and promotions of women's economic independence.³⁷⁰⁰

On 29 April 2021, the MMFDH launched the Qualify for Entrepreneurship in Pernambuco initiative in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.³⁷⁰¹ This initiative is part of the MMFDH's Qualifica Mulher project, which aims to promote female economic autonomy, and is an attempt at regionalization of the Qualifica Mulher project in order to better meet economic needs of different regions of Brazil.³⁷⁰² This initiative covers courses in entrepreneurship, social media, waste management, hospitality in health units, hospital sanitation and hygiene, and food production, and is aimed at socially vulnerable women living in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Paulista, São Lourenço da Mata and Recife.³⁷⁰³

On 6 May 2021, Brazil participated in a virtual meeting on "Measures implemented in Latin America against violence against women in the COVID-19 pandemic," hosted by the Organization of American States.³⁷⁰⁴ The Director of the Department of Policies to Combat Violence against Women of the MMFDH Grace Justa shared Brazil's initiatives to combating gender-based violence with other states in attendance.³⁷⁰⁵

On 11 May 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a law that institutes the National Risk Assessment Form, which contains 27 questions to map cases of women in violent situations.³⁷⁰⁶ This legal instrument for public security agencies will be used to prevent and manage crimes relating to domestic and family violence against women and will be used during the reporting of an incident at a police station.³⁷⁰⁷

On 13 May 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law No. 14,151/21, which determined that pregnant women must remain away from face-to-face activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and

³⁷⁰⁰ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

³⁷⁰¹ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

³⁷⁰² Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

³⁷⁰³ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

³⁷⁰⁴ Brazil shares actions to combat violence against women during the pandemic at an OAS meeting, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/brasil-compartilha-acoes-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-mulher-durante-a-pandemia-em-reuniao-da-oea>

³⁷⁰⁵ Brazil shares actions to combat violence against women during the pandemic at an OAS meeting, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/brasil-compartilha-acoes-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-mulher-durante-a-pandemia-em-reuniao-da-oea>

³⁷⁰⁶ Sanctioned law that implements a unified form to combat violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/sancionada-lei-que-implementa-formulario-unificado-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

³⁷⁰⁷ Sanctioned law that implements a unified form to combat violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/sancionada-lei-que-implementa-formulario-unificado-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

work through teleworking or other remote methods.³⁷⁰⁸ This new law provides protection for pregnant women by mandating that pregnant women cannot be working in person near other people.³⁷⁰⁹

On 26 May 2021, the National Secretary of Policies for Women of the MMFDH Cristiane Britto presented the Save a Women Project at the first Legal Colloquium Brazil-Organization of American States: Good Practices in Brazilian Law.³⁷¹⁰ The Save a Women Project supports the awareness and prevention of gender-based violence through the collaboration between private and public institutions.³⁷¹¹ Partners of this initiative undergo training and sensitization classes on combating violence against women and they also disseminate educational materials about women in vulnerable places.³⁷¹²

On 26 May 2021, the MMFDH allocated BRL287,000 for the Health Services Hygienist course as part of the Qualifica Mulher pilot project.³⁷¹³ This initiative provides 300 women in vulnerable situations, especially immigrants, with 280 hours of training over four months to support the economic autonomy of women.³⁷¹⁴

On 31 May 2021, the National Secretariat for Global Protection (SNPG) hosted the third edition of the National Forum on Responsibility with representatives from the MMFDH.³⁷¹⁵ The forum's theme was "Business and Human Rights: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Women and Families."³⁷¹⁶ Forum participants discussed and debated topics such as equal

³⁷⁰⁸ Law determines remote work for pregnant women during the pandemic, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/lei-determina-trabalho-remoto-para-gestantes-durante-a-pandemia>

³⁷⁰⁹ Law determines remote work for pregnant women during the pandemic, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/lei-determina-trabalho-remoto-para-gestantes-durante-a-pandemia>

³⁷¹⁰ Actions to combat violence against women are presented at an international event, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/acoes-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-sao-apresentadas-em-evento-internacional>

³⁷¹¹ Actions to combat violence against women are presented at an international event, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/acoes-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-sao-apresentadas-em-evento-internacional>

³⁷¹² Actions to combat violence against women are presented at an international event, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/acoes-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-sao-apresentadas-em-evento-internacional>

³⁷¹³ Three hundred vulnerable women receive a training course in Uberlândia (MG), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/trezentas-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-recebem-curso-de-capacitacao-em-uberlandia-mg>

³⁷¹⁴ Three hundred vulnerable women receive a training course in Uberlândia (MG), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/trezentas-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-recebem-curso-de-capacitacao-em-uberlandia-mg>

³⁷¹⁵ 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

³⁷¹⁶ 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

pay and work-life balance.³⁷¹⁷ This event was part of the SNPG's Be Responsible Campaign, which focuses on promoting human rights in the corporate environment.³⁷¹⁸

On 11 June 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law No. 14,164/21, which institutes the School Week to Combat Violence against Women to be held every year in March.³⁷¹⁹ This highlights the importance of raising awareness among future generations about identifying and preventing violence against women.³⁷²⁰

On 25 June 2021, the MMFDH launched the socio-economic inclusion program "Beleza Além das Fronteiras" in partnership with the Virada Feminina Movement, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Casa Venezuela.³⁷²¹ This program supports the economic autonomy of over 200 Venezuelan women and migrants by training them to enter the beauty market.³⁷²² Training includes courses on hairdressing, entrepreneurship, and interview training.³⁷²³

On 30 June 2021, the Chamber of Deputies launched the National Observatory of Women in Politics (ONMP) to increase research on women's participation in politics.³⁷²⁴ The National Secretary of Policies for Women of the MMFDH Britto emphasized how the Observatory is key in combating political violence, which is a primary cause of women's underrepresentation in politics.³⁷²⁵

On 2 July 2021, the Federal Government of Brazil announced an investment of BRL2.4 million to 16 municipalities of Marajó, Pará, for the protection of the rights of women and developing the

³⁷¹⁷ 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

³⁷¹⁸ 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

³⁷¹⁹ Law includes the prevention of violence against women in the school curriculum, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/lei-inclui-a-prevencao-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-no-curriculo-escolar>

³⁷²⁰ Law includes the prevention of violence against women in the school curriculum, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/lei-inclui-a-prevencao-a-violencia-contr-a-mulher-no-curriculo-escolar>

³⁷²¹ Minister Damares Alves participates in the launch of the "Beleza Beyond Borders" program, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministra-damaraes-alves-participa-do-lancamento-do-programa-201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d>

³⁷²² "Beauty Beyond Borders" promotes economic autonomy for Venezuelans and migrants from neighboring countries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d-promove-autonomia-economica-de-venezuelanas-e-migrantes-de-paises-vizinhos>

³⁷²³ "Beauty Beyond Borders" promotes economic autonomy for Venezuelans and migrants from neighboring countries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d-promove-autonomia-economica-de-venezuelanas-e-migrantes-de-paises-vizinhos>

³⁷²⁴ National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

³⁷²⁵ National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

economic autonomy of women.³⁷²⁶ Some examples of this investment include the construction of a CMB in Breves, 4,000 places for training courses through the Qualifica Mulher project and lectures to sensitize populations about violence against women.³⁷²⁷

On 20 July 2021, the MMFDH, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, introduced the National Risk Assessment Form for femicide.³⁷²⁸ This training for 54 civil police delegates aims to make the evaluation of domestic violence cases consistent using a questionnaire.³⁷²⁹

On 23 July 2021, the MMFDH, in partnership with Associação Aliança Empreendedora (AE), launched an initiative to provide free courses for 270,000 women in situations of social vulnerability.³⁷³⁰ Themes of courses include entrepreneurship, financial education, digital marketing, crafts, and more.³⁷³¹ Women with a monthly income of up to one and a half of minimum wage are prioritized for these courses.³⁷³²

On 28 July 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned new legislation which includes marking a red “X” on the palm of the hand as a discrete manner to report an aggressor as inspired by the Red Signal Against Domestic Violence campaign.³⁷³³ The new legislation also modifies the Penal Code to include bodily injury for reasons of being a female as well as typifying the crime of psychological violence against women.³⁷³⁴ This legislation also created the Red Signal Against Domestic Violence Cooperation Program, which aims to encourage joint actions between the federal government, Public Defender’s Office, states, municipalities and private institutions.³⁷³⁵

³⁷²⁶ More than R\$ 2 million are invested in the protection and autonomy of women in Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/mais-de-r-2-milhoes-sao-investidos-na-protecao-e-autonomia-das-mulheres-do-marajo-pa>

³⁷²⁷ More than R\$ 2 million are invested in the protection and autonomy of women in Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/mais-de-r-2-milhoes-sao-investidos-na-protecao-e-autonomia-das-mulheres-do-marajo-pa>

³⁷²⁸ Course will address application of risk assessment form for femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

³⁷²⁹ Course will address application of risk assessment form for femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

³⁷³⁰ Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

³⁷³¹ Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

³⁷³² Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

³⁷³³ Red Light Campaign against Domestic Violence is now law, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/campanha-sinal-vermelho-contra-a-violencia-domestica-agora-e-lei>

³⁷³⁴ Red Light Campaign against Domestic Violence is now law, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/campanha-sinal-vermelho-contra-a-violencia-domestica-agora-e-lei>

³⁷³⁵ Red Light Campaign against Domestic Violence is now law, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/campanha-sinal-vermelho-contra-a-violencia-domestica-agora-e-lei>

On 29 July 2021, the MMFDH and the National Supply Company (Conab) signed protocols of intentions for an initiative to support women from rural communities.³⁷³⁶ This initiative, which is part of the Qualifica Mulher project, would offer free courses in vocational training and entrepreneurship targeted at empowering female farmers.³⁷³⁷ This initiative recognizes the potential of women farmers that did not attend school but lead many family farming establishments.³⁷³⁸

On 3 August 2021, the Minister Alves signed a technical cooperation agreement to better protect victims of violence in Marília.³⁷³⁹ This partnership with the municipality of Marília will direct data from the National Human Rights Ombudsman to the municipality in order to ensure greater speed in handling cases.³⁷⁴⁰

On 6 August 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law 14,192/21, which aims to criminalize political violence against women.³⁷⁴¹ This legislation contributes to the creation of norms to prevent and combat political violence against women by establishing punishments and conceptualizing violations.³⁷⁴²

On 11 August 2021, the National Human Rights Ombudsman (ONDH) partnered with the bus companies Piracicabana and Pioneira to publicize denunciation channels, Dial 100 and Ligue 180.³⁷⁴³ This raises awareness of reporting incidents of violence, and offers more protection to women using public transport.³⁷⁴⁴

On 17 August 2021, the MMFDH signed the Technical Cooperation Agreement with Caixa Econômica Federal (Caixa) agencies, which affirms that all employees of Caixa agencies are allies in

³⁷³⁶ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasília) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

³⁷³⁷ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasília) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

³⁷³⁸ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasília) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

³⁷³⁹ Partnership with Marília (SP) will improve the sharing of allegations of human rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/parceria-com-marilia-sp-ira-aperfeicoar-o-compartilhamento-de-denuncias-de-violacoes-de-direitos-humanos>

³⁷⁴⁰ Partnership with Marília (SP) will improve the sharing of allegations of human rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/parceria-com-marilia-sp-ira-aperfeicoar-o-compartilhamento-de-denuncias-de-violacoes-de-direitos-humanos>

³⁷⁴¹ Federal government publishes law to prevent and combat political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/governo-federal-publica-lei-para-prevenir-e-combater-a-violencia-politica-contra-a-mulher>

³⁷⁴² Federal government publishes law to prevent and combat political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/governo-federal-publica-lei-para-prevenir-e-combater-a-violencia-politica-contra-a-mulher>

³⁷⁴³ Federal District buses disclose channels for reporting rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/onibus-do-distrito-federal-divulgam-canal-de-denuncia-de-violacao-de-direitos>

³⁷⁴⁴ Federal District buses disclose channels for reporting rights violations, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/onibus-do-distrito-federal-divulgam-canal-de-denuncia-de-violacao-de-direitos>

the fight against violence.³⁷⁴⁵ The partnership integrates civil society with the actions of the MMFDH's Save a Women Project through the provision of information on different types of violence, training initiatives and educational campaigns aimed at Caixa employees, and public policies that promote equity and respect in the workplace.³⁷⁴⁶

On 18 August 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security announced the launch of Operation Maria da Penha in collaboration with the MMFDH.³⁷⁴⁷ This operation, which lasts from 20 August 2021 to 20 September 2021, focuses on tackling domestic violence against women and improving the system of protection for victims.³⁷⁴⁸ This operation's actions will support assistance for victims of domestic violence and promote the importance of denouncing aggressions.³⁷⁴⁹

On 25 August 2021, the Head of the SNPM Cristiane Britto participated in an international webinar hosted by the Association of Business Women and Professionals of Latin America (BTW Latin America) on public policies to support women.³⁷⁵⁰ With representatives from nine other countries present at the webinar, Head of the SNPM Britto highlighted actions taken by the Government of Brazil to encourage complaints and strengthen protection and reception networks in Brazil in order to prevent and reduce cases of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁵¹

Brazil has taken strong actions in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities. Brazil has focused on combating violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic through funding additional safehouses, improving report hotlines such as Ligue 180, and introducing educational campaigns. Brazil has also focused on women's health through increasing access to quality prenatal or postnatal care, and on women's economic security through funding training programs and online courses to promote economic autonomy.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Isabella Li

³⁷⁴⁵ Agreement with Caixa prioritizes actions to fight violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acordo-com-a-caixa-prioriza-aco-es-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

³⁷⁴⁶ Agreement with Caixa prioritizes actions to fight violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acordo-com-a-caixa-prioriza-aco-es-de-enfrentamento-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

³⁷⁴⁷ Unprecedented integrated action aims to confront violence against women and improve protection for victims, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acao-integrada-inedita-visa-a-enfrentar-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-e-aprimorar-protecao-as-vitimas>

³⁷⁴⁸ Unprecedented integrated action aims to confront violence against women and improve protection for victims, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acao-integrada-inedita-visa-a-enfrentar-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-e-aprimorar-protecao-as-vitimas>

³⁷⁴⁹ Unprecedented integrated action aims to confront violence against women and improve protection for victims, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/acao-integrada-inedita-visa-a-enfrentar-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-e-aprimorar-protecao-as-vitimas>

³⁷⁵⁰ International meeting discusses the impact of public policies on women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/encontro-internacional-discute-impacto-de-politicas-publicas-para-as-mulheres>

³⁷⁵¹ International meeting discusses the impact of public policies on women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/encontro-internacional-discute-impacto-de-politicas-publicas-para-as-mulheres>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 7 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced at the virtual global conference “Strengthening Women’s Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: From Commitments to Results,” hosted by Vietnam and the United Nations, that Canada will be providing CAD8.5 million over five years to UN Women to empower women, prevent violence and promote social cohesion in Southeast Asia.³⁷⁵² This is part of a joint five year programme launched by Canada, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and UN Women to expand and strengthen women’s leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery in South-East Asia.³⁷⁵³ Canada’s financial commitment will help address gender equality and discrimination against women and girls in ASEAN member states, as targeted violence against women in Southeast Asia has been on the rise due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁵⁴ The new programme reflects the commitment of ASEAN and Canada to promote gender equality and to respond to an increasingly widespread call across the globe for women to be empowered to lead and participate in peace and development.³⁷⁵⁵

On 8 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced in a meeting with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Canada’s support of four projects totalling over CAD25 million to advance the economic empowerment of rural women, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine.³⁷⁵⁶ Through investments, Canada aims to support the Government of Ukraine to enhance the economic security of women, especially those affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.³⁷⁵⁷

On 15 December 2020, Canada invested in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors.³⁷⁵⁸ This funding will support these organizations in identifying and counselling survivors of trafficking, providing transition and second stage housing, mental health services, and

³⁷⁵² Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

³⁷⁵³ Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

³⁷⁵⁴ Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

³⁷⁵⁵ ASEAN, Canada and UN Women jointly launch a 5-year programme to advance Women, Peace and Security Agenda, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/02/asean-canada-and-un-women-jointly-launch-a-5-year-programme>

³⁷⁵⁶ Canada announces support to improve safety and economic opportunity for women and most vulnerable in Ukraine, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-improve-safety-and-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-most-vulnerable-in-ukraine.html>

³⁷⁵⁷ Canada announces support to improve safety and economic opportunity for women and most vulnerable in Ukraine, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-improve-safety-and-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-most-vulnerable-in-ukraine.html>

³⁷⁵⁸ Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

employment services and supports, as well as training and tools to gain financial independence.³⁷⁵⁹ At the time of this announcement, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and for Rural Economic Development Maryam Monsef stated: “In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more challenging to escape situations of human trafficking and to access supports, making the important work of organizations that provide these services even more essential.”³⁷⁶⁰

On 17 December 2020, Canada announced that an agreement has been reached with the Canada Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding, in the amount of CAD36.3 million, for gender-based violence support, to these frontline organizations.³⁷⁶¹ The funding will continue to help address the immediate needs of organizations that provide a range of gender-based violence supports and services, such as emergency helplines, crisis and resources centres, counselling support, crisis intervention, drop-in services and support groups.³⁷⁶² This funding towards these frontline organizations is in recognition of their increased demand, due to the high rates of gender-based violence against women and girls, that has intensified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁶³

On 28 January 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Joel Lightbound announced an investment of CAD249,750 for the La Maison pour femmes immigrantes (House for Immigrant Women).³⁷⁶⁴ This funding is to allow the organization to continue to promote social and systemic changes towards gender equality and is focused on the needs of immigrant and Quebecer women and children victims of domestic violence living in the Quebec City region.³⁷⁶⁵

On 3 February 2021, Minister Monsef announced that up to CAD2.5 million in funding will be allocated for a new project named Advancing Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada

³⁷⁵⁹ Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

³⁷⁶⁰ Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

³⁷⁶¹ Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

³⁷⁶² Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

³⁷⁶³ Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

³⁷⁶⁴ Government of Canada announces investment in women’s organization in the Quebec Region, Government of Canada (Quebec) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-investment-in-womens-organization-in-the-quebec-region.html>

³⁷⁶⁵ Government of Canada announces investment in women’s organization in the Quebec Region, Government of Canada (Quebec) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-investment-in-womens-organization-in-the-quebec-region.html>

to Respond to COVID-19.³⁷⁶⁶ This project aims to advance gender equity through the engagement with Black women's community organizations and prevent gender-based violence against Black women and girls during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁶⁷ This project will be launched by the Women's Centre for Social Justice in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Foundation and Battered Women's Support Services.³⁷⁶⁸

On 11 February 2021, Minister Monsef announced that the country would invest CAD100 million to support women impacted by the pandemic through the creation of a new call for proposals called Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, which will provide funding for projects helping those in greatest need.³⁷⁶⁹ The women's program provides funding to eligible organizations in three priority areas, including, ending violence against women and girls, improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity and by encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles.³⁷⁷⁰ This is in an effort to take strong action to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from rolling back progress or reversing the hard-won gains of women in Canada.³⁷⁷¹

On 1 March 2021, Minister Gould announced at the Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen, convened by the United Nations, Sweden and Switzerland, that Canada would be pledging CAD69.9 million in funding in continued response to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Yemen in 2021.³⁷⁷² This new funding will be provided to UN agencies, the Red Cross, and other non-governmental organizations, and will provide life-saving food and support health care, clean water and sanitation.³⁷⁷³ In line with its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada's humanitarian assistance will also focus on the urgent needs of women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in

³⁷⁶⁶ Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

³⁷⁶⁷ Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

³⁷⁶⁸ Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

³⁷⁶⁹ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁷⁷⁰ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁷⁷¹ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁷⁷² Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

³⁷⁷³ Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

Yemen.³⁷⁷⁴ This funding aims to support Yemeni access to quality health care and ensure access to clean water and sanitation facilities, especially for women and girls who have been disproportionately affected by the crisis.³⁷⁷⁵

On 2 March 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng, co-hosted the Canada-Sweden Ideas Roundtable with Anna Hallberg, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs, alongside women entrepreneurs from both countries, to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs as both countries work toward an economic recovery that is sustainable and inclusive.³⁷⁷⁶ The roundtable discussion allowed both Canada and Sweden to commit to working together “on advancing gender equality and collaborating to support women entrepreneurs and remove barriers to their success.”³⁷⁷⁷

On 5 March 2021, Canada announced CAD29.5 million in development assistance for six projects to support high-quality education, peace and economic prosperity in Colombia caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Venezuela.³⁷⁷⁸ This funding aims to support the economic empowerment of rural women and youth, as well as to address the increase in post-peace agreement violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence against Afro-Colombian women and girls.³⁷⁷⁹

On 8 March 2021, Canada hosted a two-day summit titled “Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery” to mark International Women’s Day.³⁷⁸⁰ The Summit brought together politicians, experts, feminist leaders and those with lived experience to examine how COVID-19 is impacting the lives of women in Canada, as women have been on the front lines of the crisis.³⁷⁸¹ The Summit focused on the steps that governments, civil society and all Canadians can take to ensure an inclusive pandemic recovery by advancing gender equality.³⁷⁸²

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed Hussen announced investments in two women’s organizations.³⁷⁸³ The ministry will provide CAD250,000 in

³⁷⁷⁴ Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

³⁷⁷⁵ Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

³⁷⁷⁶ Canada and Sweden co-host virtual round table with women entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-and-sweden-co-host-virtual-round-table-with-women-entrepreneurs.html>

³⁷⁷⁷ Canada and Sweden co-host virtual round table with women entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-and-sweden-co-host-virtual-round-table-with-women-entrepreneurs.html>

³⁷⁷⁸ Canada announces projects in Colombia to support most vulnerable populations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-projects-in-colombia-to-support-most-vulnerable-populations.html>

³⁷⁷⁹ Canada announces projects in Colombia to support most vulnerable populations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-projects-in-colombia-to-support-most-vulnerable-populations.html>

³⁷⁸⁰ Government of Canada to host Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit to mark International Women’s Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-host-canadas-feminist-response-and-recovery-summit-to-mark-international-womens-day.html>

³⁷⁸¹ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

³⁷⁸² Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

³⁷⁸³ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

funding to the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto and CAD205,752 to support the North York Women's Centre.³⁷⁸⁴ The purpose of these investments is to continue advancing the gender equality initiatives of the aforementioned organizations in their communities.³⁷⁸⁵

On 15 March 2021, Minister Monsef announced an additional CAD8.7 million in emergency funding will be allocated to the Government of Quebec to support victims of sexual violence and domestic violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁸⁶ This funding is for women's shelters, organizations helping victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, and organizations providing assistance or services to women in situations that may be susceptible to violence.³⁷⁸⁷

On 31 March 2021, Canada and 20 countries (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.³⁷⁸⁸ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.³⁷⁸⁹

On 7 April 2021, Minister Monsef announced that the federal government would invest CAD7.7 million into 16 women and equality-seeking organizations in the province of Ontario.³⁷⁹⁰ This funding will allow these organizations to increase their capacity to continue their work addressing gender equality issues in their communities, through helping women find full-time employment and ensuring that they are able to access critical health services and social supports, and will allow these organizations to overcome the unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on women.³⁷⁹¹

On 19 April 2021, Canada released their budget for 2021, which recognizes the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on women, and includes many investments centered around

³⁷⁸⁴ Canada's Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

³⁷⁸⁵ Canada's Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

³⁷⁸⁶ Statement by Minister Monsef and Minister Charest on support for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence in Quebec in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Quebec) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/03/statement-by-minister-monsef-and-minister-charest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

³⁷⁸⁷ Statement by Minister Monsef and Minister Charest on support for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence in Quebec in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Quebec) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/03/statement-by-minister-monsef-and-minister-charest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

³⁷⁸⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

³⁷⁸⁹ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

³⁷⁹⁰ Minister Monsef announces \$7.7 million investment in 16 women's and equality-seeking organizations in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/04/minister-monsef-announces-77-million-investment-in-16-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-ontario.html>

³⁷⁹¹ Minister Monsef announces \$7.7 million investment in 16 women's and equality-seeking organizations in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/04/minister-monsef-announces-77-million-investment-in-16-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-ontario.html>

women's economic recovery.³⁷⁹² The Budget 2021's key measures towards a feminist economy recovery include investments totaling almost CAD30 billion over the next five years in a Canada-wide early learning and child care plan which aims to reduce fees for parents, an investment of CAD146.9 million into strengthening the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy to provide greater access to financing, mentorship and training for women entrepreneurs, an investment of CAD315.4 million to increase direct financial assistance for low-income women and children fleeing violence to help with their rent payments and CAD250 million to support the construction, repair and operating costs of an estimated 560 units of transitional housing and shelter spaces for women and children fleeing violence.³⁷⁹³ These sustained investments will work towards building a post-pandemic recovery that is inclusive of women and that addresses systemic gender inequality issues.³⁷⁹⁴

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Melanie Joly announced that the Canada would allocate more than CAD5.8 million in non-repayable contributions through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to nine organizations providing business and advisory services to women in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island.³⁷⁹⁵ This investment is aimed at helping organizations that empower women entrepreneurs with tools they need to maintain or expand their businesses, and offset the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁹⁶

On 26 May 2021, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced CAD186 million in funding to support new and existing projects in Mozambique, including supporting Mozambique's direct response to the pandemic, mitigating the pandemic's secondary impacts on the health and education systems and addressing women and girls' increased vulnerability to gender-based violence and child marriage.³⁷⁹⁷ This funding will support Mozambicans through programs that "increase access and reduce barriers to family planning services, that empower girls so that the number of child marriages and early pregnancies are reduced and that deliver sexual education in schools" to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on gender equality in Mozambique.³⁷⁹⁸

On 2 June 2021, Special Representative for the Prairies Jim Carr announced CAD1.72 million in funding for five women's and gender equality-seeking organizations in the prairies: Alberta Network of Immigrant Women, Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta, Alberta Native Friendship

³⁷⁹² Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

³⁷⁹³ Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

³⁷⁹⁴ Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

³⁷⁹⁵ ACOA investments support resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs across Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Dartmouth) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/acoa-investments-support-resources-and-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-across-atlantic-canada.html>

³⁷⁹⁶ ACOA investments support resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs across Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Dartmouth) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/acoa-investments-support-resources-and-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-across-atlantic-canada.html>

³⁷⁹⁷ Minister Gould concludes first day of virtual visit to Mozambique, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-gould-concludes-first-day-of-virtual-visit-to-mozambique.html>

³⁷⁹⁸ Minister Gould concludes first day of virtual visit to Mozambique, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-gould-concludes-first-day-of-virtual-visit-to-mozambique.html>

Centres Association, Bonnyville Friendship Centre, Ikeyuktiit Incorporated Inc Manitoba.³⁷⁹⁹ The funding is aimed at supporting work to address gender equality issues and to help women overcome unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed upon these populations.³⁸⁰⁰

On 4 June 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Daniel Vandal announced over CAD3 million in funding for six organizations advancing gender equality for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Northern communities in Canada.³⁸⁰¹ These investments will help the organizations “develop partnerships and strategies to promote full and equitable participation in the economy, advance women and underrepresented groups into leadership roles, address social and systemic change towards gender equality, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.”³⁸⁰²

On 4 June 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development Gudie Hutchings and Member of Parliament for Charlottetown Sean Casey announced CAD1.1 million in funding for Women’s Network PEI and PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.³⁸⁰³ The funding is aimed at supporting efforts to advance gender equality initiatives and to increase access to supports for underserved populations, specifically women victims of gender-based violence.³⁸⁰⁴

On 9 June 2021, Parliamentary Secretary Hutchings announced CAD2.8 million in investments to support eight organizations that prevent and address human trafficking in British Columbia, specifically those that provide services to Black, Indigenous and immigrant women and girls, who are particularly at-risk of being trafficked.³⁸⁰⁵ This funding will “help these organizations increase

³⁷⁹⁹ Government of Canada announces \$1.72 million investment in 5 women’s and equality-seeking organizations in the prairies, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-172-million-investment-in-5-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-the-prairies.html>

³⁸⁰⁰ Government of Canada announces \$1.72 million investment in 5 women’s and equality-seeking organizations in the prairies, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-172-million-investment-in-5-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-the-prairies.html>

³⁸⁰¹ Government of Canada announces over \$3 million for six organizations advancing gender equality in the North, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-over-3-million-for-six-organizations-advancing-gender-equality-in-the-north.html>

³⁸⁰² Government of Canada announces over \$3 million for six organizations advancing gender equality in the North, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-over-3-million-for-six-organizations-advancing-gender-equality-in-the-north.html>

³⁸⁰³ Government of Canada invests \$1.1 million in two women’s organizations in Prince Edward Island, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Charlottetown) 4 June 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-11-million-in-two-womens-organizations-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁰⁴ Government of Canada invests \$1.1 million in two women’s organizations in Prince Edward Island, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Charlottetown) 4 June 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-11-million-in-two-womens-organizations-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁰⁵ Government of Canada invests \$2.8 million to help prevent human trafficking and support survivors and victims in British Columbia, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Vancouver) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-28-million-to-help-prevent-human-trafficking-and-support-survivors-and-victims-in-british-columbia.html>

awareness about human trafficking and support at-risk populations – including victims and survivors.”³⁸⁰⁶

On 11 June 2021, Minister for Natural Resources Seamus O’Regan announced CAD1.3 million in funding for three community organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador that support women.³⁸⁰⁷ The three organizations include the Multicultural Women’s Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Organization of Women Entrepreneurs who will each receive CAD450,000 to address organizational capacity and promote social and systemic change towards gender equality, and the Association for New Canadians, who will receive CAD400,000 to “advance knowledge and enhance empowerment supports with promising intervention practices for at-risk populations.”³⁸⁰⁸ This funding will help these organizations “increase their capacity to support women and girls, as well as victims and survivors of human trafficking in Newfoundland and Labrador.”³⁸⁰⁹

On 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced nearly CAD180 million to advance gender equality around the world at the opening ceremony of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), which was convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France.³⁸¹⁰ Canada committed nearly CAD80 million in new funding for women and girls through action coalitions, focused on support for the education of girls, advancing gender equality in parliaments, and contributing to UNICEF’s Global Programme to End Child Marriage.³⁸¹¹ The Government of Canada also announced that it will commit CAD100 million in new funding for stand-alone programming to address issues in unpaid and paid care work in low and middle-income countries in which Canada provides international assistance through women’s rights and civil society organizations, country partners and multilateral organizations.³⁸¹² The programming will “help increase women’s ability to participate in the economy, in education, and in public life.”³⁸¹³

³⁸⁰⁶ Government of Canada invests \$2.8 million to help prevent human trafficking and support survivors and victims in British Columbia, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Vancouver) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-28-million-to-help-prevent-human-trafficking-and-support-survivors-and-victims-in-british-columbia.html>

³⁸⁰⁷ Government of Canada invests \$1.3 million in three organizations supporting women in Newfoundland and Labrador, Women and Gender Equality Canada (St. John’s) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-13-million-in-three-organizations-supporting-women-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

³⁸⁰⁸ Government of Canada invests \$1.3 million in three organizations supporting women in Newfoundland and Labrador, Women and Gender Equality Canada (St. John’s) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-13-million-in-three-organizations-supporting-women-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

³⁸⁰⁹ Government of Canada invests \$1.3 million in three organizations supporting women in Newfoundland and Labrador, Women and Gender Equality Canada (St. John’s) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-13-million-in-three-organizations-supporting-women-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

³⁸¹⁰ Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

³⁸¹¹ New Canadian investments in global gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/new-canadian-investments-in-global-gender-equality.html>

³⁸¹² New Canadian investments in global gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/new-canadian-investments-in-global-gender-equality.html>

³⁸¹³ Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

On 30 June 2021, the Government of Canada announced the co-creation of the Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements in partnership with the Netherlands, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights, the Association for Women's Rights in Development, the Count Me In! Consortium, the Global Fund for Women, the Equality Fund and Prospera.³⁸¹⁴ This new partnership will “create a new, dedicated space to address challenges that women and girls face towards achieving equality, including through funding and by enabling better planning among donors and feminist movements.”³⁸¹⁵

On 26 July 2021, Member of Parliament for Fredericton Jenica Atwin, on behalf of Minister Monsef, announced CAD200,000 to support the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and CAD30,000 to support the New Brunswick Child Rights Inc, which both work to end gender-based violence in Canada.³⁸¹⁶ This funding will help the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council in establishing a crisis helpline for Indigenous people affected by the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and will allow the New Brunswick Champions for Child Rights Inc to develop an implementation plan to increase access to culturally sensitive and gender inclusive programs for victims of gender-based violence.³⁸¹⁷

On 29 July 2021, Minister Monsef announced that 273 projects will receive funding from the CAD100 million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund.³⁸¹⁸ The projects selected will “address systemic issues that vulnerable and underrepresented women face and help ensure an inclusive recovery from the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.”³⁸¹⁹

On 6 August 2021, Minister Monsef announced agreements that will see almost CAD200 million over two years “flow to shelters, sexual assault centres and organizations supporting women and children experiencing violence.”³⁸²⁰ Women and Gender Equality Canada will work with Women's Shelters Canada, Canadian Women's Foundation and with the Government of Québec to rapidly

³⁸¹⁴ New Canadian investments in global gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/new-canadian-investments-in-global-gender-equality.html>

³⁸¹⁵ Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

³⁸¹⁶ Government of Canada invests \$230,000 in two projects supporting women and families in New Brunswick, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-230000-in-two-projects-supporting-women-and-families-in-new-brunswick.html>

³⁸¹⁷ Government of Canada invests \$230,000 in two projects supporting women and families in New Brunswick, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-230000-in-two-projects-supporting-women-and-families-in-new-brunswick.html>

³⁸¹⁸ Government of Canada announces recipients of \$100-million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-100-million-feminist-response-and-recovery-fund.html>

³⁸¹⁹ Government of Canada announces recipients of \$100-million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-100-million-feminist-response-and-recovery-fund.html>

³⁸²⁰ Government of Canada announces funding to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/08/tbc---department-for-women-and-gender-equality-canada---gender-based-violence-program0.html>

deliver these funds across the country.³⁸²¹ This funding will ensure that front-line organizations can continue to provide critical health services and offer supports to victims of gender-based violence.³⁸²²

Through its increased investments in gender equality abroad, the creation of new programs at the domestic level that are focused on promoting the economic security and empowerment of women, and the multitude of investments into Canadian organizations that prevent and support victims of gender-based violence, Canada has taken strong actions in the spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence at both the domestic and international levels and therefore, has fully complied with its commitment to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Delaney Murphy

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 19 November 2020, the President of the All-China Women's Federation Shen Yueyue chaired a symposium in Beijing with experts in attendance to discuss efforts to promote the development of women and children in the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).³⁸²³ At the symposium, participants provided suggestions on solving inadequacies faced by women and children in relation to economic development, livelihoods and social participation.³⁸²⁴ This symposium also focused on targets to eliminate gender discrimination in employment and to improve rural maternal and child health services.³⁸²⁵

On 23 February 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Accelerating the Rejuvenation of Rural Talents."³⁸²⁶ Article 25 of the publication addressed the government's intention to speed up the development of rural vocational education to encourage veterans, laid-off workers, migrant workers, high-quality farmers and left-behind women to apply for higher vocational

³⁸²¹ Government of Canada announces funding to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/08/tbc---department-for-women-and-gender-equality-canada---gender-based-violence-program0.html>

³⁸²² Government of Canada announces funding to address gender-based violence and advance gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/08/tbc---department-for-women-and-gender-equality-canada---gender-based-violence-program0.html>

³⁸²³ ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

³⁸²⁴ ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

³⁸²⁵ ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

³⁸²⁶ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions "Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents," Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

colleges to decrease the gender gap in workforces.³⁸²⁷ Institutions can appropriately lower the admission scores for the above populations on the corresponding quality tests.³⁸²⁸

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security put into effect new regulations forbidding discriminatory content in online job advertisements.³⁸²⁹ The regulations stipulate that employers should not post online job advertisements that discriminate based on nationality, race, gender or religious beliefs.³⁸³⁰

On 6 March 2021, President Xi Jinping spoke of the protection of women's rights and women's development on multiple occasions at the fourth annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.³⁸³¹ President Xi stated that women represent an important force, driving social development and progress.³⁸³² He addressed the importance for party committees and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of developing women's undertakings.³⁸³³ These include increases in attention, support and effort to severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that infringe on women's rights.³⁸³⁴

On 9 April 2021, the Office of the State Council approved China's Action Plan Against Human Trafficking for the period of 2021 to 2030.³⁸³⁵ To effectively prevent and combat human trafficking crimes in China and abroad, the government plans to protect women's rights, regulate prostitution and marriage registrations, reinforce gender equality education, support women in rural and poverty-stricken areas with employment and/or entrepreneurship, and assist victims of trafficking with counselling and resettlement.³⁸³⁶ The government also aims to strengthen exchanges and cooperation for anti-trafficking work with international organizations such as the International Organization for

³⁸²⁷ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions "Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents," Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

³⁸²⁸ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions "Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents," Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

³⁸²⁹ China bans discriminatory content in online job advertisements, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/01/content_WS603cae0ac6d0719374af9c29.html

³⁸³⁰ China bans discriminatory content in online job advertisements, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/01/content_WS603cae0ac6d0719374af9c29.html

³⁸³¹ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

³⁸³² Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

³⁸³³ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

³⁸³⁴ When Xi Jinping visited the members of the medical and health education sector who participated in the CPPCC meeting, he emphasized that the protection of people's health should be placed on the strategic position of priority development and efforts to build a high-quality and balanced basic public education service system Wang Yang participated in the visit and discussion, Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.mca.gov.cn/article/xw/tt/202103/20210300032328.shtml>

³⁸³⁵ Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China's Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm

³⁸³⁶ Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China's Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm

Migration, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Women.³⁸³⁷

On 25 June 2021, the State Council issued an outline of a national campaign to improve scientific literacy from 2021 to 2035.³⁸³⁸ Within its tasks, the campaign will target the agricultural population and the scientific literacy of girls and women in rural areas through education and activities on ecological environment protection, thrift in energy and resources, green production, disaster prevention and alleviation, hygiene and health, and changes in old customs and habits.³⁸³⁹

On 19 July 2021, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the All-China Women's Federation in cooperation with other departments announced the launch of a series of measures to support women in playing a greater role in research and innovation in science and technology.³⁸⁴⁰ The measures include high-level training, supporting female innovation and entrepreneurship and supporting research through pregnancy and nursing.³⁸⁴¹

On 20 July 2021, the Communist Party of China's Central Committee and the State Council issued a document detailing the specific measures and policy tools that will be used to support the policy decision from 31 May 2021, to allow couples to have a third child.³⁸⁴² China plans to establish a support system to reduce the burdens of child rearing and education by 2025.³⁸⁴³ This document asks local authorities to remove any compensation fees currently imposed on those who breach current family planning policies, to remove any links between family planning and employment opportunities.³⁸⁴⁴ This document further asks local governments to streamline services related to birth certificates, social security card applications and newborn vaccinations.³⁸⁴⁵ Other supporting tools such as the provision of daycare services, the encouragement of kindergartens to admit children younger than age three, the enhancement of prenatal and postnatal health care services, the implementation of inspections to ensure that pregnancy and childbirth do not jeopardizing women's

³⁸³⁷ Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China's Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm

³⁸³⁸ Scientific literacy to flourish nationwide, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 1 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202106/25/content_WS60d5a266c6d0df57f98dbdf2.html

³⁸³⁹ Scientific literacy to flourish nationwide, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 1 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202106/25/content_WS60d5a266c6d0df57f98dbdf2.html

³⁸⁴⁰ China to help stimulate innovation vitality of female sci-tech talents, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html

³⁸⁴¹ China to help stimulate innovation vitality of female sci-tech talents, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html

³⁸⁴² Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html

³⁸⁴³ Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html

³⁸⁴⁴ Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html

³⁸⁴⁵ Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html

careers and the suggestion that couples with younger children will have access to tax reductions, subsidized housing, and breastfeeding leave have also been mentioned in this document.³⁸⁴⁶

China has taken some steps to help reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Gender-Based Violence and Health spheres. However, China has not taken any meaningful steps to address gender inequalities in regard to the Economic Security sphere, nor has China made any meaningful international collaborative commitments to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in any of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately (Health, Economic Security and/or Gender-Based Violence).

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Laura Bustos

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister Delegate in charge of Citizenship Marlène Schiappa launched an initiative in partnership with TikTok to promote the website Arrêtons les Violence (Stop the Violence) on the TikTok app.³⁸⁴⁷ The website is used to report sexual and gender-based violence and the aim of the initiative is to allow young girls to find advice, their rights, laws, concrete cases as well as educational and awareness resources against domestic violence.³⁸⁴⁸

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran and Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities at the Prime Minister's Office Élisabeth Moreno announced that an additional EUR4 million has been added to the government budget.³⁸⁴⁹ The aim is to help the government fight against menstrual insecurity in 2021 by increasing the accessibility of periodic protection, particularly women in precarious situations, for all women in France.³⁸⁵⁰ The additional funds brings the total budget for fighting menstrual insecurity to EUR5 million.³⁸⁵¹

³⁸⁴⁶ Measures to support third-child policy, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html

³⁸⁴⁷ Marlène Schiappa launches a partnership with the Tik Tok network against domestic violence, French Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁸⁴⁸ Marlène Schiappa launches a partnership with the Tik Tok network against domestic violence, French Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁸⁴⁹ Olivier Véran and Élisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

³⁸⁵⁰ Olivier Véran and Élisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

³⁸⁵¹ Olivier Véran and Élisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

On 16 February 2021, the National Assembly passed an anti-radicalism bill focused on tackling Islamist extremism and separatism.³⁸⁵² The bill, titled “Supporting respect for the principles of the republic” cracks down on a variety of practices not formally attached to a specific religion such as polygamy, forced marriages and banning virginity certificates and tests.³⁸⁵³ As indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO), virginity tests are a violation of women’s human rights since it is impossible to prove the occurrence of sexual intercourse by inspecting the hymen, either visually or physically.³⁸⁵⁴

On 23 February 2021, the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal announced that the Regional Centre for University and School Work university residences and university health services will all be equipped with free hygienic products.³⁸⁵⁵ The aim of this is to improve gender equality, class attendance and subsequently lead to improved employment and education for women and girls.³⁸⁵⁶

On 25 February 2021, France, the WHO and the non-governmental organization Women in Global Health, launched a new global initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector.³⁸⁵⁷ The initiative was created in response to the gender pay-gap and position disparity highlighted between men and women in the health sector by the pandemic.³⁸⁵⁸ The initiative aims to introduce measures to accomplish the following in the health sector: increase the number of women in leadership positions, get unpaid work recognized and reduce the gender pay gap, protect women against gender-based violence at work and guarantee safe working conditions.³⁸⁵⁹ Regarding this initiative, Minister Véran has stated that “promoting the position of women, who play a crucial role at the heart of our health systems and are often the first to be affected by growing inequality, is more necessary than ever... this initiative is a further step towards tangible gender equality in the health and care sector.”³⁸⁶⁰

³⁸⁵² French MPs approve bill to combat Islamist extremism, France 24 (Paris) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210216-french-mps-approve-bill-to-combat-islamist-extremism>

³⁸⁵³ France passes anti-radicalism bill that worries Muslims, AP News (Paris) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/polygamy-radicalism-secularism-elections-france-cbee2c916aa8c35380562277f0025c2b>

³⁸⁵⁴ French government condemns reality TV 'virginity test,' BBC News (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56600958>

³⁸⁵⁵ The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announces free periodical coverage, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid157167/la-ministre-de-l-enseignement-superieur-de-la-recherche-et-de-l-innovation-annonce-la-gratuite-des-protections-periodiques.html>

³⁸⁵⁶ The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announces free periodical coverage, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid157167/la-ministre-de-l-enseignement-superieur-de-la-recherche-et-de-l-innovation-annonce-la-gratuite-des-protections-periodiques.html>

³⁸⁵⁷ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

³⁸⁵⁸ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

³⁸⁵⁹ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

³⁸⁶⁰ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

On 8 March 2021, the French National Standards Association (AFNOR), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity launched an initiative aimed at establishing an international standard on gender equality.³⁸⁶¹ The goal of this initiative is to create a normative reference, entitled AFNOR-SPEC, that will constitute a technical guide detailing the best practices relating to the internal and external activities undertaken by public and private French organizations.³⁸⁶² The guide will cover the following topics: education, health and sexual reproductive rights, prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, the rights of women and girls and female economic empowerment.³⁸⁶³

On 29 March 2021, France and Mexico co-chaired the first portion of the Generation Equality Forum.³⁸⁶⁴ This first portion happened in Mexico City from 29 March 2021 until 31 March 2021, and the second portion is scheduled to occur on 30 June 2021 until 2 July 2021 in Paris, France.³⁸⁶⁵ Convened by UN Women in response to the effect that COVID has had on women and girls, the forum is a civil-society driven event that brings together civil society, public authorities, local government, the private sector and the media.³⁸⁶⁶ The purpose of the forum is to develop partnerships that will allow countries to swiftly implement large scale actions addressing gender equality.³⁸⁶⁷

On 31 March 2021, France and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.³⁸⁶⁸ This group aims at centralizing public

³⁸⁶¹ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁸⁶² Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁸⁶³ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁸⁶⁴ The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

³⁸⁶⁵ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) n.d. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

³⁸⁶⁶ The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

³⁸⁶⁷ The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

³⁸⁶⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.³⁸⁶⁹

On 15 April 2021, the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass legislation that increased the minimum age of sexual consent in France to 15 years of age.³⁸⁷⁰ According to the legislation, sexual relations with anyone under the age of 15 is considered to be rape and is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.³⁸⁷¹ The legislation was introduced as a way of preventing future instances of sexual assault.³⁸⁷²

On 12 May 2021, 61 Members of Parliament (MPs) present in the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass a draft law that would require companies with more than 1,000 employees to ensure women hold 40 per cent of top management posts by 2030.³⁸⁷³ The goal of the bill is to improve gender equality by putting in place measures such as introducing an equality index in higher education institutions along with more mixed juries to fight gender bias and providing single-women with children with training and reserved places in nurseries.³⁸⁷⁴

On 30 June 2021, the Government of France committed EUR100 million in sexual and reproductive health and rights for the next five years at the Paris-held Generation Equality Forum (GEF).³⁸⁷⁵ This commitment includes EUR90 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supplies, EUR5 million for Shaping Equitable Market Access for Reproductive Health (SEMA) and EUR5 million to the Global Partnership Forum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education.³⁸⁷⁶

On 2 July 2021, Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion Elisabeth Borne participated in the Paris-held GEF and reaffirmed that the Government of France views ratifying the International Labour Organization's Convention 190 as a political priority.³⁸⁷⁷ This ILO Convention

³⁸⁶⁹ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

³⁸⁷⁰ French parliament approves landmark bill setting age of sexual consent at 15, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2021.

Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210415-french-parliament-approves-landmark-bill-setting-age-of-sexual-consent-at-15>

³⁸⁷¹ France toughens law on sex with minors under age 15, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-toughens-law-on-sex-with-minors-under-age-15/a-57220223>

³⁸⁷² French parliament approves landmark bill setting age of sexual consent at 15, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2021.

Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210415-french-parliament-approves-landmark-bill-setting-age-of-sexual-consent-at-15>

³⁸⁷³ French MPs approve quotas for more women in corporate management, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210513-french-mps-approve-quotas-for-more-women-in-corporate-management>

³⁸⁷⁴ French MPs approve quotas for more women in corporate management, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210513-french-mps-approve-quotas-for-more-women-in-corporate-management>

³⁸⁷⁵ The Generation Equality Forum: June 30 to July 2, 2021, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/le-forum-generation-egalite-30-juin-au-2-juillet-2021>

³⁸⁷⁶ The Generation Equality Forum: June 30 to July 2, 2021, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 6 August 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/le-forum-generation-egalite-30-juin-au-2-juillet-2021>

³⁸⁷⁷ Generation Equality Forum Intervention by Elisabeth Borne on ILO Convention 190, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/forum-generation-egalite-intervention-d-elisabeth-borne-relative-a-la>

aims to put an end to violence and harassment at work, especially against women.³⁸⁷⁸ Minister Borne indicated that a bill to ratify ILO Convention 190 will be examined soon in the French National Assembly.³⁸⁷⁹

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of the Interior launched a free, anonymous, and 24-hour reporting portal for victims of sexual and/or gender-based violence.³⁸⁸⁰ This portal allows for victims to instantly interact with a police officer or gendarme that has been specifically trained to care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.³⁸⁸¹ This portal can also be used by witnesses of sexual and gender-based violence to report facts to the police and gendarmerie.³⁸⁸²

On 9 August 2021, France contributed EUR200,000 to support the UNFPA's efforts to improve the mental health and psychosocial support services available to victims of gender-based violence in Bangladesh.³⁸⁸³ The purpose of the funding is to mitigate the effects that the pandemic has had by both improving the availability of face-to-face mental health and psychosocial support services at the community level and strengthening existing virtual support services in Bangladesh.³⁸⁸⁴ This funding marks the first contribution that France has ever made to UNFPA Bangladesh.³⁸⁸⁵

On 9 September 2021, the Government of France announced that birth control would be free for all women under the age of 25.³⁸⁸⁶ The birth control methods covered by this scheme include the pill, intrauterine devices (IUDs), contraceptive patches and other methods composed of steroid hormones.³⁸⁸⁷ The main purpose of the scheme is to protect women's rights and alleviate youth poverty by ensuring that women are not forced to give up birth control due to financial reasons.³⁸⁸⁸

³⁸⁷⁸ Generation Equality Forum Intervention by Elisabeth Borne on ILO Convention 190, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/forum-generation-egalite-intervention-d-elisabeth-borne-relative-a-la>

³⁸⁷⁹ Generation Equality Forum Intervention by Elisabeth Borne on ILO Convention 190, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/forum-generation-egalite-intervention-d-elisabeth-borne-relative-a-la>

³⁸⁸⁰ Mobilization Against Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/dossiers/mobilisation-contre-violences-intrafamiliales>

³⁸⁸¹ Mobilization Against Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/dossiers/mobilisation-contre-violences-intrafamiliales>

³⁸⁸² Mobilization Against Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/dossiers/mobilisation-contre-violences-intrafamiliales>

³⁸⁸³ UNFPA and France collaborate for the first time in Bangladesh to tackle gender-based violence – Bangladesh, France 24 News (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.fr24news.com/a/2021/08/unfpa-and-france-collaborate-for-the-first-time-in-bangladesh-to-tackle-gender-based-violence-bangladesh.html>

³⁸⁸⁴ UNFPA and France collaborate for the first time in Bangladesh to tackle gender-based violence – Bangladesh, France 24 News (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.fr24news.com/a/2021/08/unfpa-and-france-collaborate-for-the-first-time-in-bangladesh-to-tackle-gender-based-violence-bangladesh.html>

³⁸⁸⁵ UNFPA and France collaborate for the first time in Bangladesh to tackle gender-based violence – Bangladesh, France 24 News (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.fr24news.com/a/2021/08/unfpa-and-france-collaborate-for-the-first-time-in-bangladesh-to-tackle-gender-based-violence-bangladesh.html>

³⁸⁸⁶ France makes birth control free for women up to 25, France 24 (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210909-france-makes-birth-control-free-for-women-up-to-25>

³⁸⁸⁷ France makes birth control free for women up to 25, France 24 (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210909-france-makes-birth-control-free-for-women-up-to-25>

³⁸⁸⁸ France makes birth control free for women up to 25, France 24 (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210909-france-makes-birth-control-free-for-women-up-to-25>

France has taken strong steps to address issues of gender inequality, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, both domestically and internationally in the all three spheres of Economic Security, Gender-Based Violence and Health through international initiatives and events, information sharing, the allocation of funds and through amending and passing new legislation.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Diana Anton

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 6 January 2021, the federal government proposed the draft law, the Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II.³⁸⁸⁹ The draft law further develops and improves the Management Positions Act (FÜPoG) that came into force in 2015 by making it mandatory for private and public sector German businesses to include more women on their executive boards.³⁸⁹⁰ The law came into force on 12 August 2021.³⁸⁹¹

On 14 January 2021, Germany donated EUR1 million to the Rapid Response Window initiative.³⁸⁹² The Rapid Response Window is a UN initiative that provides women with financial support for travel, childcare and dedicated training to facilitate their involvement in peace processes.³⁸⁹³ This donation makes Germany the initiative's biggest donor to date.³⁸⁹⁴

On 6 February 2021, Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey presented a letter of protection to safeguard girls from genital mutilation abroad.³⁸⁹⁵ Developed in coordination with non-governmental organizations and the federal government, the letter should be carried by all girls when traveling abroad since it clearly states that there is a risk of up to 15 years of prison time if female genital mutilation is carried out, both within Germany and

³⁸⁸⁹ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

³⁸⁹⁰ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

³⁸⁹¹ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

³⁸⁹² No peace without women: Rapid Response Window strengthens women in peace processes, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/vereintenationen/rapid-response-window/2433638>

³⁸⁹³ Statement by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on the occasion of the official opening of the Rapid Response Window of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-rapid-response-window/2433846>

³⁸⁹⁴ No peace without women: Rapid Response Window strengthens women in peace processes, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/vereintenationen/rapid-response-window/2433638>

³⁸⁹⁵ Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstuemmelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbriege-vor--165700>

abroad.³⁸⁹⁶ The aim of this letter is to discourage families from performing genital mutilation on their daughters while traveling by outlining the penal consequences and the possibility of having their residency permits revoked.³⁸⁹⁷

As of 24 February 2021, the German Cabinet has formally adopted a new National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Agenda, “Women, Peace and Security.”³⁸⁹⁸ The four priorities of the Action Plan to be undertaken by Germany include: crisis prevention, the participation of women in peace processes, protection against sexual violence as well as support for survivors and strengthening the participation of women in crisis management.³⁸⁹⁹ This is the first strategy with strictly binding indicators in order to measure progress.³⁹⁰⁰

On 17 March 2021, Germany held and organized the event, “On the Path to Economic Justice and Rights: Working towards Women’s Economic Empowerment,” in coordination with the Leadership Structure of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights of the Generation Equality Forum.³⁹⁰¹

On 17 March 2021, Germany along with the Council of Europe and the German Council of Women hosted the webinar, “Digital Gender Gaps and Opportunities: Fostering equal participation and ending violence against women in a connected age” during the 65th session of the UN Commission on Women’s Rights.³⁹⁰² During the event, panelists presented possible strategies to improve the digital participation and empowerment of women online and to eradicate online gender based violence.³⁹⁰³ The webinar was organized in response to the increase in online violence against women of all ages, origins and religions during the pandemic, particularly on social media platforms.³⁹⁰⁴

On 18 March 2021, Germany along with the United States, Chile and Women for Women International hosted the event “Marginalized women in fragile and conflict settings – How to make

³⁸⁹⁶ Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstuemmung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

³⁸⁹⁷ Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstuemmung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

³⁸⁹⁸ New national Action Plan on the UN Agenda “Women, Peace and Security” adopted, German Federal Government (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/aktionsplan-zur-agenda-frauen-frieden-und-sicherheit-1861314>

³⁸⁹⁹ No peace without women: New Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Federal Cabinet, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

³⁹⁰⁰ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to the German Bundestag in the debate on International Women’s Day on 8 March, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-international-women-day/2446526>

³⁹⁰¹ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁹⁰² Digital Gender Gaps and Opportunities: Fostering equal participation and ending violence against women in a connected age, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/side-event-csw-65-2021>

³⁹⁰³ High level webinar discusses innovative strategies to ending online violence against girls and women, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/high-level-webinar-discusses-innovative-strategies-to-ending-online-violence-against-girls-and-wom-1>

³⁹⁰⁴ High level webinar discusses innovative strategies to ending online violence against girls and women, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/high-level-webinar-discusses-innovative-strategies-to-ending-online-violence-against-girls-and-wom-1>

their voices count?”³⁹⁰⁵ The event looked at cross-regional policies, the implementation of mechanisms that enable the inclusion and representation of marginalized women and intersectional and rights-based approaches.³⁹⁰⁶ The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.³⁹⁰⁷

On 19 March 2021, Germany, Bangladesh, South Africa, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Women, United Nations Children’s Fund and the Women in Migration Network co-organized the event, “Ensuring Migrant Women’s Effective Participation in Public Life and Elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.”³⁹⁰⁸ This event demonstrated the urgency of working with all stakeholders during COVID-19 to help prevent and respond to gender-based violence against migrant women and girls.³⁹⁰⁹

On 31 March 2021, Germany and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.³⁹¹⁰ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.³⁹¹¹

On 15 April 2021, the German Bundestag approved a draft law for the establishment of the Federal Equality Foundation.³⁹¹² The foundation will work by showing where more equality is needed, networking and supporting those committed to gender equality, and by discussing gender equality

³⁹⁰⁵ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁹⁰⁶ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁹⁰⁷ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁹⁰⁸ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁹⁰⁹ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁹¹⁰ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

³⁹¹¹ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

³⁹¹² Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

with citizens.³⁹¹³ The aim of the foundation is to enable women and men to lead a self-determined life so that they can develop their potential regardless of gender.³⁹¹⁴

On 3 May 2021, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth signed an agreement with the Bremen Senator for Finance Dietmar Strehl on behalf of the Bremen Senate to implement digital services for family and children services.³⁹¹⁵ This is part of the Online Access Act, which stipulates that all administrative services must be available online by the end of 2022.³⁹¹⁶ Online services would include daycare service registration, applications for benefits for abortion, applications for benefits due to pregnancy, and application for parental allowances.³⁹¹⁷ The Federal Government of Germany will invest EUR134 million to increase digital access to family benefits.³⁹¹⁸

On 11 May 2021, in partnership with the Gender Equality Division and the Violence against Women Division of the Council of Europe, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth organised and held the “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: A Decade of Action” conference.³⁹¹⁹ The purpose of the conference was to reaffirm the political will of countries to fully implement the Istanbul Convention.³⁹²⁰ The Convention was also meant to identify and discuss ways to tackle sexism and gender stereotypes.³⁹²¹ Given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender violence, the Federal Minister for Women Franziska Giffey indicated that this conference is important because it “highlights the importance of states working together internationally to ensure that all women and girls in situations of violence find protection and support and a functioning legal system.”³⁹²²

On 19 May 2021, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development announced the launch of the Support Her Education (SHE) initiative in support of one million girls in developing

³⁹¹³ Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

³⁹¹⁴ Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

³⁹¹⁵ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

³⁹¹⁶ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

³⁹¹⁷ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

³⁹¹⁸ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

³⁹¹⁹ Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:\[0](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:[0)

³⁹²⁰ Conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:\[0](https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action#%7B%2293645492%22:[0)

³⁹²¹ International protection of women is a top priority, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/internationaler-schutz-von-frauen-hat-oberste-prioritaet-179252>

³⁹²² International protection of women is a top priority, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/internationaler-schutz-von-frauen-hat-oberste-prioritaet-179252>

countries who lost their access to education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹²³ As part of the initiative, Germany will be investing almost EUR100 million over the next four years into supporting one million girls in low-income countries in returning to school after pandemic-related school closures.³⁹²⁴

On 28 May 2021, the Federal Government of Germany established the Federal Equality Foundation.³⁹²⁵ This Foundation aims to accelerate necessary changes to create “a country where women and men have equal opportunities.”³⁹²⁶ For the year 2021, the Bundestag allocated EUR3 million for the Foundation’s construction and a further EUR5 million for 2022 onwards.³⁹²⁷

On 7 July 2021, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture introduced the National Strategy for Breastfeeding Promotion with the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the Federal Ministry of Health.³⁹²⁸ This national strategy aims to improve breastfeeding promotion in Germany in the long term by improving framework conditions for breastfeeding, increasing public acceptance of breastfeeding, increasing breastfeeding motivation in Germany, and supporting women according to their individual needs.³⁹²⁹

Through the organization of informational events and amending legislation, Germany has demonstrated strong action in Economic Security and Health initiatives as well demonstrated action in implementing public awareness campaigns about Gender-Based Violence towards women and girls during COVID-19 at both the international and national levels.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Diana Anton

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

³⁹²³ In COVID-19 crisis, Germany supports Global Partnership for Education together with Malala Fund, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-supports-global-partnership-for-education-79296>

³⁹²⁴ In COVID-19 crisis, Germany supports Global Partnership for Education together with Malala Fund, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-supports-global-partnership-for-education-79296>

³⁹²⁵ Law establishing the “Federal Equality Foundation” in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/gesetz-zur-errichtung-der-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-in-kraft--176922>

³⁹²⁶ Law establishing the “Federal Equality Foundation” in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/gesetz-zur-errichtung-der-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-in-kraft--176922>

³⁹²⁷ Law establishing the “Federal Equality Foundation” in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/gesetz-zur-errichtung-der-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-in-kraft--176922>

³⁹²⁸ Federal cabinet adopts national breastfeeding strategy, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundeskabinett-beschliesst-nationale-stillstrategie-183246>

³⁹²⁹ Federal cabinet adopts national breastfeeding strategy, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundeskabinett-beschliesst-nationale-stillstrategie-183246>

On 21 January 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development Ram Mohan Mishra chaired a webinar on menstrual hygiene as part of National Girl Child Week celebrations with participants from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and several state governments.³⁹³⁰ The webinar highlighted the need to educate and spread awareness to girls on menstruation needs and other issues relating to puberty through inter-state mechanisms.³⁹³¹

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman announced an investment of INR10 billion for a special welfare scheme for tea workers in Assam and West Bengal with the focus on women and their children.³⁹³² The goal of this scheme is to protect “weaker and vulnerable sections” of Indian society during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹³³

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment’s Employees’ State Insurance Corporation announced policy changes to improve services for insured women.³⁹³⁴ One policy change is a relaxation in contributory conditions covering sickness and maternity benefits between January to June 2021.³⁹³⁵ This policy was changed due to COVID-19 lockdown measures that has at times led to the non-entitlement of sickness and maternity benefits for many insured female workers.³⁹³⁶

On 16 March 2021, the Council of State approved the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which amends the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.³⁹³⁷ The bill increases women’s access to abortion by allowing women to get an abortion within 20 weeks of one doctor’s advice and 20-24 weeks on two doctors’ advice, instead of 12 weeks on one doctor’s advice and 12-20 weeks on two doctors’ advice.³⁹³⁸ This bill also increases access to abortion for women who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault.³⁹³⁹

On 18 March 2021, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani reaffirmed that gender equality makes economic sense and discussed a future agenda to promote gender equality at

³⁹³⁰ Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development chairs a Webinar on Menstrual Hygiene, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690939>

³⁹³¹ Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development chairs a Webinar on Menstrual Hygiene, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690939>

³⁹³² Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

³⁹³³ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

³⁹³⁴ ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

³⁹³⁵ ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

³⁹³⁶ ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

³⁹³⁷ Rajya Sabha passes the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1705381>

³⁹³⁸ Why Amendments to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill Don’t Go Far Enough, The Wire (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://thewire.in/health/medical-termination-of-pregnancy-amendment-bill-women-abortions>

³⁹³⁹ Why Amendments to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill Don’t Go Far Enough, The Wire (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://thewire.in/health/medical-termination-of-pregnancy-amendment-bill-women-abortions>

the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.³⁹⁴⁰ At the forum, the three countries highlighted how the year 2020 has brought women's rights into prominence and emphasized their commitment to reduce the gender gap and foster mutual cooperation.³⁹⁴¹

On 20 March 2021, Indian Railways under the Ministry of Railways issued guidelines to all Zonal Railways and Production Units in order to combat crimes against women in trains and in railway premises.³⁹⁴² These guidelines include a short term plan of keeping watch on suspects and routine visits to vulnerable locations including bathrooms, abandoned buildings and waiting rooms by duty officers and other staff members.³⁹⁴³ These guidelines also include a long term plan of improving infrastructure such as video surveillance technology and light masts.³⁹⁴⁴ The guidelines also focus on training and sensitizing all railway employees and contractual staff on reporting incidents of violence against women as well as on publicizing notices to all passengers like attaching helpline numbers on train tickers.³⁹⁴⁵

On 21 March 2021, India achieved its target of operationalizing 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres by 31 March 2021.³⁹⁴⁶ Focusing on COVID-19 prevention and non-COVID-19 essential health services, these AB-HWCs provide care for pregnant women and child births, neonatal and infant healthcare services, and general reproductive health services among other primary healthcare services.³⁹⁴⁷

On 2 April 2021, India allocated USD300,000 in funding to UN Women in support for gender equality and women empowerment.³⁹⁴⁸

On 28 June 2021, the National Commission for Women announced the launch of the “Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence.”³⁹⁴⁹ This program takes place online and involve a number of modules over five days of training.³⁹⁵⁰ The program seeks to provide

³⁹⁴⁰ Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

³⁹⁴¹ Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

³⁹⁴² Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

³⁹⁴³ Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

³⁹⁴⁴ Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

³⁹⁴⁵ Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

³⁹⁴⁶ India has crossed a key milestone in universal primary healthcare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706381>

³⁹⁴⁷ India has crossed a key milestone in universal primary healthcare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706381>

³⁹⁴⁸ India contributes \$300,000 to UN Women, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-contributes-300000-to-un-women/articleshow/81868903.cms>

³⁹⁴⁹ NCW in collaboration with LBSNAA Launches Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730983>

³⁹⁵⁰ NCW in collaboration with LBSNAA Launches Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730983>

protection officers with training in addressing domestic violence issues in order to “bridge the gap between administration and justice for aggrieved women.”³⁹⁵¹

On 7 July 2021, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy hosted a webinar entitled “Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability” in partnership with the International Solar Alliance.³⁹⁵² This webinar opened dialogue for bringing more women to leadership positions in the renewable energy sector and creating entrepreneurial opportunities for women.³⁹⁵³

On 16 July 2021, the National Commission for Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Police Research and Development regarding “gender sensitization training programme for police personnel.”³⁹⁵⁴ The program will take place in a three-to-five-day period with 18-24 hours of training provided in total.³⁹⁵⁵ The purpose of the program is to get police officers better attuned to women’s needs, particularly regarding crimes committed against women, gender issues and women-related laws.³⁹⁵⁶

On 27 July 2021, Minister Irani announced the launch of the National Commission for Women’s 24-hour helpline for women affected by violence.³⁹⁵⁷ The helpline provides online support to women through referrals by linking callers with appropriate authorities such as police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological services and more.³⁹⁵⁸ This helpline will link female victims of violence with appropriate criminal justice and counselling services in an attempt to combat the effects of gender-based violence facing women in India.³⁹⁵⁹

On 27 August 2021, Minister Irani addressed the first G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment, held in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.³⁹⁶⁰ At the conference, Minister Irani affirmed India’s commitment to the G20 goals of addressing women’s empowerment and gender equality

³⁹⁵¹ NCW in collaboration with LBSNAA Launches Training Programme of Protection Officers in addressing Domestic Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1730983>

³⁹⁵² Webinar on “Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability,” Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733498>

³⁹⁵³ Webinar on “Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability,” Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733498>

³⁹⁵⁴ NCW signs MoU with BPR&D for Nation-Wide Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

³⁹⁵⁵ NCW signs MoU with BPR&D for Nation-Wide Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

³⁹⁵⁶ NCW signs MoU with BPR&D for Nation-Wide Gender Sensitization Training Programme for Police Personnel, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736188>

³⁹⁵⁷ Union WCD Minister, Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

³⁹⁵⁸ Union WCD Minister, Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

³⁹⁵⁹ Union WCD Minister, Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Helpline for Women Affected by Violence, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739451>

³⁹⁶⁰ Union WCD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani Addresses the First Ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749489>

issues and highlighted India's efforts to ensure better healthcare for women and efforts to strengthen women's safety and security.³⁹⁶¹

On 30 August 2021, Minister Irani chaired the National Conference 2021 in Kevadia, Gujarat, and highlighted the importance of women-led development envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.³⁹⁶² The National Conference discussed and planned for better implementation and governance of programs led by the Ministry for Women and Child Development and specifically focused on the Second Mission Poshan, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.³⁹⁶³

On 7 September 2021, the Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Women and Child Development hosted a webinar on the significance of Poshan Vatika for the alleviation of malnutrition.³⁹⁶⁴ The webinar speakers highlighted how planting herbal plants in Aanganwadis, schools and kitchen gardens can ensure the accessibility of nutritious food and medicinal plants for pregnant and/or lactating women.³⁹⁶⁵

India has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through welfare schemes, new legislation supporting women's access to abortion, personnel training programs, and the creation of helplines for women affected by violence.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rachel Zack

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of National Development Planning launched the Knowledge Hub for Reproductive Health in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Indonesia and the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Public Health.³⁹⁶⁶ The Hub is meant to support the improvement of maternal and child health, family planning, and reproductive health in Indonesia.³⁹⁶⁷

³⁹⁶¹ Union WCD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani Addresses the First Ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749489>

³⁹⁶² Union Minister for Women & Child Development Chairs National Conference of States/UTs at Kevadia, Gujarat, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1750955>

³⁹⁶³ Union Minister for Women & Child Development Chairs National Conference of States/UTs at Kevadia, Gujarat, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1750955>

³⁹⁶⁴ Webinar on the importance of Poshan Vatika for alleviation of malnutrition organised, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1752976>

³⁹⁶⁵ Webinar on the importance of Poshan Vatika for alleviation of malnutrition organised, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1752976>

³⁹⁶⁶ Knowledge Sharing Key to Improving Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/knowledge-sharing-key-improving-reproductive-health>

³⁹⁶⁷ Knowledge Sharing Key to Improving Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/knowledge-sharing-key-improving-reproductive-health>

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA), in partnership with UNFPA Indonesia and United Nations Women, launched the Guidelines for the Protection of Women's Rights from Discrimination and Gender-Based Violence in Pandemic Situations.³⁹⁶⁸ These Guidelines are aimed at governmental ministries and agencies, local governmental organizations and program or service providers related to women.³⁹⁶⁹ These Guidelines focus on preventing and handling stigma and discrimination on women caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as documenting and monitoring cases of discrimination and violence against women.³⁹⁷⁰

On 16 December 2020, PPPA implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Family Equality.³⁹⁷¹ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁷² The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.³⁹⁷³

On 29 December 2020, the PPPA signed a memorandum of understanding with Permodalan Nasional Madani to strengthen women's empowerment in entrepreneurship.³⁹⁷⁴ The memorandum is on the "Participation of Women in Ultra Micro and Micro Business Actors in Women's Empowerment and Child Protection."³⁹⁷⁵

On 31 December 2020, Indonesia and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund signed the 2021-2025 Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) worth USD150 million to support

³⁹⁶⁸ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

³⁹⁶⁹ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

³⁹⁷⁰ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

³⁹⁷¹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³⁹⁷² Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³⁹⁷³ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³⁹⁷⁴ The Synergy Between the Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection and Permodalan Nasional Madani Strengthens Women's Economic Empowerment, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3016/sinergi-kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan>

³⁹⁷⁵ The Synergy Between the Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection and Permodalan Nasional Madani Strengthens Women's Economic Empowerment, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3016/sinergi-kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan>

development for Indonesian women and children with disabilities.³⁹⁷⁶ This CPAP aims to double the number of households using clean drinking water to 15 per cent, and increase access to health, social or law enforcement services for female and male victims of violence from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.³⁹⁷⁷

On 4 January 2021, Minister of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga attended the Indonesian Political Women Caucus Webinar entitled “Reflections on the End of 2020 towards 2021, Quo Vadis Indonesian Women,” stated that, in view of COVID-19 challenges, she would use all networks and stakeholders to provide assistance and consultations in order to strengthen the economic role of women, to prevent violence against women and children, along with empowering village women through programs to improve women’s leadership.³⁹⁷⁸

On 29 January 2021, Indonesia and the UNFPA signed the 2021-2025 CPAP worth USD27.5 million to guarantee universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services with a focus for women and children.³⁹⁷⁹ The Ministry of National Development Planning is leading the CPAP’s implementation with five main goals of reducing maternal mortality, implementing maternal health and family planning services, increasing youth welfare, reducing violence against women, and integrating population data information.³⁹⁸⁰

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia signed a decree that banned abusive dress codes for female students and teachers in Indonesia’s state schools.³⁹⁸¹ This is meant to end discrimination and to give women and children their agency back.³⁹⁸²

On 9 February 2021, Minister Puspayoga attended the Focus Group Discussion hosted by the National Awakening Party Faction and stressed the urgent need to ratify the Draft Bill on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS).³⁹⁸³ This Draft Bill was removed from the 2020 Prolegnas (“National Legislation Program”) and the PPPA has pushed for the Draft Bill’s re-

³⁹⁷⁶ Agrees on CPAP 2021-2025 Worth US\$150 million Indonesia-UNICEF Carry Out 7 Goals of Indonesian Child Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/sepakati-cpap-2021-2025-senilai-us-150-juta-indonesia-unicef-usung-7-tujuan-kesejahteraan-anak-indonesia/>

³⁹⁷⁷ Agrees on CPAP 2021-2025 Worth US\$150 million Indonesia-UNICEF Carry Out 7 Goals of Indonesian Child Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/sepakati-cpap-2021-2025-senilai-us-150-juta-indonesia-unicef-usung-7-tujuan-kesejahteraan-anak-indonesia/>

³⁹⁷⁸ Reflections on Women’s Empowerment in 2020, Minister of PPPA: Support the Advancement of Women, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3019/refleksi-pemberdayaan-perempuan-tahun-2020-menteri-pppa-dukung-kemajuan-perempuan>

³⁹⁷⁹ Signing CPAP 2021-2025, RI-UNFPA Focus on Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/teken-cpap-2021-2025-ri-unfpa-fokus-tingkatkan-akses-layanan-kesehatan-seksual-dan-reproduksi>

³⁹⁸⁰ Signing CPAP 2021-2025, RI-UNFPA Focus on Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/teken-cpap-2021-2025-ri-unfpa-fokus-tingkatkan-akses-layanan-kesehatan-seksual-dan-reproduksi>

³⁹⁸¹ News Release Indonesia: Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Human Rights Watch (Jakarta) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/18/indonesia-dress-codes-discriminate-against-women-girls>

³⁹⁸² News Release Indonesia: Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Human Rights Watch (Jakarta) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/18/indonesia-dress-codes-discriminate-against-women-girls>

³⁹⁸³ Re-entering Prolegnas, Minister Bintang: Pushes the PKS Bill to be the 2021 Priority Agenda, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3043/masuk-kembali-ke-prolegnas-menteri-bintang-dorong-ruu-pks-jadi-agenda-prioritas-2021>

inclusion in the 2021 Prolegnas.³⁹⁸⁴ The House of Representative included RUU PKS into the 2021 Prolegnas at a plenary session.³⁹⁸⁵

On 8 March 2021, the PPPA launched the Call Center Service for Women and Children (SAPA 129) in partnership with PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom Indonesia).³⁹⁸⁶ The SAPA 129 service aims to increase access for victims or eyewitnesses to report cases of violence against women and children as well as to allow data collection on such cases.³⁹⁸⁷ This dial service can also be accessed through WhatsApp in order to further increase access to the SAPA 129 service.³⁹⁸⁸

On 9 March 2021, the Vice-Minister for State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN/SOE) Pahala Nugraha Mansury attended a virtual event called “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” in Indonesia, hosted by the UN Women’s WeEmpowerAsia program.³⁹⁸⁹ Vice Minister Mansury spoke about the importance in empowering women as well as supporting women in leadership positions.³⁹⁹⁰ This event was focused on mobilizing the private sector to advance gender equality, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁹¹

On 26 July 2021, the Kemen PPPA launched a series of Gender Responsive and Child Rights Responsive Family Festivals entitled “Later We Tell About Women and Children (NKCTPA),” from 21 July 2021 to 30 July 2021.³⁹⁹² The Deputy for Community Participation at the Kemen PPPA Indra Gunawan said that the Kemen PPPA would continue to make efforts to promote children's rights, protect children, and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.³⁹⁹³

³⁹⁸⁴ Re-entering Prolegnas, Minister Bintang: Pushes the PKS Bill to be the 2021 Priority Agenda, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3043/masuk-kembali-ke-prolegnas-menteri-bintang-dorong-ruu-pks-jadi-agenda-prioritas-2021>

³⁹⁸⁵ Plenary of DPR Agrees on 33 Priority Prolegnas Bills 2021, House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.dpr.go.id/berita/detail/id/32239/t/Paripurna+DPR+Sepakati+33+RUU+Prolegnas+Prioritas+2021>

³⁹⁸⁶ Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

³⁹⁸⁷ Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

³⁹⁸⁸ Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

³⁹⁸⁹ Indonesia’s ‘Ring the Bell’ Highlights Women’s Leadership in Business during COVID-19 Crisis, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/indonesias-ring-the-bell-highlights-womens-leadership-in-business>

³⁹⁹⁰ Indonesia’s ‘Ring the Bell’ Highlights Women’s Leadership in Business during COVID-19 Crisis, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/indonesias-ring-the-bell-highlights-womens-leadership-in-business>

³⁹⁹¹ Indonesia’s ‘Ring the Bell’ Highlights Women’s Leadership in Business during COVID-19 Crisis, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/03/indonesias-ring-the-bell-highlights-womens-leadership-in-business>

³⁹⁹² The Ministry of PPPA Invites All Parties to Push for the Acceleration of Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3299/kemen-pppa-ajak-semua-pihak-dorong-percepatan-kesetaraan-gender>

³⁹⁹³ The Ministry of PPPA Invites All Parties to Push for the Acceleration of Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3299/kemen-pppa-ajak-semua-pihak-dorong-percepatan-kesetaraan-gender>

On 5 August 2021, the Kemen PPPA launched the Gender Perspective Entrepreneurship Training Program for Vulnerable Women and the Rural Women's Leadership Training Program.³⁹⁹⁴ These two training programs aim to strengthen the economic empowerment of vulnerable women including survivors of violence, of disasters, and female heads of families.³⁹⁹⁵ The programs are meant to increase women's potential in leadership as well as to support the realization of a Women Friendly and Child Care Village (DRPPA).³⁹⁹⁶ The training provides soft skills for women with the aim of increasing the role of rural women in the decision-making processes in their villages.³⁹⁹⁷ The programs are the result of collaboration between the PPPA and community institutional partners such as KAPAL Perempuan, Empowerment of Women Heads of Family (PEKKA), Association of Small Business Women Assistance (ASPPUK), Center for Women's Resource Development (PPSW), and the Indonesian Women's Coalition (KPI).³⁹⁹⁸

On 6 August 2021, the Kemen PPPA held discussions with the National Commission on Women (Komnas) and UNFPA Indonesia to strengthen commitments in protecting and fulfilling the rights of female victims of violence, especially sexual violence.³⁹⁹⁹ The Kemen PPPA campaigned to stop violence against women and children in domestic settings through the Joint Protecting Family (BERJARAK) movement, which encourages a system for preventing and handling sexual violence through a draft law.⁴⁰⁰⁰

On 10 August 2021, Minister Puspayoga announced that the Government of Indonesia is formulating the National Action Plan for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children in Social Conflict (RAN P3AKS) and the National Action Plan for Combating and Prevention of

³⁹⁹⁴ Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

³⁹⁹⁵ Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

³⁹⁹⁶ Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

³⁹⁹⁷ Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

³⁹⁹⁸ Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

³⁹⁹⁹ 37 Years of Ratification of CEDAW, Protect and Fulfill the Rights of Women Victims of Sexual Violence, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual>

⁴⁰⁰⁰ 37 Years of Ratification of CEDAW, Protect and Fulfill the Rights of Women Victims of Sexual Violence, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual>

Extremism Leading to Terrorism (RAN PE) at the village level.⁴⁰⁰¹ Through RAN P3AKS, the Government of Indonesia encourages the prevention and immediate handling of all incidents of violence and violations of the rights of women and children, as well as recognizing that providing basic and special services for women and children in conflict is an inseparable part of conflict handling activities.⁴⁰⁰² Within the same announcement, Minister Puspayoga also launched an e-learning platform and a set of guidelines for the Peaceful Village/Kelurahan Action.⁴⁰⁰³ This action guide contains the RA Desa Guidelines, Guidelines for the Protection of Women from Accessing Justice for Peaceful Village Working Groups and Guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender-Based Violence Cases.⁴⁰⁰⁴

On 12 August 2021, Minister Puspayoga inaugurated the 2021 Sispreneur Program for Business Management Incubation (Assistance), which focuses on increasing women's knowledge of entrepreneurship and increasing access to digital marketing for women entrepreneurs, to promote business, improve the family economy, and contribute on the national economy.⁴⁰⁰⁵ This program is a collaboration between the Kemen PPPA with PT XL Axiata Tbk.⁴⁰⁰⁶ Program participants were also given training and support related to gender equality such as knowledge about reproductive health, child care, legal advice, and leadership.⁴⁰⁰⁷

On 31 August 2021, the Kemen PPPA provided 1,010 packages of assistance for women's specific needs to female heads of families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in three regions in West Java: Bekasi City, Bogor Regency, and Tangerang Regency.⁴⁰⁰⁸ This scheme aims to inspire other agencies

⁴⁰⁰¹ Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

⁴⁰⁰² Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

⁴⁰⁰³ Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

⁴⁰⁰⁴ Government Efforts to Handle Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Social Conflict and Extremism in Indonesia, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3337/upaya-pemerintah-tangani-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-pada-situasi-konflik-sosial-dan-ekstremisme-di-indonesia>

⁴⁰⁰⁵ Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

⁴⁰⁰⁶ Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

⁴⁰⁰⁷ Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

⁴⁰⁰⁸ Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister of PPPA gives specific needs assistance to women heads of families, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Bekasi City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3370/terdampak-pandemi-covid-19-menteri-pppa-beri-bantuan-kebutuhan-spesifik-pada-perempuan-kepala-keluarga>

of the Government of Indonesia to take similar action in providing specific assistance to women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁰⁰⁹

On 7 September 2021, the Kemen PPPA hosted the Gender Perspective Entrepreneurship Training Activities for Vulnerable Women in Kupang Regency, East Nusa Tenggara with the support of the Association of Small Business Women Facilitators (ASPPUK).⁴⁰¹⁰ This event is for vulnerable women who have survived violence and disasters, and women who are heads of families, in order for them to be economically independent so that they can contribute to improving the welfare of their families.⁴⁰¹¹ This event will also be held for vulnerable women groups in Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara.⁴⁰¹²

Indonesia has fully complied with their commitment to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence, affecting women disproportionately through financial support of educational, employment and health programs related to gender-based violence.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Annabelle Bourzeix

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 23 November 2020, Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities Elena Bonetti and the Single Guarantee Committees network signed a memorandum of understanding to continue their collaboration to offer assistance to women victims of violence.⁴⁰¹³ The main goal of the program is to raise awareness, training and information on combating gender-based violence.⁴⁰¹⁴

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Public Education Lucia Azzolina announced the launch of a competition of ideas for female students, intending to encourage dialogue, preventing and combating

⁴⁰⁰⁹ Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister of PPPA gives specific needs assistance to women heads of families, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Bekasi City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3370/terdampak-pandemi-covid-19-menteri-pppa-beribantuan-kebutuhan-spesifik-pada-perempuan-kepala-keluarga>

⁴⁰¹⁰ Empowering Vulnerable Women, Supports Improving Family Welfare to Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3378/pemberdayaan-perempuan-rentan-dukung-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-keluarga-hingga-kesetaraan>

⁴⁰¹¹ Empowering Vulnerable Women, Supports Improving Family Welfare to Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3378/pemberdayaan-perempuan-rentan-dukung-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-keluarga-hingga-kesetaraan>

⁴⁰¹² Empowering Vulnerable Women, Supports Improving Family Welfare to Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3378/pemberdayaan-perempuan-rentan-dukung-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-keluarga-hingga-kesetaraan>

⁴⁰¹³ Gender Violence, Bonetti and Single Guarantee Committees for Equal Opportunities together: Women are not alone, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-di-genere-bonetti-e-comitati-unicidi-garanzia-per-le-pariopportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

⁴⁰¹⁴ Gender Violence, Bonetti and Single Guarantee Committees for Equal Opportunities together: Women are not alone, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-di-genere-bonetti-e-comitati-unicidi-garanzia-per-le-pariopportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

violent behaviour and indifference.⁴⁰¹⁵ The competition, “The new Red Code,” aimed at primary and secondary schools, was also promoted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice.⁴⁰¹⁶

On 3 December 2020, Minister Bonetti, Abi Federcasse from the Italian Federation of Cooperative Credit Banks and Rural Banks, the National Body for Microcredit and Italian Caritas, signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a guarantee fund for the “Microcredit of Freedom.”⁴⁰¹⁷ With an initial endowment of EUR3 million, the fund serves as a financial instrument for the economic emancipation of women victims of male violence from forms of economic subjections.⁴⁰¹⁸

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published the state budget law for the financial year of 2021 and a multi-year budget for the three years of 2021 to 2023.⁴⁰¹⁹ The budget allocates EUR50 million to support and enhance organizational measures favouring working mothers’ return after childbirth.⁴⁰²⁰ The Ministry of Economic Development has also forecasted a budget of EUR20 million for 2021 and 2022 to strengthen, promote and support female entrepreneurship.⁴⁰²¹ Additionally, the budget allocates expenditures of EUR2 million per year to guarantee and implement the presence and institution of psychological professionals in penitentiaries.⁴⁰²² The psychologists should have expertise in intensified cognitive-behavioural treatments for perpetrators of crimes against women, which would be applied to prevent recidivism.⁴⁰²³

⁴⁰¹⁵ International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: an ideas competition for students. Azzolina: “The school is a gentle weapon to counter this phenomenon.” Bonafede: “No form of discrimination and oppression is acceptable, Ministry of Education (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/giornata-internazionale-per-l-eliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne-un-concorso-di-idee-per-gli-studenti-azzolina-la-scuola-arma-gentile-per-con>

⁴⁰¹⁶ International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: an ideas competition for students. Azzolina: “The school is a gentle weapon to counter this phenomenon.” Bonafede: “No form of discrimination and oppression is acceptable, Ministry of Education (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/giornata-internazionale-per-l-eliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne-un-concorso-di-idee-per-gli-studenti-azzolina-la-scuola-arma-gentile-per-con>

⁴⁰¹⁷ Micro-credit of freedom for women victims of violence is born. A memorandum of understanding between the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Abi, Federcasse, Italian Caritas, the National Microcredit Organization, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/nasce-il-microcredito-di-liberta-per-le-donne-vittime-di-violenza-un-protocollo-di-intesa-tra-ministra-pari-oppportunita-e-famiglia-abi-federcasse-caritas-italiana-ente-nazionale-microcre/>

⁴⁰¹⁸ Micro-credit of freedom for women victims of violence is born. A memorandum of understanding between the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Abi, Federcasse, Italian Caritas, the National Microcredit Organization, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/nasce-il-microcredito-di-liberta-per-le-donne-vittime-di-violenza-un-protocollo-di-intesa-tra-ministra-pari-oppportunita-e-famiglia-abi-federcasse-caritas-italiana-ente-nazionale-microcre/>

⁴⁰¹⁹ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁴⁰²⁰ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁴⁰²¹ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁴⁰²² State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁴⁰²³ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies announced the Second Circulaire, regulating extraordinary leave for parents of children in lower secondary school or parents of children with disabilities in the event of suspension of teaching or closure of daycares, through amendments passed in Law n. 176 on 18 December 2020.⁴⁰²⁴ It stated that for the working days of leave taken, working parents who need to stay with their children would be paid 50 per cent of their salary.⁴⁰²⁵

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published a breakdown of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.⁴⁰²⁶ This plan aims to make Italy a more equitable, green and inclusive country focused on six missions: digitalization, innovation, competitiveness and culture; green revolution and ecological transition; infrastructure for sustainable mobility; education and research; inclusion and cohesion; and health.⁴⁰²⁷ The plan mobilizes over EUR300 billion for the 2021-2026 budget planning, committing to Education, Research and Labour improvements with a focus on women, youth and the southern population.⁴⁰²⁸ Expressly, Minister Bonetti has stated that EUR6 billion of the National Relaunch and Resilience plan will be allocated to funding kindergartens, female work, and entrepreneurship.⁴⁰²⁹

On 6 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation.⁴⁰³⁰ Italy affirmed that they are committed to that end by working with international organisations, starting with the negotiations in the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, and with bilateral relationships with interested third countries, and through the Italian Cooperation projects.⁴⁰³¹

On 19 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio reaffirmed Italy's commitment to promoting women's empowerment.⁴⁰³² He noted that the recent approval of the Fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the allocation of EUR3 million over the next three

⁴⁰²⁴ COVID-19: extraordinary leave for parents with children in DAD in the "red zones" or with severe disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/COVID-19-congedo-straordinario-per-genitori-con-figli-in-DAD-nelle-zone-rosse-o-con-disabilita-grave.aspx>

⁴⁰²⁵ COVID-19: extraordinary leave for parents with children in DAD in the "red zones" or with severe disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/COVID-19-congedo-straordinario-per-genitori-con-figli-in-DAD-nelle-zone-rosse-o-con-disabilita-grave.aspx>

⁴⁰²⁶ Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

⁴⁰²⁷ Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

⁴⁰²⁸ Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

⁴⁰²⁹ Italy Celebrates Women – But It's A Long Road to Gender Parity, Forbes Magazine (New Jersey) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/08/italy-celebrates-women-but-its-a-long-road-to-gender-parity/?sh=333ae8083b20>

⁴⁰³⁰ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili_0.html

⁴⁰³¹ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili_0.html

⁴⁰³² Message by Minister Di Maio on the occasion of the Presentation of the 4th Action Plan implementing the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda organised by Rome's "La Sapienza" University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html

years by the Italian Parliament, will support their commitment to promote the involvement of women in peace and mediation processes that ensure agreements and societies that are more inclusive and sustainable.⁴⁰³³

On 22 February 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the opening of the proceedings of Women20, the G20 engagement group tasked with making proposals and recommendations on gender equality to G20 members.⁴⁰³⁴ During Minister Bonetti's address to the Women20 group, she remarked the importance of empowering women as a fundamental element for gender equality.⁴⁰³⁵

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the National Institute of Social Security issued the 32nd Circolare.⁴⁰³⁶ This circolare clarified that employers can be exempt from contributions for the employment of women in the two years of 2021-2022 in the amount of 100 per cent, up to EUR6,000 per year if they hire women categorized as "disadvantaged workers."⁴⁰³⁷

On 8 March 2021, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases activated the "Health and Protection of Women Service" to care for vulnerable women in need of health and/or psychological assistance.⁴⁰³⁸ A multi-professional team that includes professionals such as doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and lawyers would provide care and tools for prevention such as information, and guidance for both Italian and foreign women.⁴⁰³⁹ This service will target health care but also recognize and promote women's rights.⁴⁰⁴⁰

On 15 March 2021, the Official Gazette published Decree Law 13 March 2021, n. 30, containing urgent measures to cope with the spread of COVID-19 and support interventions for workers with

⁴⁰³³ Message by Minister Di Maio on the occasion of the Presentation of the 4th Action Plan implementing the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda organised by Rome's "La Sapienza" University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html>

⁴⁰³⁴ The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Prof. Elena Bonetti, speaks at the first meeting of the G20 Women20 chaired by Italy, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-per-le-pari-oppportunita-e-la-famiglia-prof-ssa-elena-bonetti-interviene-alla-prima-riunione-del-women20-del-g20-presieduto-dallitalia/>

⁴⁰³⁵ The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Prof. Elena Bonetti, speaks at the first meeting of the G20 Women20 chaired by Italy, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-per-le-pari-oppportunita-e-la-famiglia-prof-ssa-elena-bonetti-interviene-alla-prima-riunione-del-women20-del-g20-presieduto-dallitalia/>

⁴⁰³⁶ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

⁴⁰³⁷ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

⁴⁰³⁸ Violence against women, Ministry of Health (Rome) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioContenutiDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=4498&area=Salute%20donna&menu=societa>

⁴⁰³⁹ In Rome, the INMP opens the interdisciplinary service dedicated to the care and assistance of the most vulnerable women, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases (Rome) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.inmp.it/ita/News-e-media/Archivio-Notizie/8-marzo.-A-Roma-l-INMP-apre-il-servizio-interdisciplinare-dedicato-alla-cura-e-all-assistenza-delle-donne-piu-fragili>

⁴⁰⁴⁰ In Rome, the INMP opens the interdisciplinary service dedicated to the care and assistance of the most vulnerable women, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases (Rome) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.inmp.it/ita/News-e-media/Archivio-Notizie/8-marzo.-A-Roma-l-INMP-apre-il-servizio-interdisciplinare-dedicato-alla-cura-e-all-assistenza-delle-donne-piu-fragili>

minor children in distance learning or quarantine.⁴⁰⁴¹ The decree detailed the possibilities of “smart working,” temporary leaves and a babysitting bonus for working parents.⁴⁰⁴²

On 15 March 2021, Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Family, Youth and Integration Susanne Raab on the sidelines of the 65th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65).⁴⁰⁴³ They discussed the strategies and action plans of their respective governments for combating violence against women, assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women’s lives and initiating recovery efforts, instituting equal opportunities in the access of female students to science, technology, engineering and mathematical subjects, and supporting female leadership.⁴⁰⁴⁴

On 19 March 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the general debate during the CSW65.⁴⁰⁴⁵ Minister Bonetti talked with political leaders, representatives of the United Nations, and international organizations about the opportunity to rebuild from the pandemic with co-responsibility between women and men.⁴⁰⁴⁶

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Family introduced a new law for family support, entitling families with children under the age of 21 to a monthly check worth EUR250 per child.⁴⁰⁴⁷ The state has dedicated a budget of EUR23 billion for this initiative, with payments planned to begin in July 2021.⁴⁰⁴⁸ This initiative aims to support parents, favour birth rates, and promote employment, especially among women.⁴⁰⁴⁹ The law is part of the more comprehensive “Family Act Reform,” which will be integrated in the following months to strengthen policies that support and incentivize education, parental leave, female employment and financial autonomy.⁴⁰⁵⁰

⁴⁰⁴¹ COVID-19: smart working, leave and babysitting bonus available to working parents, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/covid19-smartworking-congedi-e-bonus-baby-sitting-a-disposizione-dei-genitori-lavoratori.aspx/>

⁴⁰⁴² COVID-19: smart working, leave and babysitting bonus available to working parents, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/covid19-smartworking-congedi-e-bonus-baby-sitting-a-disposizione-dei-genitori-lavoratori.aspx/>

⁴⁰⁴³ CSW65, bilateral meeting between Minister Bonetti and Austrian Minister Raab, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-incontro-bilaterale-tra-la-ministra-bonetti-e-la-ministra-austriaca-raab/>

⁴⁰⁴⁴ CSW65, bilateral meeting between Minister Bonetti and Austrian Minister Raab, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-incontro-bilaterale-tra-la-ministra-bonetti-e-la-ministra-austriaca-raab/>

⁴⁰⁴⁵ CSW65 – March 19. The intervention of Minister Bonetti to the general discussion, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-19-marzo-lintervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

⁴⁰⁴⁶ CSW65 – March 19. The intervention of Minister Bonetti to the general discussion, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-19-marzo-lintervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

⁴⁰⁴⁷ Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

⁴⁰⁴⁸ Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

⁴⁰⁴⁹ Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

⁴⁰⁵⁰ Italy Introduces Kid’s Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

On 22 March 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a decree authorizing the expenditure of EUR3 million spread over the financial years of 2021, 2022 and 2023, for endometriosis research.⁴⁰⁵¹ The research aims to produce results with an explicit applicative orientation for the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis.⁴⁰⁵² This research will target a women's health issue that affects at least three million Italian women.⁴⁰⁵³

On 29 March 2021, Minister Bonetti joined the first event of the Generation Equality Forum, which took place in Mexico City with UN Women.⁴⁰⁵⁴ She addressed participants through videoconference and reaffirmed Italy's commitment to national gender equality.⁴⁰⁵⁵ She also confirmed that Italy will be taking part in the upcoming forums against gender violence and will hold a ministerial-level conference within the G20 dedicated exclusively to female empowerment for the first time ever.⁴⁰⁵⁶

On 13 April 2021, Minister Bonetti formally invited the ministers of the G20 members and of the guest countries to the Ministerial Conference dedicated to female empowerment scheduled for 26 August 2021.⁴⁰⁵⁷ The event will be aimed at enhancing women's talent and leadership as well as promoting women's rights and combating gender-based violence.⁴⁰⁵⁸ The results of the discussion will be brought to the attention of G20 Leaders before the summit in October 2021.⁴⁰⁵⁹

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Breast Units of the Tor Vergata University of Rome and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, announced the initiative of "In the Hearth of Health," a communication and information campaign aimed at promoting a culture of prevention for pathologies of reproductive health, specifically breast cancer.⁴⁰⁶⁰ The initiative will start at the end of May 2021 and will provide an instrument for women to increase their knowledge of cancer prevention measures.⁴⁰⁶¹ The program will also offer the possibility for women who are

⁴⁰⁵¹ World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777

⁴⁰⁵² World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777

⁴⁰⁵³ World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777

⁴⁰⁵⁴ The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

⁴⁰⁵⁵ The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

⁴⁰⁵⁶ The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

⁴⁰⁵⁷ G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

⁴⁰⁵⁸ G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

⁴⁰⁵⁹ G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

⁴⁰⁶⁰ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

⁴⁰⁶¹ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

identified to be at greater risk for breast cancer to have a free telephone medical consultation and to visit the Universities' Breast Units.⁴⁰⁶² The initiative is directly linked to the promotion of women's health, which has been compromised by the pandemic, especially at the early stages when the COVID-19 outbreak caused a slowdown in the implementation of screening programs and early diagnoses of pathologies.⁴⁰⁶³

On 23 April 2021, Minister of Labour and Social Policies Andrea Orlando sent a letter to the private social security and assistance bodies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies to take the most appropriate initiatives to ensure the widest participation of women in governing bodies of institutions and in representative assemblies.⁴⁰⁶⁴ The letter was meant to reinforce the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies' commitment to counteracting the repercussions that COVID-19 has had on women's living and working conditions as well as reinforcing the idea that gender equality is a priority action.⁴⁰⁶⁵

On 28 April 2021, the National Control Room, chaired by Minister Bonetti, met to discuss the adoption of the next National Strategic Plan on male violence against women.⁴⁰⁶⁶ During the meeting, Minister Bonetti outlined the actions planned to strengthen the government's interventions on the anti-violence front.⁴⁰⁶⁷ In particular, she discussed the allocation of EUR30 million for resources for anti-violence centers and shelters in 2021.⁴⁰⁶⁸

On 28 April 2021, Minister Bonetti took part in the "Advancing Women in Private Sector Leadership: A G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Review of Progress" promoted by the OECD in collaboration with the Italian presidency of the G20.⁴⁰⁶⁹ The event promotes inclusive growth and gender equality and supports commitments to strengthen women's leadership in the private sector.⁴⁰⁷⁰ During the event, Minister Bonetti noted that women would be at the center of their joint commitment for post-pandemic social, cultural, and economic recovery and encouraged event members to seize the opportunity to define gender policies for empowerment and female leadership in a shared vision.⁴⁰⁷¹

⁴⁰⁶² National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

⁴⁰⁶³ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

⁴⁰⁶⁴ Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

⁴⁰⁶⁵ Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

⁴⁰⁶⁶ Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

⁴⁰⁶⁷ Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

⁴⁰⁶⁸ Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

⁴⁰⁶⁹ Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

⁴⁰⁷⁰ Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

⁴⁰⁷¹ Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

On 10 May 2021, Minister of University and Research Maria Cristina Messa participated in the event promoted by the Network of Universities Against Gender Violence (UN.I.RE) and the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into Femicide.⁴⁰⁷² The event was held in honour of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention.⁴⁰⁷³

On 11 May 2021, Minister Bonetti shared a joint declaration with ministers from 16 European countries supporting the Istanbul Convention on the occasion of the convention's tenth anniversary.⁴⁰⁷⁴ Italy and 15 other European countries also asked Turkey to revoke the decision taken a few months ago on withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention and to work together to protect the values guaranteed by this Convention.⁴⁰⁷⁵

On 17 May 2021, the Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family expanded the CLEAR Project by publishing informational video tutorials online.⁴⁰⁷⁶ The CLEAR Project aims to close the gender pension gap by increasing women's awareness and helping inform women about how the pension system works and the possible effects of career choices on future pensions.⁴⁰⁷⁷

On 18 May 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the second seminar of the Be Smart Be Equal cycle, promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden in Italy with the patronage of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS) and the Nordic Council of Ministers.⁴⁰⁷⁸ The seminar aims to promote best practices in reconciling work and personal lives to tend to issues related to work-life balance and equal opportunities in Italian companies compared to northern European companies.⁴⁰⁷⁹ During the seminar, Minister Bonetti reiterated Italy's commitment to invest in female work and parental leave by implementing the Family Act and the National Strategy for Equality for the 2021-2026 period, which will be launched this year.⁴⁰⁸⁰

⁴⁰⁷² The role of the university in the fight against gender-based violence, Ministry of University and Research (Rome) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.mur.gov.it/node/580>

⁴⁰⁷³ The role of the university in the fight against gender-based violence, Ministry of University and Research (Rome) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <https://www.mur.gov.it/node/580>

⁴⁰⁷⁴ Istanbul Convention: Minister Bonetti shares a joint statement by European Ministers in support of the Convention 10 years after its birth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/convenzione-di-istanbul-la-ministra-bonetti-condivide-una-dichiarazione-congiunta-di-ministri-europei-a-sostegno-della-convenzione-a-10-anni-dalla-nascita>

⁴⁰⁷⁵ Istanbul Convention: Minister Bonetti shares a joint statement by European Ministers in support of the Convention 10 years after its birth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/convenzione-di-istanbul-la-ministra-bonetti-condivide-una-dichiarazione-congiunta-di-ministri-europei-a-sostegno-della-convenzione-a-10-anni-dalla-nascita>

⁴⁰⁷⁶ CLEAR Project – Online informative tutorials on the gender pension gap, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/progettoclear>

⁴⁰⁷⁷ CLEAR Project – Online informative tutorials on the gender pension gap, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/progettoclear>

⁴⁰⁷⁸ Be Smart Be Equal cycle, Minister Bonetti participates in the initiative promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/be-smart-be-equal-la-ministra-bonetti-partecipa-alliniziativa-promossa-dalle-ambasciate-di-danimarca-norvegia-e-svezia>

⁴⁰⁷⁹ Be Smart Be Equal cycle, Minister Bonetti participates in the initiative promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/be-smart-be-equal-la-ministra-bonetti-partecipa-alliniziativa-promossa-dalle-ambasciate-di-danimarca-norvegia-e-svezia>

⁴⁰⁸⁰ Be Smart Be Equal cycle, Minister Bonetti participates in the initiative promoted by the Embassies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/be-smart-be-equal-la-ministra-bonetti-partecipa-alliniziativa-promossa-dalle-ambasciate-di-danimarca-norvegia-e-svezia>

On 18 May 2021, the Ministry of Health passed Decree Law 178/2020, which established the procedures and requirements for the disbursement of EUR20 million per year for the reimbursement of genomic testing for early-stage hormone-responsive breast cancer.⁴⁰⁸¹ This funding allows all regions in Italy to offer free genomic tests to all women who could benefit from them to help ensure the appropriateness of a therapeutic option for breast cancer.⁴⁰⁸²

On 16 June 2021, Minister Elena Bonetti chaired an institutional meeting to finalize the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2025.⁴⁰⁸³ Minister Bonetti noted that, through the missions of the National Strategy, the Italian government hopes to encourage female participation in the labour market to correct the lack of balance in equal opportunities and to reduce the gender gap, which in turn will support the restart of the economy after the pandemic and the economy of the whole country.⁴⁰⁸⁴

On 23 June 2021, the Minister for Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando chaired the G20 Labour Ministerial Conference dedicated to the support for female employment, gender equality, the adaptation of social protection systems to the recent changes, and the regulation of increasingly widespread forms of work such as remote and digital platforms.⁴⁰⁸⁵ The meeting was also attended by the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family Elena Bonetti, who congratulated Minister Orlando for the roadmap to improve the degree of participation of women in the labour market.⁴⁰⁸⁶

On 1 July 2021, Minister Bonetti attended the Generation Equality Forum opening ceremony in Paris.⁴⁰⁸⁷ The Generation Equality Forum is an initiative of the United Nations Women and promoted by the governments of France and Mexico to address the issues of equal opportunities, female empowerment and gender-based violence.⁴⁰⁸⁸ During the Forum, the Government of Italy

⁴⁰⁸¹ Breast cancer, Speranza signs implementing decree that unlocks 20 million euros for genomic tests, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5549
⁴⁰⁸² Breast cancer, Speranza signs implementing decree that unlocks 20 million euros for genomic tests, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5549
⁴⁰⁸³ National strategy on gender equality 2021-2025: Minister Bonetti brings together the administrations involved, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 20 June 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/strategia-nazionale-sulla-parita-di-genere-2021-2025-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-le-amministrazioni-coinvolte>

⁴⁰⁸⁴ National strategy on gender equality 2021-2025: Minister Bonetti brings together the administrations involved, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 20 June 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/strategia-nazionale-sulla-parita-di-genere-2021-2025-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-le-amministrazioni-coinvolte>

⁴⁰⁸⁵ G20: summary Final declaration by the Labor Ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 30 June 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/G20-sintesi-Dichiarazione-finale-dei-Ministri-del-Lavoro.aspx>

⁴⁰⁸⁶ Participation of Minister Bonetti at the G20 Ministerial Labor Conference, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 30 June 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/partecipazione-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-g20-del-lavoro>

⁴⁰⁸⁷ Minister Bonetti in Paris for the Generation Equality Forum, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-a-parigi-per-il-generation-equality-forum>

⁴⁰⁸⁸ Minister Bonetti in Paris for the Generation Equality Forum, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-a-parigi-per-il-generation-equality-forum>

officially presented their commitment to preventing and combating violence against women and girls, which the pandemic has exacerbated.⁴⁰⁸⁹

On 13 July 2021, Minister Bonetti attended the Women20 Summit held in Rome.⁴⁰⁹⁰ The summit, which will take place until 15 July 2021, aims to discuss equality, women's work, entrepreneurship, opportunities offered by digital development, access to education and care services, equal presence in decision-making places, the wage gap, contrasting gender stereotypes, and violence against women.⁴⁰⁹¹

On 14 July 2021, the Department for Family Policy launched a series of webinars, which will take place between July and September 2021, to discuss the most significant issues that have emerged in preparation for the fourth National Conference on the Family taking place in the 2021 fall season.⁴⁰⁹² The webinars will be available for public consultation on the "ParteciPA" platform.⁴⁰⁹³ Four groups coordinated by the President of the Technical Scientific Committee of the Observatory Chiara Giaccardi discuss four main themes around which the webinars will centre: the demographic question; the relationship between genders and generations; the topic of inequality; and the topic of work with a focus on gender equality.⁴⁰⁹⁴ The first two webinars are scheduled for 15 July 2021 and 21 July 2021, on the themes of "the demographic question" and "the relationship between genders and generations," respectively.⁴⁰⁹⁵

On 14 July 2021, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the University of Rome Tor Vergata and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, inaugurated the project "In Bosom of Health" to prevent breast cancer.⁴⁰⁹⁶ The communication and information campaign aims to promote a culture of prevention for pathologies of reproductive health, specifically breast cancer and other issues affecting women's health.⁴⁰⁹⁷ The initiative will provide an instrument for women to increase their knowledge of cancer prevention measures and will offer the possibility for women who are identified

⁴⁰⁸⁹ Minister Bonetti in Paris for the Generation Equality Forum, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-a-parigi-per-il-generation-equality-forum>

⁴⁰⁹⁰ Minister Bonetti Attends the WOMEN20 Summit, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3957>

⁴⁰⁹¹ Minister Bonetti Attends the WOMEN20 Summit, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3957>

⁴⁰⁹² "Towards the IV National Conference on the Family," The Network of Centers and Integrated Services for Families of the Department of Family Policy (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <http://www.poninclusionefamiglia.it/2021/07/14/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-sulla-famiglia>

⁴⁰⁹³ "Towards the IV National Conference on the Family," The Network of Centers and Integrated Services for Families of the Department of Family Policy (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <http://www.poninclusionefamiglia.it/2021/07/14/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-sulla-famiglia>

⁴⁰⁹⁴ "Towards the IV National Conference on the Family," The Network of Centers and Integrated Services for Families of the Department of Family Policy (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <http://www.poninclusionefamiglia.it/2021/07/14/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-sulla-famiglia>

⁴⁰⁹⁵ Towards the IV National Conference of the Family, Department of Family Policy (Rome) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <http://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/comunicazione/notizie/verso-la-iv-conferenza-nazionale-della-famiglia>

⁴⁰⁹⁶ Starting today, the project "In Bosom of Health" for the prevention of breast cancer, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5554

⁴⁰⁹⁷ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

to be at greater risk for breast cancer to have a free telephone medical consultation and to visit the Universities' Breast Units.⁴⁰⁹⁸

On 16 July 2021, Minister Bonetti met with the Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Women Anita Bhatia to discuss women's situation in light of the pandemic, which has affected women's income, health and increased instances of violence against women.⁴⁰⁹⁹ During the meeting, Deputy Executive Director Bhatia confirmed the participation of United Nations Women in the G20 ministerial conference dedicated to women's empowerment.⁴¹⁰⁰ Also, Minister Bonetti presented the Government of Italy's measures introduced in the Family Act, and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to support female employment, gender equality and reduce male violence against women.⁴¹⁰¹

On 19 July 2021, the National Control Room met for its first discussion about the draft Strategic Plan to reduce male violence against women.⁴¹⁰² The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family Elena Bonetti, who is also the chair of the National Control Room, presented the document structured in compliance with the Istanbul Convention.⁴¹⁰³ The upcoming National Strategic Plan will be in line with the interventions to promote female empowerment as defined in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which will be the primary tool to prevent male violence.⁴¹⁰⁴

On 28 July 2021, Minister Bonetti spoke at the presentation of the Business20 Policy Document on the topic of Women Empowerment.⁴¹⁰⁵ This Policy Document listed three recommendations focusing on gender equality and the inclusion of women in the labour market, the elimination of stereotypes and discrimination, and the promotion of women's talent and leadership.⁴¹⁰⁶

⁴⁰⁹⁸ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

⁴⁰⁹⁹ Minister Bonetti Meets UN Women's Vice Executive Director, Anita Bhatia, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-incontra-la-vice-direttrice-esecutiva-di-unwomen-anita-bhatia>

⁴¹⁰⁰ Minister Bonetti Meets UN Women's Vice Executive Director, Anita Bhatia, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-incontra-la-vice-direttrice-esecutiva-di-unwomen-anita-bhatia>

⁴¹⁰¹ Minister Bonetti Meets UN Women's Vice Executive Director, Anita Bhatia, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-bonetti-incontra-la-vice-direttrice-esecutiva-di-unwomen-anita-bhatia>

⁴¹⁰² Violence against women, Minister Bonetti brings together the control room: the new National Strategic Plan is closer, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-sulle-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-la-cabina-di-regia-piu-vicino-il-nuovo-piano-strategico-nazionale>

⁴¹⁰³ Violence against women, Minister Bonetti brings together the control room: the new National Strategic Plan is closer, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-sulle-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-la-cabina-di-regia-piu-vicino-il-nuovo-piano-strategico-nazionale>

⁴¹⁰⁴ Violence against women, Minister Bonetti brings together the control room: the new National Strategic Plan is closer, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-sulle-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-riunisce-la-cabina-di-regia-piu-vicino-il-nuovo-piano-strategico-nazionale>

⁴¹⁰⁵ The Business Policy Document20 on the topic of Empowerment was presented, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/presentato-il-policy-document-del-business20-sul-tema-dellempowerment>

⁴¹⁰⁶ The Business Policy Document20 on the topic of Empowerment was presented, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/presentato-il-policy-document-del-business20-sul-tema-dellempowerment>

On 5 August 2021, Minister Bonetti presented the first National Strategy for Gender Equality to the Council of Ministers.⁴¹⁰⁷ Five priorities are listed for the strategic plan: Work, Income, Skills, Time and Power.⁴¹⁰⁸ The document details measurable objectives and targets to be achieved by 2026 to increase Italy's Gender Equality Index ranking from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).⁴¹⁰⁹

On 9 August 2021, the Department for Equal Opportunities and the Family announced that Italy will host the first G20 conference dedicated to women's empowerment on 26 August 2021 in Santa Margherita Ligure, to be chaired by Minister Bonetti.⁴¹¹⁰ The conference will focus on the quality of women's work, policies to support their talents and leadership, the protection of women's rights, and the fight against gender-based violence.⁴¹¹¹ This conference will allow participants to debate their views and beliefs about best practices regarding two key topics: one, STEM, financial and digital literacy, environment and sustainability; and two, labour and economic empowerment, and work-life balance.⁴¹¹² The results of the discussion will be collected ahead of the G20 summit on 30 to 31 October 2021.⁴¹¹³

On 26 August 2021, the Government of Italy hosted the first G20 conference dedicated to female empowerment.⁴¹¹⁴ The conference was attended by the Ministers responsible for equal opportunities from G20 members, as well as by representatives from UN Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and by members of the

⁴¹⁰⁷ Equal Opportunities, Bonetti presented the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/pariopportunita-bonetti-presentata-la-strategia-nazionale-per-la-parita-di-genere-2021-2026>

⁴¹⁰⁸ Equal Opportunities, Bonetti presented the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/pariopportunita-bonetti-presentata-la-strategia-nazionale-per-la-parita-di-genere-2021-2026>

⁴¹⁰⁹ Equal Opportunities, Bonetti presented the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2026, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/pariopportunita-bonetti-presentata-la-strategia-nazionale-per-la-parita-di-genere-2021-2026>

⁴¹¹⁰ On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

⁴¹¹¹ On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

⁴¹¹² On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

⁴¹¹³ On 26 August Santa Margherita Ligure will host the first G20 Conference dedicated to women's empowerment, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/on-26-august-santa-margherita-ligure-will-host-the-first-g20-conference-dedicated-to-womens-empowerment>

⁴¹¹⁴ The first G20 Conference on Women's Empowerment concluded, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/conclusa-la-prima-conferenza-g20-sullempowerment-femminile>

business world and academia.⁴¹¹⁵ Minister Bonetti also convened a special meeting during the conference dedicated to the condition of women in Afghanistan.⁴¹¹⁶

Italy has fully complied with their commitment to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence, affecting women disproportionately through financial support of educational, employment and health programs related to gender-based violence.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Laura Bustos

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine progress made in recent decades.

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare designated 1 March 2021 to 8 March 2021 as “Women’s Health Week” in order to promote women’s health as a national movement.⁴¹¹⁷ This campaign will include virtual events, video messages and articles written by health experts in order to spread awareness to the Japanese general public on women’s health issues.⁴¹¹⁸

On 8 March 2021, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Minister in Charge of Women’s Empowerment Tamayo Marukawa issued a statement on International Women’s Day where she emphasized the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to gender equality.⁴¹¹⁹ Minister Marukawa announced that based on these ideas, the Cabinet formed the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality in December 2020.⁴¹²⁰ The plan aims to implement measures to increase women’s participation in leadership positions and to create a gender-equal society within the 2030s.⁴¹²¹

On 15 March 2021, Minister Marukawa emphasized the importance of increasing the proportion of women in leadership positions at the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s 65th Session of

⁴¹¹⁵ The first G20 Conference on Women's Empowerment concluded, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/conclusa-la-prima-conferenza-g20-sullempowerment-femminile>

⁴¹¹⁶ The first G20 Conference on Women's Empowerment concluded, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/conclusa-la-prima-conferenza-g20-sullempowerment-femminile>

⁴¹¹⁷ About the release of special web contents for “Women’s Health Week,” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_16897.html

⁴¹¹⁸ About the release of special web contents for “Women’s Health Week,” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_16897.html

⁴¹¹⁹ Minister’s Message on International Women's Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html

⁴¹²⁰ Minister’s Message on International Women's Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html

⁴¹²¹ Minister’s Message on International Women's Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html

the Commission on the Status of Women.⁴¹²² Minister Marukawa stated that Japan drafted the 2020 Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality with these considerations in mind.⁴¹²³

On 31 March 2021, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takashi Uto attended a ministerial meeting hosted by Mexico for the formal establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality during the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City.⁴¹²⁴ This Group of Friends aims to foster cooperation among like-minded countries striving towards gender equality and women's empowerment.⁴¹²⁵ At this meeting, Minister Uto announced that the Government of Japan has decided to participate in the Actions Coalitions focusing on gender-based violence.⁴¹²⁶

On 1 April 2021, Japan contributed USD1.9 million to the United Nations Women's Safe and Prosperous District Programme, which focuses on securing women's livelihoods in Papua New Guinea that have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹²⁷ This programme aims to improve working conditions in Tari, Wewak and Alotau markets by increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities as well as security services.⁴¹²⁸ This programme also aims to increase access to financial tools for market vendors in recognition that over 60 per cent of market vendors who are women in Papua New Guinea.⁴¹²⁹ This programme will focus on promoting digital financial tools and on training women in various different trades to access new economic opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹³⁰

On 6 April 2021, Japan contributed USD1.3 million in funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support efforts to protect the health and dignity of women and girls in Libya.⁴¹³¹

⁴¹²² Pandemic Reveals Extent of Gender Inequality in World's Political, Social, Economic Systems, Says Secretary-General, as Women's Commission Opens Session, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/wom2204.doc.htm>

⁴¹²³ Pandemic Reveals Extent of Gender Inequality in World's Political, Social, Economic Systems, Says Secretary-General, as Women's Commission Opens Session, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/wom2204.doc.htm>

⁴¹²⁴ State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO's video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html

⁴¹²⁵ State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO's video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html

⁴¹²⁶ State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO's video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html

⁴¹²⁷ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁴¹²⁸ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁴¹²⁹ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁴¹³⁰ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁴¹³¹ UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

Started on 1 April 2021, this UNFPA project in Libya is mainly focused on addressing the lack of sexual and reproductive health services and the increase in gender-based violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹³² On gender-based violence, this project aims to provide quality services such as psychological support, case management or referrals for healthcare, maintaining safe spaces for females, and raising awareness on the issue.⁴¹³³ On sexual and reproductive health, this project aims to support obstetric and infant care services through mobile teams into conflict areas or areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, distribute medical equipment, train frontline health workers on COVID-19 prevention, and improve risk communications.⁴¹³⁴

On 22 April 2021, Japan allocated an additional USD1 million to support the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund COVID-19 response measures in Zimbabwe.⁴¹³⁵ These measures focus on providing responsive and preventive care to vulnerable children and women covering issues like gender-based violence and primary healthcare.⁴¹³⁶

On 26 April 2021, Japan launched a joint project with the Government of Vietnam and the UNFPA on reducing harms on vulnerable populations due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as the increased incidents of gender-based violence and the lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services.⁴¹³⁷ The Government of Japan is providing over USD2.8 million to support this project from April 2021 to March 2022.⁴¹³⁸ This joint project focuses on enhancing protection services for victims of gender-based violence, strengthening preventive work by raising awareness on gender-based violence, and ensuring continuous sexual and reproductive health services in emergency situations with additional concern for ethnic minorities and those living in remote locations.⁴¹³⁹

On 9 June 2021, JICA made a joint announcement with development finance institutions on the occasion of the G7 leaders' summit, which set a new goal of 15 billion dollars to be mobilized over

⁴¹³² UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

⁴¹³³ UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

⁴¹³⁴ UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

⁴¹³⁵ Japan further supports COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe, United Nations Children's Fund Zimbabwe (Harare) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/japan-further-supports-covid-19-response-zimbabwe>

⁴¹³⁶ Japan further supports COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe, United Nations Children's Fund Zimbabwe (Harare) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/japan-further-supports-covid-19-response-zimbabwe>

⁴¹³⁷ The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

⁴¹³⁸ The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

⁴¹³⁹ The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

2021 and 2022 as a new phase of initiative called the G7 2X challenge: Financing for Women.⁴¹⁴⁰ Along with the JICA, the development finance institutions of the G7 aim to mobilize their own funds to contribute to efforts for gender equality.⁴¹⁴¹ JICA aims to strengthen its cooperation with 2X member organizations in order to provide women access to employment, teach women to build resilient businesses, and help women manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁴²

On 28 June 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) adopted 20 indirect subsidy projects that support services using Femtech and work towards promoting women's health and the continued employment of working women.⁴¹⁴³ These 20 projects are under the METI's Fiscal Year 2021 Subsidy Project for Demonstration Projects for Femtech and Similar Support Services.⁴¹⁴⁴ The 2021 Subsidy Project aims to prevent "unwanted turnover of working women triggered by life events such as pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause, as well as to improve the well-being of individuals."⁴¹⁴⁵

On 25 August 2021, JICA signed a USD50 million loan agreement with the Northern Arc Capital (NAC) to fund non-bank financial entities that support financial services to women in India.⁴¹⁴⁶ This loan will be co-financed with the United States International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) and is in support of the G7 2X Challenge: Finance for Women.⁴¹⁴⁷ This initiative aims to improve Indian women's access to finance, to rectify gender inequalities and ensure sustainable economic growth in India.⁴¹⁴⁸

While Japan has taken limited actions domestically to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has taken strong actions internationally through funding various projects and programs by JICA and other UN agencies in support of women's Health and Economic

⁴¹⁴⁰ Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html

⁴¹⁴¹ Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html

⁴¹⁴² Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html

⁴¹⁴³ Successful Applicants Decided for Femtech Demonstration Projects Supporting the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628_002.html

⁴¹⁴⁴ Successful Applicants Decided for Femtech Demonstration Projects Supporting the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628_002.html

⁴¹⁴⁵ Successful Applicants Decided for Femtech Demonstration Projects Supporting the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0628_002.html

⁴¹⁴⁶ Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html

⁴¹⁴⁷ Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html

⁴¹⁴⁸ Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html

Security as well as funding development projects to combat Gender-Based Violence and support victims of such violence.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Leena Badri

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the Second International Conference on Action with Women and Peace with the theme of “Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict – Ensuring Survivor-centered Approach.”⁴¹⁴⁹ The conference specifically discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual violence in conflicts and plans to support survivors after the pandemic.⁴¹⁵⁰

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection.⁴¹⁵¹ This program is meant to increase women’s economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁵² The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.⁴¹⁵³

On 19 January 2021, MOGEF announced that government support for childcare services will be expanded and service quality will be enhanced in order to alleviate childcare burdens, especially due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁵⁴ This plan would include increasing annual support hours by the government by 120 hours up to 840 hours a year and for households with low income, single parent households or disabled parent/child, the percentage of government support for childcare services will be increased by five per cent to cover 90 per cent.⁴¹⁵⁵ MOGEF will also provide anti-epidemic materials to childcare workers visiting households such as masks and hand

⁴¹⁴⁹ 2nd International Conference on Action with Women and Peace Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321384

⁴¹⁵⁰ 2nd International Conference on Action with Women and Peace Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321384

⁴¹⁵¹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁴¹⁵² Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁴¹⁵³ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁴¹⁵⁴ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

⁴¹⁵⁵ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

sanitizer as well as temporarily providing a linkage service on a childcare mobile application when households require childcare services at night, on weekends or in short-notice due to emergencies.⁴¹⁵⁶

On 25 January 2021, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Chung Young-ai introduced standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of female victims of violence at workplaces.⁴¹⁵⁷ These guidelines aim to encourage public institutions to improve their organizational culture and prevent violence against women at workplaces.⁴¹⁵⁸ The guidelines highlight preventive measures and education institution chiefs and members should take, punishment for perpetrators, and measures to handle complaints.⁴¹⁵⁹

On 18 February 2021, Korea introduced the 2021 Implementation Plan of the Second Gender Equality Policy Basic Plan, which set plans for the year on promoting conditions for work-life balance, ending sexual violence against women and improving health for women among other targets.⁴¹⁶⁰ On work-life balance, Korea announced an expansion of childcare infrastructure such as introducing and expanding pilot programs of community childcare.⁴¹⁶¹ The Plan also includes starting seven “local digital gender-based crimes consulting centers” with the launch of a department focused on digital gender crimes within the MOGEF, and ensuring eight OB/GYN clinics are disabled-friendly in order to protect the right of disabled women to have access to pregnancy and birthing healthcare services.⁴¹⁶²

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced the implementation of new measures aimed at increasing the recovery of women’s labour force participation, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁶³ New programs include a revised supplementary budget with a focus on the rapid creation of jobs in both the private sector and public sector, expansions of services that support job seekers, and the creation

⁴¹⁵⁶ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

⁴¹⁵⁷ MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539

⁴¹⁵⁸ MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539

⁴¹⁵⁹ MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539

⁴¹⁶⁰ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁴¹⁶¹ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁴¹⁶² Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁴¹⁶³ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

of a subsidy paid to businesses hiring women.⁴¹⁶⁴ The new measures are expected to create more than 780,000 women's jobs.⁴¹⁶⁵

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced increased support for childcare in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the objective of minimizing the negative impacts of the pandemic on women's employment.⁴¹⁶⁶ Measures include the extension of emergency support for family care expenses to help mitigate the burden of female workers who were forced to use unpaid family care leave to take care of children left at home due to school closures.⁴¹⁶⁷ This includes KRW50,000 a day for up to 10 days during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁶⁸

On 15 March 2021, President Moon Jae-in urged Senior Secretaries to "implement, as planned, the extension of special employment support and the designation of additional business lines eligible for such support, as well as customized job programs for young people and women together with the public employment projects."⁴¹⁶⁹ His remarks aimed to encourage the prioritization of gender equality initiatives, and subsequently lead to improved employment for women and girls.⁴¹⁷⁰

On 23 March 2021, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) announced that it will invest USD7 million by 2024 to address gender-based violence in Laos.⁴¹⁷¹ In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, KOICA plans to establish a violence prevention and response center for women in Vientiane, dispatch experts from South Korea to help train local personnel in counseling and assist the Laotian government in drawing up a mid- to long-term strategy to address violence against women while also mitigating exacerbated gender-based violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁷²

On 31 March 2021, Korea and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain,

⁴¹⁶⁴ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635

⁴¹⁶⁵ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635

⁴¹⁶⁶ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635

⁴¹⁶⁷ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635

⁴¹⁶⁸ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707635

⁴¹⁶⁹ Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries, Office of the President (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/955>

⁴¹⁷⁰ Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries, Office of the President (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/955>

⁴¹⁷¹ KOICA establishes a system to prevent and respond to violence against women in Laos, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.koica.go.kr/koica_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGJmZlTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTElMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8lMOZwYWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmZlQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVtdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmZlVmlld01pbmUlM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2

⁴¹⁷² KOICA establishes a system to prevent and respond to violence against women in Laos, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.koica.go.kr/koica_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGJmZlTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTElMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8lMOZwYWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmZlQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVtdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmZlVmlld01pbmUlM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2

Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.⁴¹⁷³ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.⁴¹⁷⁴

On 28 April 2021, MOGEF and the Embassy of Finland in Seoul held a panel discussion entitled “Women in Tech,” in order to share information about gender equality in Korea and Finland as well as look for ways to improve gender policies in both countries.⁴¹⁷⁵ At the panel, attendees from both the public and private sector discussed the status of women in the technical field.⁴¹⁷⁶

On 22 June 2021, KOICA raised a joint fund of USD140,000 in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Vietnam, the Government of Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Embassy of Japan in Hanoi, in order to provide Dignity Kits to 5,100 female workers in Vietnam’s Bac Giang and Bac Ninh provinces.⁴¹⁷⁷ Targeting underprivileged women, the Dignity Kits include humanitarian aid products to protect women’s reproductive health and basic rights and to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence.⁴¹⁷⁸ The Dignity Kits include over 20 items such as sanitary pads, underwear, face masks and flashlights.⁴¹⁷⁹

On 23 June 2021, MOGEF and UN Women signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality.⁴¹⁸⁰ This agreement aims to establish an international women’s organization in Korea in order to develop gender equality policies, provide education and training, and create international cooperative relations with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.⁴¹⁸¹

On 28 June 2021, KOICA signed the 2021-2024 Multilateral Cooperation Program for Gender Equality in Egypt with Egypt’s Ministry of International Cooperation, and this program is run in

⁴¹⁷³ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴¹⁷⁴ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴¹⁷⁵ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767

⁴¹⁷⁶ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767

⁴¹⁷⁷ KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do

⁴¹⁷⁸ KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do

⁴¹⁷⁹ KOICA and UNFPA to provide COVID-19 Dignity Kits for Vietnamese Women, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/376681/artclView.do

⁴¹⁸⁰ UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707896

⁴¹⁸¹ UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707896

partnership with the UNFPA and UN Women.⁴¹⁸² The KOICA will support efforts to prevent gender-based violence, the UNFPA's gender equality response project, and UN Women's economic empowerment for women project.⁴¹⁸³

On 13 July 2021, the Government of South Korea's amendments to the Sexual Violence Prevention Act entered into force.⁴¹⁸⁴ The amendments require the head of a public institution involved in a sexual violence case to report it to the MOGEF and submit measures to prevent a recurrence of sexual violence and if a head of a public institution fails to report to an investigation agency, fines up to KRW3 million will be given as punishment.⁴¹⁸⁵ The amendments aim to prevent systematic cover-ups of cases of sexual violence in the workplace.⁴¹⁸⁶

On 5 August 2021, KOICA pledged an investment of USD2.99 million by 2023 for the UNFPA to launch a project supporting victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence amid conflict in northern Iraq.⁴¹⁸⁷ The project aims to build two One-Stop Support Centers for Women Victimized by War Violence in order to provide treatments, psychological counselling, legal advice, and adaptation assistance for women affected by war violence.⁴¹⁸⁸ This project should extend services to over 93,000 Iraqi women.⁴¹⁸⁹

On 30 August 2021, MOGEF hosted the 20th session of the Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) online with the theme of "KOWIN's Future Vision based on 20 Years of Its Activities."⁴¹⁹⁰ At this conference, participants reflected on activities carried out for gender equality

⁴¹⁸² Under the Auspices of the Ministry of International Cooperation, UN Women, UNFPA sign agreements with KOICA to enhance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, United Nations Population Fund Egypt (Cairo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://egypt.unfpa.org/en/news/under-auspices-ministry-international-cooperation-un-women-unfpa-sign-agreements-koica-enhance>

⁴¹⁸³ Under the Auspices of the Ministry of International Cooperation, UN Women, UNFPA sign agreements with KOICA to enhance Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, United Nations Population Fund Egypt (Cairo) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://egypt.unfpa.org/en/news/under-auspices-ministry-international-cooperation-un-women-unfpa-sign-agreements-koica-enhance>

⁴¹⁸⁴ You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector 'immediately' - Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926

⁴¹⁸⁵ You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector 'immediately' - Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926

⁴¹⁸⁶ You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector 'immediately' - Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707926

⁴¹⁸⁷ KOICA offers a helping hand to women victimized by the War in Iraq, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378272/artclView.do

⁴¹⁸⁸ KOICA offers a helping hand to women victimized by the War in Iraq, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378272/artclView.do

⁴¹⁸⁹ KOICA offers a helping hand to women victimized by the War in Iraq, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378272/artclView.do

⁴¹⁹⁰ 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=708039

by Korean women around the world and discussed how KOWIN should be developed in the future.⁴¹⁹¹

On 31 August 2021, KOICA signed an agreement in Peru to launch a project to respond to gender-based violence by strengthening the capacity of the Justice of the Peace.⁴¹⁹² The KOICA announced an investment of USD6 million for this project, which will be led in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).⁴¹⁹³ This project aims to improve Peru's judicial systems, train justices of the peace to handle cases of gender-based violence, and establish a database of precedents.⁴¹⁹⁴

On 1 September 2021, KOICA committed USD7 million in funding to efforts for enhancing gender equality in Bolivia.⁴¹⁹⁵ This funding is aimed at a project led in cooperation with the UNFPA to promote gender equality in order to enhance sexual and reproductive rights for women.⁴¹⁹⁶ This project will be conducted in La Paz and Cochabamba provinces and last until 2025.⁴¹⁹⁷

Korea has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through allocating financial resources to international projects supporting women's health and security, increasing access to affordable childcare services, enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks, and introducing national plans to eliminate violence against women.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

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Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitments to work to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequality and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) and the Senate of the Republic signed a collaboration agreement to promote and monitor the incorporation of gender perspectives and the principle of equality between women and men in the work of the Federal

⁴¹⁹¹ 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=708039

⁴¹⁹² KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do

⁴¹⁹³ KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do

⁴¹⁹⁴ KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do

⁴¹⁹⁵ KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do

⁴¹⁹⁶ KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do

⁴¹⁹⁷ KOICA steps up efforts toward gender equality in Latin America, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

http://www.koica.go.kr/bbs/koica_en/706/378498/artclView.do

Legislative Power.⁴¹⁹⁸ The President of the Senate Eduardo Ramírez pledged to approve legal reforms that guarantee wage equity, as well as the end of gender-based violence, addressing the protection of all fundamental rights for women, and the punishment for any conduct that violates these rights.⁴¹⁹⁹ The President of INMUJERES Nadine Gasman Zylbermann stated that INMUJERES will monitor actions that involve the Legislative Power in the National Program for Equality between Women and Men, as well as conduct research and dissemination projects on the situation of Mexican women in various regions of the country for legislative work.⁴²⁰⁰ Additionally, the INMUJERES, partnered with the Legislative Power, committed to analyze legal norms and follow up with their implementation in order to promote the human rights of women and girls.⁴²⁰¹

On 22 December 2020, the decree approving the National Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD “Pro-Equality” 2020-2024) and the document originated from the National Development Plan were published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.⁴²⁰² The Program articulates and commits to closing historical gaps of inequality, guaranteeing the wellbeing of females, responding to female citizen’s demands, and upholding women’s human rights.⁴²⁰³ The INMUJERES, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the Ministry of Public Function will monitor the implementation of the Program’s priority objectives, strategies and actions.⁴²⁰⁴ The promulgation of the aforementioned decree makes the examination of PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 measures mandatory for Federal Public Administration’s agencies and entities.⁴²⁰⁵

On 27 January 2021, Mexico extended the Second Change Programme, which allows women to learn empowerment, leadership skills and entrepreneurship by running a greenhouse.⁴²⁰⁶ This initiative aims to help decrease poverty and help increase female empowerment.⁴²⁰⁷

⁴¹⁹⁸ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

⁴¹⁹⁹ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

⁴²⁰⁰ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

⁴²⁰¹ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais>

⁴²⁰² With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

⁴²⁰³ With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

⁴²⁰⁴ With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

⁴²⁰⁵ With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

⁴²⁰⁶ Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the ‘Second Chance’ programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

On 11 February 2021, the Chamber of Deputies and UN Women, as part of the Spotlight initiative in Mexico, signed a memorandum of understanding which seeks to promote a non-binding parliamentary alliance to discuss and develop legislative proposals concerning the eradication of violence against females.⁴²⁰⁸ This program will establish activities that prioritize the prevention and care of violence as well as the promotion of actions which guarantee the full access of women's rights.⁴²⁰⁹ Additionally, this memorandum will install periodic working groups with commissions such as those of Gender Equality, Human Rights, Justice, Government and Population, Rights of Children and Adolescents, Constitutional Points, Public Safety, Youth and Sexual Diversity and Health, among other collaborative actions.⁴²¹⁰

On 24 February 2021, Mexico and the United Nations collaborated to work on the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls programme to help remove language barriers in COVID-19 health campaigns and indigenous gender-based violence.⁴²¹¹ This initiative aims to help break down the language barriers for indigenous individuals in Mexico in regard to COVID-19 health campaigns and to help prevent violence against indigenous women.⁴²¹²

On 26 February 2021, the Secretary of the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) Delfina Gómez Álvarez led a meeting with educational authorities to discuss and promote actions that prevent and eradicate violence against women in higher education institutions.⁴²¹³ Secretary Gómez Álvarez reaffirmed the Government of Mexico and SEP's commitment to work towards specific actions that guarantee female's right to education as well as their right to an equitable, inclusive and violence-free instruction.⁴²¹⁴ During the meeting, Secretary Gómez Álvarez also stated that the SEP will launch actions to encourage young mothers and pregnant women to continue their studies, creating inclusive

⁴²⁰⁷ Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the 'Second Chance' programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

⁴²⁰⁸ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight>

⁴²⁰⁹ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight>

⁴²¹⁰ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight?idiom=es>

⁴²¹¹ 'Our voices are being heard': Indigenous women in Mexico break down language barriers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, UN Women (New York) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/feature-indigenous-women-in-mexico-break-down-language-barriers-to-respond-to-covid-19>

⁴²¹² 'Our voices are being heard': Indigenous women in Mexico break down language barriers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, UN Women (New York) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/feature-indigenous-women-in-mexico-break-down-language-barriers-to-respond-to-covid-19>

⁴²¹³ Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

⁴²¹⁴ Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

learning environments, strengthening autonomy for girls and adolescents and accelerating measures to achieve full gender equality in educational spaces.⁴²¹⁵

On 18 March 2021, Mexico joined Bolivia in strengthening legal sanctions against violence around women in politics.⁴²¹⁶ This initiative aims at amending eight national laws to prevent violence against women in politics.⁴²¹⁷ This reaffirms a greater emphasis in decreasing gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²¹⁸

On 25 March 2021, the INMUJERES, the Mexican Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Crossdresser, and Intersex coalition and the Coalition and Dilo Inclusive Schools, organized the webinar “Exercise of sexual rights and reproductive rights of girls and women with disabilities.”⁴²¹⁹ In the webinar, the INMUJERES reaffirmed its commitment to promote and strengthen collaborative actions between institutions, civil organizations and other societal organs to help eliminate barriers that prevent the free and true exercise of women’s rights.⁴²²⁰ The INMUJERES also committed to work towards the independence and prevention of violence against women and girls with disabilities.⁴²²¹ The purpose of the webinar was to discuss the importance of recognizing and increasing the visibility of reproductive rights of females with disabilities.⁴²²² The program also aimed to reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding disabled females and the exercise of their sexuality.⁴²²³

On 31 March 2021, Mexico and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of

⁴²¹⁵ Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

⁴²¹⁶ Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

⁴²¹⁷ Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

⁴²¹⁸ Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

⁴²¹⁹ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

⁴²²⁰ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

⁴²²¹ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

⁴²²² Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

⁴²²³ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

Friends for Gender Equality.”⁴²²⁴ The launch of the group was led by the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Relations Martha Delgada Peralta with the aim of centralizing public policies and promote coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.⁴²²⁵

On 7 April 2021, the Senate of the Republic and UN Women signed a General Collaboration Agreement with the purpose of creating a foundation to develop and execute actions aimed at analyzing and shaping non-binding legislative proposals concerning the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, and the reduction of gender inequalities in Mexico.⁴²²⁶ Specific initiatives include the active participation of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in harmonizing legal frameworks concerning the criminal offense of femicide, obstetric violence, gender discrimination, the recognition of the gender identity of trans people and the sexual as well as reproductive rights of all women.⁴²²⁷ The President of the Senate Board of Directors Eduardo Ramírez stated that “the signing of the agreement commits the senators to carry out the pending legislative agenda in favor of the [female] population.”⁴²²⁸

On 14 April 2021, the INMUJERES held the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men.⁴²²⁹ At this session, INMUJERES and various state agencies, independent organizations and other entities at the federal, state and municipal levels, worked together to plan the implementation and monitoring of the PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 program.⁴²³⁰ At this session, the Chamber of Deputies and the INMUJERES signed a collaboration agreement on promoting and following up on the incorporation of a gendered perspective and principles of gender equality in the Federal Government’s work, public policies and programs.⁴²³¹

⁴²²⁴ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴²²⁵ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴²²⁶ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

⁴²²⁷ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

⁴²²⁸ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

⁴²²⁹ INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

⁴²³⁰ INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

⁴²³¹ INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

On 12 May 2021, the INMUJERES hosted a virtual panel with the Mexican Center for Philanthropy, Oxfam and the Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias on the National Care System.⁴²³² This panel aims to highlight the situation that Mexican women face in regard to unpaid work.⁴²³³ The INMUJERES noted an aim to promote legislations and public policies for the social redistribution of care in four ways so that women can participate in the labor market on equal terms.⁴²³⁴ The INMUJERES will promote the recognition of the right to care in Mexico's legal system, build a broader care agenda in the PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 program, and ensure that the National Care System includes three key aspects: attention to care; economic autonomy; and peace and security.⁴²³⁵

On 22 June 2021, INMUJERES and the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME) signed the General Collaboration Agreement to carry out projects and activities relating to gender equality and the promotion of the elimination of violence against women, adolescents, and girls abroad.⁴²³⁶ The President of INMUJERES Nadine Gasman Zylbermann reaffirmed the INMUJERES' commitment to defending and promoting the rights of migrant women.⁴²³⁷ This Agreement was signed at the third meeting of the Interinstitutional Table for Comprehensive Attention on Repatriating and Returning Mexican Families.⁴²³⁸

On 9 July 2021, the Social Council of INMUJERES hosted a forum titled "Territory in a Feminist Key: Cities, Communities and Safe and Health Environments for All," in which proposals for advancing women's autonomy, well-being, security and rights in both urban and rural areas were shared.⁴²³⁹ This forum focused on the need to manage challenges faced by women living in unsafe environments such as violent crime.⁴²⁴⁰

On 26 July 2021, the Social Council of INMUJERES met to discuss progress reports for the prevention of violence against women and girls and how efforts by the Government of Mexico have

⁴²³² System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

⁴²³³ System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

⁴²³⁴ System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

⁴²³⁵ System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

⁴²³⁶ INMUJERES and IME sign a collaboration agreement in favor of women abroad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-e-ime-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-en-el-exterior>

⁴²³⁷ INMUJERES and IME sign a collaboration agreement in favor of women abroad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-e-ime-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-en-el-exterior>

⁴²³⁸ INMUJERES and IME sign a collaboration agreement in favor of women abroad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-e-ime-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-en-el-exterior>

⁴²³⁹ Social Council of INMUJERES opens dialogue for the reconstruction of safe and healthy environments for women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/consejo-social-del-inmujeres-abre-dialogo-por-la-reconstruccion-de-entornos-seguros-y-saludables-para-las-mujeres>

⁴²⁴⁰ Social Council of INMUJERES opens dialogue for the reconstruction of safe and healthy environments for women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/consejo-social-del-inmujeres-abre-dialogo-por-la-reconstruccion-de-entornos-seguros-y-saludables-para-las-mujeres>

made a significant impact in Mexico City.⁴²⁴¹ The Social Council of INMUJERES made further commitments to help mitigate violence against women and girls with goals such as starting conversations on violence against women and girls and ensuring that by 2024, there are spaces to help women in regards to shelters, justice centers and individuals who are at risk of victimization.⁴²⁴²

On 5 August 2021, INMUJERES organized and participated in a summit called the Observatory of Political Participation of Women in Mexico.⁴²⁴³ The goal of this summit was to help assist in finding ways to help increase women's participation in politics to promote gender equality in politics.⁴²⁴⁴ The summit discussed the current equality issues faced by women and discussed actions that need to be taken to help encourage a stronger presence of gender parity in Mexico.⁴²⁴⁵ Summit participants discussed the importance of legislating new spaces and ways to address the violation of women in the media and recognized that it is urgent to help guarantee the rights of women in regards to political rights and general freedoms.⁴²⁴⁶

On 19 August 2021, the National Institute for Federalism and Municipal Development (INAFED) and the INMUJERES held a virtual dialogue about the National System of Care and its main challenges.⁴²⁴⁷ Some of the main topics included the uneven and unbalanced distribution of care work to women, limiting their autonomy as well as personal development.⁴²⁴⁸ Ferreyra Beltrán, general director of the National Policy of Equality and Rights of Women of INMUJERES, said that “[Mexico is] the country with the least incorporation of women at the labor level, therefore it is important to rethink unpaid tasks as essential for a substantial transformation.”⁴²⁴⁹ For now, a reform of the fourth constitutional article on care has been sought.⁴²⁵⁰ This reform would entail the promotion of co-responsibility, and freedom to care as well as decide on the distribution of one's

⁴²⁴¹ INMUJERES present in the progress report of the Alert for Violence against Women in Mexico City, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-presente-en-el-informe-de-avances-de-la-alerta-por-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴² INMUJERES present in the progress report of the Alert for Violence against Women in Mexico City, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-presente-en-el-informe-de-avances-de-la-alerta-por-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴³ Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴⁴ Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴⁵ Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴⁶ Mexico, a leading country in terms of gender parity, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-pais-puntero-en-materia-de-paridad-de-genero?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴⁷ Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴⁸ Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

⁴²⁴⁹ Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁰ Dialogues we are all municipalities: “National Care System,” Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

time.⁴²⁵¹ According to INMUJERES, "with radical changes that promote cultural and social change; greater equality will be generated in homes and consequently less violence."⁴²⁵²

On 26 August 2021, the INMUJERES held a meeting of "governors, federal and local deputies, municipal presidents and mayors elected in 2021" with the purpose of creating an agenda with concrete commitments to "close inequality gaps."⁴²⁵³ Some of the commitments were towards gender-based violence and the overload of care as well as household work on women.⁴²⁵⁴ The agenda also included the promotion of "effective and equal" female participation in decision making across the political, social, community and private spheres; and the provision of tools to promote women's economic independence.⁴²⁵⁵

On 13 September 2021, the Government of Mexico included the "gender perspective" in the income policy of the Economic Package 2022 and made an investment of more than 232 billion pesos in Annex 13 "Expenditures for Equality between Women and Men."⁴²⁵⁶ In total, the expenditures for equality include 12 priority programs of the Government of the Fourth Transformation and 21 strategic programs to promote gender equality and women's human rights.⁴²⁵⁷ These programs include initiatives to Prevent and Eradicate Violence Against Women (Conavim), measures to promote sexual and reproductive health, and support for the well-being of the children of working mothers.⁴²⁵⁸ Another relevant aspect of the 2022 Economic Package refers to the financial inclusion of women through financial programs, the promotion of women's employment as a central and strategic element for the growth and productivity of the country (with a focus on their access to more productive jobs and with better wages) and the promotion of a zero rate for sanitary products such as feminine pads.⁴²⁵⁹

⁴²⁵¹ Dialogues we are all municipalities: "National Care System," Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵² Dialogues we are all municipalities: "National Care System," Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/dialogos-todos-somos-municipios-sistema-nacional-de-cuidados?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵³ Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁴ Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁵ Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁶ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁷ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁸ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

⁴²⁵⁹ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

Mexico has taken strong actions to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Gender-Based Violence and Economic Security, through programs aimed at female poverty, wage inequality, and cooperation with other countries. Furthermore, Mexico has taken strong actions in the Health sphere through new policies supporting women's sexual and reproductive rights.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jennifer Lam

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 2 December 2020, the Russian Embassy in Guatemala hosted a bilateral meeting between representatives of the Russian Embassy and Guatemala country representatives to United Nations Women to discuss the topic of gender-based violence.⁴²⁶⁰ Both parties discussed the possibility of “exchanging experience and best practices in this area, not only in the bilateral, but also in the multilateral format of the Eurasia-Central America axis.”⁴²⁶¹ The representatives from both countries concluded that this initial meeting would lead to future discussions and joint action to prevent gender-based violence in both respective countries in the future.⁴²⁶²

On 7 December 2020, the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council Galina Karelova, announced at the meeting of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum that the Third Eurasian Women's Forum would be focused on “Women: Global Mission in the New Reality” and will be held in-person from 13 to 15 October 2021.⁴²⁶³ The Forum discussions will be focused on the role and the mission of women in ensuring global security, social progress, public health development, achieving a balance in the context of global digitalization, addressing environmental challenges and climate change and transition to new models of economic growth.⁴²⁶⁴ Deputy Speaker Karelova stated that twenty of the projects announced at the past Forum, aimed at supporting the empowerment of women, have been implemented and focus on holding space for women in politics, science and innovation and leadership roles.⁴²⁶⁵ The forthcoming Forum will be an opportunity to discuss the

⁴²⁶⁰ Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

⁴²⁶¹ Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

⁴²⁶² Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/On4XEAQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

⁴²⁶³ New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

⁴²⁶⁴ New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

⁴²⁶⁵ New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

impacts of COVID-19 on women, and to implement new projects focused on women empowerment.⁴²⁶⁶

On 22 December 2020, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Dmitry Chumakov signed an agreement on the new contribution of USD10 million by the Russian Federation for United Nations Development Program projects supporting youth employment, wellbeing and innovation potential.⁴²⁶⁷ This funding aims to create and support employment opportunities, to offer quality social services, and to improve access to education and health for youth, particularly girls and young women, through projects across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.⁴²⁶⁸

On 25 January 2021, the Ministry of Health published the third version of guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women, women in labour, parturient women and newborns with COVID-19.⁴²⁶⁹ These guidelines aim to ensure that the provision of medical care for these patients is uniform throughout the Russian Federation.⁴²⁷⁰

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Russia attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁴²⁷¹ The project coordinator of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum Angelica Khaperskaya presented the "Russian experience in achieving gender balance in science and technology during the meeting."⁴²⁷² Russia will continue to play a role in increasing the number of women in the nuclear industry by joining the international working group on this matter, as well as by attracting women to the nuclear industry through discussions at the Third Eurasian Women's Forum in October 2021.⁴²⁷³

On 4 March 2021, the Club of Women Parliamentarians held a joint meeting to discuss problems of demography in the regions, social measures to support large families, legislative counteraction to

⁴²⁶⁶ New Projects of Eurasian Women's Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

⁴²⁶⁷ Russia to expand its support to UNDP youth programming, United Nations Development Programme in Europe and Central Asia (New York) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/russia-expand-support-undp-youth-programming.html>

⁴²⁶⁸ Russia to expand its support to UNDP youth programming, United Nations Development Programme in Europe and Central Asia (New York) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/russia-expand-support-undp-youth-programming.html>

⁴²⁶⁹ The Russian Ministry of Health has released the third version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/01/25/15909-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-tretyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

⁴²⁷⁰ The Russian Ministry of Health has released the third version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/01/25/15909-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-tretyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

⁴²⁷¹ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁴²⁷² Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁴²⁷³ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

domestic violence, problems of regional health care, and hot meals for school children.⁴²⁷⁴ The issues discussed in this meeting will form the agenda that the women parliamentarians will advocate for in Parliament, including the projects of the Eurasian Women's Forum's Council, social support for families, healthcare and the prevention of domestic violence.⁴²⁷⁵

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine launched the ReForma social project in partnership with the Responsible for the Future foundation, which focuses on helping mothers on maternity leave to engage in healthy lifestyles.⁴²⁷⁶ This project offers 50 webinars with doctors and 26 online training sessions over three months and focuses on nutrition, health, physical activity, and psychological support.⁴²⁷⁷

On 6 April 2021, Russia announced that regions will be able to receive subsidies for the modernization of primary health care, which includes the construction and modernization of buildings for polyclinics, feldsher-obstetric centers and general practice departments in both urban and rural areas.⁴²⁷⁸ At least RUB500 billion will be allocated for this program until 2025 and of which RUB90 billion is solely for 2021.⁴²⁷⁹

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced new support measures to aid single-parent families and pregnant women during his annual address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow.⁴²⁸⁰ In his speech, President Putin stated that he has instructed the government to develop, by 1 July 2021, a comprehensive system of support for families with children, including a new benefit for all children in single-parent households aged between eight and 16 years old, which will total up to approximately RUB5,650 yearly, per family.⁴²⁸¹ He also announced support for pregnant women with financial difficulties, through a monthly subsidy of RUB6,350 for women who register at a maternity centre during early pregnancy.⁴²⁸² Finally, President Putin announced that parents who are forced to leave work to care for a sick child, which is oftentimes the mother, will now be able to continue to receive 100 per cent of their salary, while caring for their child, up to seven years old.⁴²⁸³ These new announcements will work towards financially supporting pregnant women and single-parent families

⁴²⁷⁴ A meeting of the Club of Women Parliamentarians and Women of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-zasedanie-kluba-zhenshchin-parlamentariev-i-zhenshchin-predstavlyayushchikh-partiyu-ldpr/>

⁴²⁷⁵ A meeting of the Club of Women Parliamentarians and Women of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-zasedanie-kluba-zhenshchin-parlamentariev-i-zhenshchin-predstavlyayushchikh-partiyu-ldpr/>

⁴²⁷⁶ ReForma: A New Project for Mothers on Maternity Leave, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://eawf.ru/en/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/reforma-novyy-proekt-dlya-mam-v-dekrete/>

⁴²⁷⁷ ReForma: A New Project for Mothers on Maternity Leave, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://eawf.ru/en/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/reforma-novyy-proekt-dlya-mam-v-dekrete/>

⁴²⁷⁸ The government will expand state support measures as part of the modernization of primary health care, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41904/>

⁴²⁷⁹ The government will expand state support measures as part of the modernization of primary health care, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41904/>

⁴²⁸⁰ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁴²⁸¹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁴²⁸² Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁴²⁸³ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

in order to minimise the financial burden they might face, as well as encouraging the participation of women in the labour force.⁴²⁸⁴

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova hosted a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission on a draft governmental decree on a program for organizing vocational training and education for certain Russian citizens until 2024 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.⁴²⁸⁵ The eligible citizens would be those over age 50, those of pre-retirement age, and women on leave to care for young children.⁴²⁸⁶ The plan is for at least 168,800 people to undergo vocational training and education in 2021 and at least 125,000 people annually from 2022 to 2024.⁴²⁸⁷

On 22 June 2021, the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council Galina Karelova and other Russian representatives attended the Global Summit of Women Political Leaders to discuss possible systemic changes that could be initiated by women leaders during and after the pandemic for social and economic recovery, and the formation of more inclusive societies.⁴²⁸⁸ In her speech, Deputy Speaker Karelova highlighted the benefits of partnerships between the government, private and non-profit sector to promote projects designed to promote the interests of women and women's participation in all economic spheres, and led discussions on how this approach could be expanded to the global level.⁴²⁸⁹

On 6 July 2021, the Ministry of Health published the fourth version of guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women, women in labour, parturient women and newborns with COVID-19.⁴²⁹⁰ These guidelines aim to ensure that the provision of medical care for these patients is uniform throughout the Russian Federation and this update added a section on planning pregnancies in COVID-19 conditions and vaccinations for pregnant women.⁴²⁹¹

On 8 July 2021, the Government of Russia announced that as of 1 September 2022, financial literacy will be embedded in the new federal state educational standards of primary and basic general

⁴²⁸⁴ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁴²⁸⁵ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

⁴²⁸⁶ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

⁴²⁸⁷ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

⁴²⁸⁸ Women Political Leaders Discuss Social and Economic Initiatives, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/zhenshchiny-politicheskie-lidery-obsudili-initsiativ-po-sotsialnomu-i-ekonomicheskomu-vosstanovleni>

⁴²⁸⁹ Women Political Leaders Discuss Social and Economic Initiatives, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/zhenshchiny-politicheskie-lidery-obsudili-initsiativ-po-sotsialnomu-i-ekonomicheskomu-vosstanovleni>

⁴²⁹⁰ The fourth version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19 has been released, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/07/06/16936-vypuschna-chetvyortaya-versiya-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

⁴²⁹¹ The fourth version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19 has been released, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/07/06/16936-vypuschna-chetvyortaya-versiya-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

education.⁴²⁹² The Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum (EWF) has advocated for the inclusion of financial literacy in education for several years in order to encourage increased financial inclusion for women and girls in Russia.⁴²⁹³ The introduction of the foundations of financial literacy in educational school curricula is aimed at generating interest in finance among girls and women, help them gain necessary financial competences and “ensure their financial stability in the future.”⁴²⁹⁴

On 20 July 2021, the Chairwoman of the Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko virtually participated and delivered a video message at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among women, which discussed the impacts of the pandemic on education and economic status for women and girls.⁴²⁹⁵ Chairwoman Matviyenko shared some of the Government of Russia's on-going and future national-level projects designed to advance gender equality, through the development of women's entrepreneurship and the involvement of women in the technological field.⁴²⁹⁶

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades, including high-level political meetings that demonstrate a willingness to discuss and address some of the issues facing women and girls, the announcement of new financial supports for pregnant women and single-parent families, and the work of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum, with support from the government, to increase women's Economic Security. However, Russia has not taken any concrete actions to reduce the gender inequalities caused by COVID-19 in the Health sphere, nor has Russia implemented any tangible policies that address the prevention of Gender-Based Violence or offer support to women and girls who have survived such violence.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Delaney Murphy

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the Saudi Public Prosecution Office announced new penalties for abuse against women, which includes any physical, psychological or sexual assaults against women.⁴²⁹⁷

⁴²⁹² Teaching financial literacy to become mandatory in primary and secondary schools, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=11027>

⁴²⁹³ New educational standards will help girls master the necessary financial competencies, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/novye-obrazovatelnye-standarty-pomogut-devushkam-osvoit-neobkhodimye-finansovye-kompetentsii>

⁴²⁹⁴ New educational standards will help girls master the necessary financial competencies, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/novye-obrazovatelnye-standarty-pomogut-devushkam-osvoit-neobkhodimye-finansovye-kompetentsii>

⁴²⁹⁵ V. Matviyenko addressed the participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among Women, Council of the Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://council.gov.ru/events/news/128766>

⁴²⁹⁶ V. Matviyenko addressed the participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among Women, Council of the Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://council.gov.ru/events/news/128766>

⁴²⁹⁷ Saudi Arabia cracks down on abuse against women with prison term, up to \$13,332 fine, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2020/11/25/Saudi-Arabia-cracks-down-on-abuse-against-women-with-prison-minimum-up-to-13-332-fi>

Penalties include a minimum jail sentence between one month to one year for the act of attacking a woman as well as a minimum fine of SAR5,000 up to SAR50,000.⁴²⁹⁸

On 16 December 2020, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) and the World Health Organization launched a new project to support the delivery of essential health services in Yemen.⁴²⁹⁹ The project provides support through the Minimum Service Package, which includes reproductive and maternal health services for up to 1.8 million people.⁴³⁰⁰

On 2 January 2021, the Ministry of Interior's Department of Civil Affairs announced that Saudi women no longer need a guardian's permission to change personal data.⁴³⁰¹ This would allow Saudi Arabian women to change their family name, name of children, marital status and more through an online booking with the Department of Civil Affairs.⁴³⁰²

On 2 February 2021, the KSRelief and the Islamic Development Bank signed a financial contribution memorandum to support the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children on two projects with a total investment of USD9.16 million.⁴³⁰³ One project, in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, focuses on providing health and nutritional services for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.⁴³⁰⁴ This project aims to provide primary health services to 20,000 pregnant women or women who have just given birth, and health services for 150 childbirth cases.⁴³⁰⁵

On 8 February 2021, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced new legal reforms to remove inconsistencies, speed up verdicts and boost the Saudi legal system's efficiency.⁴³⁰⁶ The reforms include four new laws: the Personal Status Law, the Civil Transactions Law, the Penal Code for Discretionary Sanctions, and the Law of Evidence.⁴³⁰⁷ These reforms are focused on removing legal discrepancies and providing a system of checks and balances to avoid painful consequences imposed on women.⁴³⁰⁸ The

⁴²⁹⁸ Saudi Arabia cracks down on abuse against women with prison term, up to \$13,332 fine, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2020/11/25/Saudi-Arabia-cracks-down-on-abuse-against-women-with-prison-minimum-up-to-13-332-fi>

⁴²⁹⁹ New WHO-KSRelief partnership to support delivery of essential health services in Yemen, Saudi Gazette (Cairo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/601472/SAUDI-ARABIA/New-WHO-KSRelief-partnership-to-support-delivery-of-essential-health-services-in-Yemen>

⁴³⁰⁰ New WHO-KSRelief partnership to support delivery of essential health services in Yemen, Saudi Gazette (Cairo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/601472/SAUDI-ARABIA/New-WHO-KSRelief-partnership-to-support-delivery-of-essential-health-services-in-Yemen>

⁴³⁰¹ Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data: Report, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/01/02/Saudi-women-Saudi-women-no-longer-need-guardian-s-permission-to-change-personal-date-Report>

⁴³⁰² Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data: Report, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/01/02/Saudi-women-Saudi-women-no-longer-need-guardian-s-permission-to-change-personal-date-Report>

⁴³⁰³ KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

⁴³⁰⁴ KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

⁴³⁰⁵ KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

⁴³⁰⁶ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

⁴³⁰⁷ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

⁴³⁰⁸ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

Personal Status Law, focused on provisions relating to family matters, wills and inheritance, will be the first of the four laws to be referred to the Council of Ministers for study and review.⁴³⁰⁹

On 21 February 2021, the Ministry of Defense announced that women will be able to sign up online to join the Saudi Arabian Army, Royal Saudi Air Defense, Royal Saudi Navy, Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force, and Armed Forces Medical Services as soldiers, lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants.⁴³¹⁰ This is a part of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 Agenda, which includes introducing reforms to advance Saudi Arabian women in a variety of fields.⁴³¹¹

On 5 March 2021, the KSRelief inspected the progress of a project in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund to provide emergency services to women and girls affected by gender-based violence in Yemen.⁴³¹² This project aims to enhance mechanisms of protecting women and girls from gender-based violence and empower victims through professional and vocational training programs to reintegrate them into Yemeni society.⁴³¹³

As of 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Culture stated that the Ministry has reached a new gender balance of 50 per cent in the workplace, which aligns with Saudi Arabia's mission of empowerment for the Vision 2030 agenda.⁴³¹⁴ The Ministry of Culture's top positions are held by women such as chief executive officers, managing directors as well as operational managers.⁴³¹⁵

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Commerce and Investment Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi launched a new program to encourage Saudi women to join the accounting profession.⁴³¹⁶ Organized by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants, the program includes training, qualification, entrepreneurship and employment streams in order to empower women and increase female participation in the national economy.⁴³¹⁷

On 26 March 2021, Secretary General of the Family Affairs Council Hala bint Mazyad Al-Twajjri affirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to enact legislative and procedural measures to protect women's rights at the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.⁴³¹⁸ Secretary General Al-Twajjri noted that this included the elimination of discrimination against women and the

⁴³⁰⁹ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

⁴³¹⁰ Saudi Arabia opens military recruitment to women in latest move for inclusivity, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/02/21/Saudi-Vision-2030-Saudi-Arabia-opens-military-recruitment-to-women-in-latest-move-for-inclusivity-/>

⁴³¹¹ Saudi Arabia opens military recruitment to women in latest move for inclusivity, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/02/21/Saudi-Vision-2030-Saudi-Arabia-opens-military-recruitment-to-women-in-latest-move-for-inclusivity-/>

⁴³¹² KSRelief inspects empowerment project in Yemen, Arab News (Aden) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1820096/saudi-arabia>

⁴³¹³ KSRelief inspects empowerment project in Yemen, Arab News (Aden) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1820096/saudi-arabia>

⁴³¹⁴ Saudi Culture Ministry achieves gender balance with women in key roles, Arab News (Jeddah) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821571/saudi-arabia>

⁴³¹⁵ Saudi Culture Ministry achieves gender balance with women in key roles, Arab News (Jeddah) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821571/saudi-arabia>

⁴³¹⁶ Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

⁴³¹⁷ Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

⁴³¹⁸ Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

protection of women from violence.⁴³¹⁹ Secretary General Al-Twajri noted that these actions are aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, including the National Transformation Program, which aims to increase Saudi women's participation in the labour market.⁴³²⁰

On 29 March 2021, Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Commission and the Mawaddah Charitable Association signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen coordination in protecting human rights and spread awareness to reduce domestic violence.⁴³²¹ Under this memorandum, an independent body will be established to manage the issue of domestic violence and to support efforts to develop specialized centers to rehabilitate victims of domestic abuse.⁴³²²

On 22 April 2021, the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund introduced a new initiative to boost female employment in the private sector by subsidizing transport costs in partnership with vehicle for hire company, Careem.⁴³²³ This initiative allows women to receive an 80 per cent discount on the cost of each journey, with the ceiling of support increased to SAR1,100 a month for those with a monthly wage of SAR6,000 or less, and SAR800 for those earning between SAR6,001 to SAR8,000 per month.⁴³²⁴ This initiative aims to reduce the burden of transport costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.⁴³²⁵

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health introduced a blueprint for women's right to health, which includes sexual and reproductive healthcare services.⁴³²⁶ The blueprint notes that women are entitled to assistance in childbearing in case of delayed pregnancy, physical and moral support, and receiving clinical examinations in order to prevent cancer and fragility diseases, especially if risk factors are present.⁴³²⁷ The blueprint also notes that women are entitled to maternity care appropriate to her cultural and religious background, and to receive information in a language that she understands.⁴³²⁸

On 9 June 2021, Saudi Arabia introduced a legal amendment to allow single, divorced or widowed women to live independently in a house without needing approval from male guardians.⁴³²⁹ Saudi judicial authorities scrapped Paragraph B under Article no. 16 of the Law of Procedure before Sharia

⁴³¹⁹ Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

⁴³²⁰ Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

⁴³²¹ Saudi signs MoU to combat domestic violence, Middle East Monitor (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210330-saudi-sings-mou-to-combat-domestic-violence/>

⁴³²² Saudi signs MoU to combat domestic violence, Middle East Monitor (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210330-saudi-sings-mou-to-combat-domestic-violence/>

⁴³²³ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

⁴³²⁴ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

⁴³²⁵ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

⁴³²⁶ Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

⁴³²⁷ Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

⁴³²⁸ Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

⁴³²⁹ Saudi women allowed to live alone without permission from male guardian, Gulf News (Dubai) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-women-allowed-to-live-alone-without-permission-from-male-guardian-1.79787003>

Courts, which stated that “an adult single, divorced, or widowed woman shall be handed over to her male guardian.”⁴³³⁰ This article was replaced with a recognition that “an adult woman has the right to choose where to live” and that women can only be reported by their guardians if there is evidence to prove that she is committing a crime.⁴³³¹

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance started recruiting female staffers to provide services to female pilgrims in various mosques at the holy sites and meeqats during the Hajj season.⁴³³² The services include manning women’s prayer areas, applying health protocols, distributing meals, and participating in awareness and guidance programs.⁴³³³ This effort is in line with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance’s mission to empower Saudi women in various fields that accomplish the ministry’s mission and general objectives.⁴³³⁴

Saudi Arabia has taken strong concrete actions to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through legislative changes to support women’s rights, introducing plans to support women’s reproductive and sexual health, funding international projects supporting victims of gender-based violence, and expanding initiatives to support women’s participation in the labour market.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Annabelle Bourzeix, Brandon Yib and Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender equalities and undermine the progress made in the recent decades.

On 27 November 2020, the Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu relaunched the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) in Pretoria, which will be expanded in order to accommodate sufficient resources.⁴³³⁵ The GBVCC functions 24 hours a day and victims of gender-based violence can contact GBVCC to speak with a social worker for assistance and counselling through a toll-free phone number or text message or Skype.⁴³³⁶

⁴³³⁰ Saudi women allowed to live alone without permission from male guardian, Gulf News (Dubai) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-women-allowed-to-live-alone-without-permission-from-male-guardian-1.79787003>

⁴³³¹ Saudi women allowed to live alone without permission from male guardian, Gulf News (Dubai) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-women-allowed-to-live-alone-without-permission-from-male-guardian-1.79787003>

⁴³³² Ministry of Islamic Affairs employs female staff to serve pilgrims, Saudi Gazette (Mina) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/609003/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Islamic-Affairs-employs-female-staff-to-serve-pilgrims>

⁴³³³ Ministry of Islamic Affairs employs female staff to serve pilgrims, Saudi Gazette (Mina) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/609003/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Islamic-Affairs-employs-female-staff-to-serve-pilgrims>

⁴³³⁴ Ministry of Islamic Affairs employs female staff to serve pilgrims, Saudi Gazette (Mina) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/609003/SAUDI-ARABIA/Ministry-of-Islamic-Affairs-employs-female-staff-to-serve-pilgrims>

⁴³³⁵ Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunches Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-relaunches-gender-based-violence-command-centre-27-nov-26-nov-2020>

⁴³³⁶ Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunches Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-relaunches-gender-based-violence-command-centre-27-nov-26-nov-2020>

On 11 January 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa deemed gender-based violence and femicide to be the country's second pandemic.⁴³³⁷ South Africa is addressing gender-based violence and femicide by collaborating with civil society to create behavioural change in taxi drivers and taxi marshals.⁴³³⁸ Further actions include sensitizing religious leaders to issues with the patriarchal system and gender-based violence.⁴³³⁹ President Ramaphosa's address also presents actions to economically empower women such as training for business women in order for them to access public procurement opportunities.⁴³⁴⁰

On 4 February 2021, President Ramaphosa launched the first Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund.⁴³⁴¹ In one day, the private sector pledged ZAR128 million for the GBVF.⁴³⁴² This fund is for the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.⁴³⁴³ The National Strategic Plan has six pillars: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership; Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion; Justice, Safety and Protection; Response, Care, Support and Healing; Economic Power; and Research and Information Management.⁴³⁴⁴

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa discussed South Africa's commitment to further financial and economic inclusion of African women with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.⁴³⁴⁵ President Ramaphosa underscored the four main challenges of African women to financial inclusion, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁴⁶ President Ramaphosa also conveyed the tangible actions South Africa has taken to include women financially.⁴³⁴⁷ For example, South Africa is developing the Financial Inclusion Policy.⁴³⁴⁸ This is a national policy that ensures 40 per cent of

⁴³³⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁴³³⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁴³³⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁴³⁴⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁴³⁴¹ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbv-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

⁴³⁴² Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbv-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

⁴³⁴³ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbv-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

⁴³⁴⁴ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbv-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

⁴³⁴⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁴⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁴⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁴⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

public procurement favours women.⁴³⁴⁹ This meeting with Queen Máxima solidified the mutual desire to continue to work towards the shared goal of the economic empowerment of women.⁴³⁵⁰

As of 2 March 2021, South Africa assigned district coordinators to fight gender-based violence in each district, created a multi-sectoral Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Technical Committee, provided 167 women shelter and 3,811 victims of gender-based violence psychosocial support.⁴³⁵¹ In addition, South Africa allocated around ZAR3 million for women's shelters supporting victims of GBVF.⁴³⁵² These implementations were taken in accordance with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030.⁴³⁵³

As of 3 March 2021, the National Development Agency and the Department of Social Development granted funds for community service organizations as part of the Victim Empowerment Programme.⁴³⁵⁴ The Victim Empowerment Programme aims to strengthen preventative and support services for survivors of gender-based violence and femicide.⁴³⁵⁵ The National Development Agency received approval to fund 312 civil society organizations with ZAR85.6 million.⁴³⁵⁶ As part of this funding, ZAR36.75 million has been distributed to approved community service organizations.⁴³⁵⁷

On 8 March 2021, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor called on post-pandemic leadership to focus on the discrimination that women face at The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit.⁴³⁵⁸ For example, women face discrimination for unpaid care work, unequal pay, unemployment, and barriers to accessing employment, which have all

⁴³⁴⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁵⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁵¹ Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁵² Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁵³ Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁵⁴ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

⁴³⁵⁵ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

⁴³⁵⁶ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

⁴³⁵⁷ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

⁴³⁵⁸ Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁵⁹ Government emergency relief measures only pertain to women in formal sectors, meaning that there was unequal access to financial support.⁴³⁶⁰

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane introduced the Tourism Recovery Plan which prioritizes the inclusion and economic empowerment of women and girls using the approach of gender mainstreaming.⁴³⁶¹ This comes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁶² Gender mainstreaming equally considers the interests and concerns of women and men in order to promote inclusivity.⁴³⁶³ This acknowledges that women and men have different access and need for resources, power, rights and institutions, which became particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁶⁴ Minister Kubayi-Ngubane recognized how the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted women-owned businesses, which led to the introduction of the approach of gender-mainstreaming in policy-making.⁴³⁶⁵

On 17 March 2021, the National Development Agency's Men's GBVF Dialogue rallied pledges from men in the Lejweleputswa District.⁴³⁶⁶ The GBVF Dialogue is a platform for conversations that bring about social change.⁴³⁶⁷ The National Development Agency is engaging cross-sectoral organizations and community stakeholders, pledging zero tolerance to gender-based violence.⁴³⁶⁸ The National Development Agency also funds seven GBVF organizations in the Lejweleputswa District with

⁴³⁵⁹ Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

⁴³⁶⁰ Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

⁴³⁶¹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁶² Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁶³ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁶⁴ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁶⁵ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁴³⁶⁶ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

⁴³⁶⁷ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

⁴³⁶⁸ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

programming that supports those affected by GBVF.⁴³⁶⁹ This work is especially relevant as the COVID-19 pandemic has increased reports of violence against women and girls.⁴³⁷⁰

On 18 March 2021, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane reaffirmed that gender equality makes economic sense and discussed a future agenda to promote gender equality at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.⁴³⁷¹ At the forum, the three countries highlighted how the year 2020 has brought women's rights into prominence and emphasized their commitment to reduce the gender gap and foster mutual cooperation.⁴³⁷²

On 19 March 2021, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu led the human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide in Diepsloot, a hotspot for gender-based violence.⁴³⁷³ This walk raised awareness about gender-based violence and engaged community organizations and victim-empowerment services.⁴³⁷⁴

On 19 March 2021, South Africa co-organized the event "Ensuring migrant women's effective participation in public life and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence" with Germany, Bangladesh, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the Women in Migration Network for the 65th Commission on the Status of Women.⁴³⁷⁵ The event highlights the specific needs and barriers migrant women and girls face, emphasizing the urgency of responding to gender-based violence against women migrants, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁷⁶

On 31 March 2021, South Africa and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.⁴³⁷⁷ This group aims at centralizing

⁴³⁶⁹ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

⁴³⁷⁰ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

⁴³⁷¹ Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

⁴³⁷² Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

⁴³⁷³ Minister Lindiwe Zulu leads human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-leads-human-rights-walk-against-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-0>

⁴³⁷⁴ Minister Lindiwe Zulu leads human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-leads-human-rights-walk-against-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-0>

⁴³⁷⁵ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴³⁷⁶ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴³⁷⁷ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.⁴³⁷⁸

On 22 April 2021, the Commission for Gender Equality presented its review of the first six months of the Government's Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on GBVF.⁴³⁷⁹ The ERAP on GBVF was first introduced in 2019 as a ZAR1.6 billion plan to address GBVF.⁴³⁸⁰ This review, which is an implementation report, contains instructive findings for civil society, policymakers, the private sector, the development sector, the government, and other relevant actors.⁴³⁸¹ It highlights positive interventions and those that did not achieve its intended goal, shaping future efforts to address gender inequalities.⁴³⁸²

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande announced the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) in response to the exacerbated social inequities from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁸³ PSETA is a partnership with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Microsoft South Africa and Afrika Tikkun Services that aims to equip unemployed women and youth with digital skills.⁴³⁸⁴ This creates more opportunities for the economic inclusion of women.⁴³⁸⁵

On 30 April 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza introduced the commitment to prioritize women in land ownership under the Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation Policy and the Land Tenure Rights Act Amendment Bill.⁴³⁸⁶ This emphasizes the prominent role women play in society and the importance of tackling the discrimination women face.⁴³⁸⁷

⁴³⁷⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

⁴³⁷⁹ Commission for Gender Equality launches Review Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-media-launch-19-apr-2021-0000>

⁴³⁸⁰ Chairperson Tamara Mathebula: Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/chairperson-tamara-mathebula-emergency-response-action-plan-gender-based-violence-and>

⁴³⁸¹ Commission for Gender Equality launches Review Report on Government's Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-media-launch-19-apr-2021-0000>

⁴³⁸² Chairperson Tamara Mathebula: Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/chairperson-tamara-mathebula-emergency-response-action-plan-gender-based-violence-and>

⁴³⁸³ Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁸⁴ Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁸⁵ Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁸⁶ Parliament on Freedom Day, South African Government (Cape Town) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-freedom-day-28-apr-2021-0000>

⁴³⁸⁷ Deputy President David Mabuza: Covie community land handover ceremony, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-covie-community-land-handover-ceremony-30-apr-2021-0000>

On 30 June 2021, President Ramaphosa attended the Generation Equality Forum: Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition.⁴³⁸⁸ The Generation Equality Forum is a global gathering hosted by United Nations Women.⁴³⁸⁹ President Ramaphosa used this forum to reaffirm South Africa's commitment to promote economic justice and rights for women.⁴³⁹⁰ President Ramaphosa presented South Africa's intention to adopt the Protocol and Programme of Action on Women in Trade in order to encourage the participation of women in the African Continental Free Trade Area.⁴³⁹¹

On 20 July 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Nomalungelo Gina welcomed the assessment report Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry Policy.⁴³⁹² This report was conducted by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Women, and the Government of Germany.⁴³⁹³ This report helps inform the development of a policy framework for women in green entrepreneurship.⁴³⁹⁴ Minister Gina emphasized how sustainable development is intertwined with gender equality.⁴³⁹⁵ Minister Gina also emphasized the government's commitment to women empowerment and inclusion.⁴³⁹⁶

On 30 July 2021, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane officially launched the Women's Month 2021 to recognize the role of women in shaping South Africa, the progress made for gender equality, and the continued challenges in achieving gender equality.⁴³⁹⁷ Minister Nkoana-Mashabane highlighted the increasing social and economic insecurity of women because of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁹⁸

⁴³⁸⁸ President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

⁴³⁸⁹ President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

⁴³⁹⁰ President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

⁴³⁹¹ President Ramaphosa leads South Africa's participation at the Generation Equality Forum, 30 Jun to 2 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-ramaphosa-leads-south-africa%E2%80%99s-participation-generation-equality-forum-30-jun-2>

⁴³⁹² Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

⁴³⁹³ Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

⁴³⁹⁴ Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

⁴³⁹⁵ Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

⁴³⁹⁶ Trade, Industry and Competition on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-empowerment-women-green-industry-20-jul-2021-0000>

⁴³⁹⁷ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁴³⁹⁸ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

On 3 August 2021, the Commission for Gender Equality hosted a webinar “Removing Barriers to Women’s Economic Empowerment” with several financial institutions to discuss the challenges of women accessing financial support.⁴³⁹⁹ The panel of executives from the webinar represent institutions such as the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), and Mastercard South Africa.⁴⁴⁰⁰ This is part of the Commission for Gender Equality’s monitoring of gender equality programmes by the private sector.⁴⁴⁰¹

On 12 August 2021, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Thoko Didiza hosted a webinar on the role of women in agriculture that addresses the land reform issues women face, and opportunities for women to access land and resources.⁴⁴⁰² This webinar highlights and normalizes the contributions of women to the South African agricultural sector.⁴⁴⁰³

On 19 August 2021, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition’s Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Commission announced a virtual Women Economic Empowerment webinar to be held on 25 August 2021.⁴⁴⁰⁴ This webinar aims to interrogate accountability systems and mechanisms by the Government of South Africa that focus on economic empowerment of women.⁴⁴⁰⁵

On 27 August 2021, the Department of Government Communication and Information System hosted a panel discussion in partnership with the Gertrude Shope Women Mediator Network and I AM South African on the importance of women in rebuilding South Africa.⁴⁴⁰⁶ The discussion bolsters the message on national cohesion and unity.⁴⁴⁰⁷

⁴³⁹⁹ Commission for Gender Equality hosts financial webinar, South African Government (Braamfontein) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commission-gender-equality-hosts-financial-webinar-3-aug-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁴⁴⁰⁰ Commission for Gender Equality hosts financial webinar, South African Government (Braamfontein) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commission-gender-equality-hosts-financial-webinar-3-aug-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁴⁴⁰¹ Commission for Gender Equality hosts financial webinar, South African Government (Braamfontein) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commission-gender-equality-hosts-financial-webinar-3-aug-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁴⁴⁰² Minister Thoko Didiza hosts a webinar on the role of women in agriculture as part of Women’s Month celebrations, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thoko-didiza-hosts-webinar-role-women-agriculture-part-women%E2%80%99s-month-celebrations>

⁴⁴⁰³ Minister Thoko Didiza hosts a webinar on the role of women in agriculture as part of Women’s Month celebrations, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thoko-didiza-hosts-webinar-role-women-agriculture-part-women%E2%80%99s-month-celebrations>

⁴⁴⁰⁴ Gender Equality hosts Women Economic Empowerment Webinar, 25 Aug, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gender-equality-hosts-women-economic-empowerment-webinar-25-aug-19-aug-2021-0000>

⁴⁴⁰⁵ Gender Equality hosts Women Economic Empowerment Webinar, 25 Aug, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gender-equality-hosts-women-economic-empowerment-webinar-25-aug-19-aug-2021-0000>

⁴⁴⁰⁶ Government hosts panel discussion on role of women in rebuilding South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-panel-discussion-role-women-rebuilding-south-africa-27-aug-23-aug-2021>

⁴⁴⁰⁷ Government hosts panel discussion on role of women in rebuilding South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-hosts-panel-discussion-role-women-rebuilding-south-africa-27-aug-23-aug-2021>

On 30 August 2021, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane hosted the National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030.⁴⁴⁰⁸ At the forum, the Year One Report and its recommendations were examined to inform the priorities for Year Two as well as to consider ways to strengthen accountability, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.⁴⁴⁰⁹ The National Strategic Plan aims to create a “South Africa free from gender-based violence directed at women, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) persons.”⁴⁴¹⁰

On 31 August 2021, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe launched the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality (WEGE) Strategy to support women in becoming active participants in the energy industry in South Africa.⁴⁴¹¹ The five-year strategy contains four strategic pillars: enabling environment, equality of opportunities, gender mainstreaming, and barrier free workplaces.⁴⁴¹²

On 1 September 2021, Acting Deputy Director-General of Industrial Financing at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Susan Mangole participated in the panel discussion of the Women in Public Sector Webinar.⁴⁴¹³ This panel discussion’s theme was “tackling gender boundaries and changing the narrative on women in leadership.”⁴⁴¹⁴ Acting Deputy Director-General Mangole rallied women to build the economy, take advantage of interest-free loans and grants and also emphasized the importance of providing supports to empower women.⁴⁴¹⁵

South Africa has taken strong concrete actions in reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Gender-Based Violence sphere with new technical committees, funding for support services and increased security measures for women, but South Africa has only taken limited actions in regard to the Health and Economic Security spheres.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Isabella Li

⁴⁴⁰⁸ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-hosts-national-engagement-forum-national-strategic-plan>

⁴⁴⁰⁹ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-hosts-national-engagement-forum-national-strategic-plan>

⁴⁴¹⁰ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosts National Engagement Forum on National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (NSP on GBVF) 2020-2030, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-hosts-national-engagement-forum-national-strategic-plan>

⁴⁴¹¹ Minister Gwede Mantashe launches Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-launches-women-empowerment-and-gender-equality-strategy-2-sep-2021>

⁴⁴¹² Minister Gwede Mantashe launches Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-launches-women-empowerment-and-gender-equality-strategy-2-sep-2021>

⁴⁴¹³ Trade, Industry and Competition on women empowerment, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-women-empowerment-1-sep-2021-0000>

⁴⁴¹⁴ Trade, Industry and Competition on women empowerment, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-women-empowerment-1-sep-2021-0000>

⁴⁴¹⁵ Trade, Industry and Competition on women empowerment, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-women-empowerment-1-sep-2021-0000>

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services hosted seminars on “Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment” over radio programs and online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴¹⁶ The seminars reached 440,000 people and focused on raising awareness to women on issues like money management, investment instruments, complaint mechanisms and other financial literacy tools.⁴⁴¹⁷

On 18 February 2021, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services Zehra Zumrut Selçuk announced that the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services will aim to include over 450,000 more workplaces through İŞKUR, a public employment service.⁴⁴¹⁸ In order to reduce the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workforce, there are plans to provide job and vocational counseling to over 2.2 million people, especially women, youth and disabled people.⁴⁴¹⁹

On 9 March 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Ankara University signed a cooperation protocol to support steps in combating violence against women.⁴⁴²⁰ This protocol aims to conduct academic studies to investigate violence against women by criminal perpetrators in order to identify causes of violence and establish preventive measures on gender-based violence.⁴⁴²¹

On 20 March 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a presidential decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, a Council of Europe treaty on preventing domestic violence and combating violence against women.⁴⁴²² Minister Selçuk stated that women’s rights will continue to be guaranteed in domestic legislation like the Constitution and that the Turkish legal system is “dynamic and strong enough to implement new regulations according to need.”⁴⁴²³

⁴⁴¹⁶ Minister Selçuk: “We Reached 440 Thousand People Through Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment Seminars,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-ve-kadinlarin-ekonomik-guclenmesi-seminerleriyle-440-bin-kisiye-ulastik/>

⁴⁴¹⁷ Minister Selçuk: “We Reached 440 Thousand People Through Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment Seminars,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-ve-kadinlarin-ekonomik-guclenmesi-seminerleriyle-440-bin-kisiye-ulastik/>

⁴⁴¹⁸ Minister Selçuk: “We Will Get Together With Our Workers and Employers for the Revitalization of the Labor Market,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-igucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

⁴⁴¹⁹ Minister Selçuk: “We Will Get Together With Our Workers and Employers for the Revitalization of the Labor Market,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-igucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

⁴⁴²⁰ Ministry-University Cooperation on Combating Violence Against Women, Press and Public Relations Consultancy (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://basin.adalet.gov.tr/kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadelede-yargi-universite-isbirligi>

⁴⁴²¹ Ministry-University Cooperation on Combating Violence Against Women, Press and Public Relations Consultancy (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://basin.adalet.gov.tr/kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadelede-yargi-universite-isbirligi>

⁴⁴²² Turkey withdraws from Istanbul Convention, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-withdraws-from-istanbul-convention/2182168>

⁴⁴²³ Minister Selçuk: “The Guarantee of Women’s Rights is the Current Arrangements in Our Internal Legislation, Being Our Constitution First,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-haklarinin-teminati-anayasamiz-basta-olmak-uzere-ic-mevzuatimizdaki-mevcut-duzenlemelerdir/>

On 22 March 2021, Turkey allocated TRY56 billion to the Social Protection Shield Program.⁴⁴²⁴ The goal of this program is to provide women services for working life, social security, social services and social assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴²⁵

On 9 April 2021, Minister Selçuk attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women hosted by Minister of the Interior Suleyman Soylu at the Security and Emergency Situations Coordination Center.⁴⁴²⁶ At the meeting, Minister Selçuk emphasized that the Fourth National Action Plan covering 2021 to 2025 will focus on implementing more legislation combating all types of violence against women, increasing accessibility of services for women, and supporting victims of violence.⁴⁴²⁷

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced a new initiative to help increase women employment by training 8,000 individuals.⁴⁴²⁸ This initiative will train women on establishing cooperatives and provide training to women and men already involved in cooperatives.⁴⁴²⁹ This initiative will also establish a consultant pool and provide consultancy service training for 1,000 women.⁴⁴³⁰

On 29 April 2021, Minister of Family and Social Services Derya Yanik announced that private supervised nurseries, daycare centers and children's clubs affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services will continue to operate for those working in essential public services exempt from restrictions implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴³¹ These childcare services will continue

⁴⁴²⁴ Minister Selçuk Attended the "From the Pandemic Perspective: The New Normal of Women in Turkey" Event Organized by KADEM, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadem-tarafindan-duzenlenen-pandemi-perspektifinden-turkiye-de-kadinlarin-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

⁴⁴²⁵ Minister Selçuk Attended the "From the Pandemic Perspective: The New Normal of Women in Turkey" Event Organized by KADEM, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadem-tarafindan-duzenlenen-pandemi-perspektifinden-turkiye-de-kadinlarin-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

⁴⁴²⁶ Minister Selçuk Attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-koordinasyon-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-toplantisina-katildi/>

⁴⁴²⁷ Minister Selçuk Attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-koordinasyon-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-toplantisina-katildi/>

⁴⁴²⁸ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁴⁴²⁹ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁴⁴³⁰ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁴⁴³¹ Minister of Family and Social Services Yanik: "In the period of complete closure, our daycare centers will be open only for the children of families who are exempt from the restrictions," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakani-yanik-tam-kapanma-doneminde-sadece-kisitlamalardan-muaf-olan-ailelerin-cocuklari-icin-kreslerimiz-acik-olacak/>

to operate despite full closure of non-essential businesses in order to support those working in the sectors of production, security, health and social services.⁴⁴³²

On 17 June 2021, Minister Yanik announced that nine more women's guesthouses will be converted into specialized establishments that take into account women's needs such as security and shelter.⁴⁴³³ The nine women's guesthouses will be located in Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakir, Istanbul, Kocaeli, Malatya, Mersin and Samsun, on top of the four women's guesthouses already converted into specialized establishments in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir.⁴⁴³⁴

On 1 July 2021, President Erdogan pledged to continue to combat violence against women through a new action plan.⁴⁴³⁵ The new plan's first goal is to review Turkey's legislation on combating gender-based violence and its effectiveness.⁴⁴³⁶ The action plan's main purpose is to raise awareness, change public views on violence against women and increase public sensitivity to the issue.⁴⁴³⁷

On 7 July 2021, Minister Yanik attended the eighth Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Egypt.⁴⁴³⁸ This conference addressed the "Protection of Gains for Women's Empowerment in the Environment of the Coronavirus Epidemic," which will help make a difference for the lives of women after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴³⁹

On 10 July 2021, Minister Yanik announced that the concept of "non-violent university campuses" will be expanded in efforts to combat violence against women.⁴⁴⁴⁰ As part of the road map from the Fourth National Action Plan for Combating Violence Against Women, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) will work to ensure female students feel "more comfortable and peaceful" at university campuses by encouraging studies on gender-based

⁴⁴³² Minister of Family and Social Services Yanik: "In the period of complete closure, our daycare centers will be open only for the children of families who are exempt from the restrictions," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakani-yanik-tam-kapanma-doneminde-sadece-kisitlamalardan-muaf-olan-ailelerin-cocuklari-icin-kreslerimiz-acik-olacak/>

⁴⁴³³ 9 more women's guesthouses are specialized according to security and accommodation needs, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/guvenlik-ve-barinma-ihityaclarina-gore-9-kadin-konukevi-daha-ihityaslastiriliyor/2276893>

⁴⁴³⁴ 9 more women's guesthouses are specialized according to security and accommodation needs, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/guvenlik-ve-barinma-ihityaclarina-gore-9-kadin-konukevi-daha-ihityaslastiriliyor/2276893>

⁴⁴³⁵ Turkish president vows to continue combating violence against women, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-president-vows-to-continue-combating-violence-against-women/2291352>

⁴⁴³⁶ Turkish president vows to continue combating violence against women, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-president-vows-to-continue-combating-violence-against-women/2291352>

⁴⁴³⁷ Turkish president vows to continue combating violence against women, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-president-vows-to-continue-combating-violence-against-women/2291352>

⁴⁴³⁸ Our Minister Derya Yanik will attend the OIC 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakanimiz-derya-yanik-iit-8-kadindan-sorumlu-bakanlar-konferansina-katilacak>

⁴⁴³⁹ Our Minister Derya Yanik will attend the OIC 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakanimiz-derya-yanik-iit-8-kadindan-sorumlu-bakanlar-konferansina-katilacak>

⁴⁴⁴⁰ The concept of "non-violence campus" will be expanded in universities, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/universitelerde-siddetsiz-kampus-anlayisi-yayginlastirilacak/2300207>

violence in women's studies departments and supporting student-run seminars, panels and workshops on gender-based violence to spread awareness.⁴⁴⁴¹

On 24 August 2021, Minister Yanik announced that TRY93 million will be allocated for five cash social assistance programs: the Cash Assistance for Widowed Women (EVEK), Assistance to the Families of Soldiers in Need (MAAY), Assistance to the Children of Soldiers in Need (MAÇY), Orphan's Assistance (ÖYY) and the Chronic Disease Assistance.⁴⁴⁴²

On 26 August 2021, Minister Yanik attended the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.⁴⁴⁴³ At the conference, Minister Yanik spoke at the session titled "Work and Economic Empowerment and Work-Life Balance" and emphasized the need for the international community to support the struggle of Diyarbakir mothers.⁴⁴⁴⁴

On 8 September 2021, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the Ministry of the Interior hosted a training workshop for 5,113 police academy students on combating violence against women.⁴⁴⁴⁵ The trainings focused on services given to women exposed to violence, legal services, and information on institutions and organizations providing services to victims of gender-based violence.⁴⁴⁴⁶ This training was a part of the Ministry of Family and Social Services' plan to raise awareness on combating violence against women with an initial focus on law enforcement officers.⁴⁴⁴⁷

Turkey has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through funding programs and establishing international partnerships to increase women's labour market participation as well as constructing new guesthouses and introducing new strategies to combat gender-based violence. On the Health sphere, Turkey has only taken some limited steps such as supporting female victims of violence.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Jennifer Lam, Brandon Yib and Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros

⁴⁴⁴¹ The concept of "non-violence campus" will be expanded in universities, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/universitelerde-siddetsiz-kampus-anlayisi-yayginlastirilacak/2300207>

⁴⁴⁴² Approximately 93 million lira will be paid through social assistance programs, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/sosyal-yardim-programlariyla-yaklasik-93-milyon-lira-odeme-yapilacak-603836.html>

⁴⁴⁴³ Minister Yanik's call to the international community for Diyarbakir Mothers, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-yaniktan-uluslararasi-toplumadiyarbakir-anneleri-cagrisi-604472.html>

⁴⁴⁴⁴ Minister Yanik's call to the international community for Diyarbakir Mothers, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-yaniktan-uluslararasi-toplumadiyarbakir-anneleri-cagrisi-604472.html>

⁴⁴⁴⁵ Minister Yanik: 5 thousand 113 Police Academy students were given training on combating violence against women, Sputnik News (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://tr.sputniknews.com/20210908/bakan-yanik-5-bin-113-polis-akademisi-ogrencisine-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-egitimi-verildi-1048716497.html>

⁴⁴⁴⁶ Minister Yanik: 5 thousand 113 Police Academy students were given training on combating violence against women, Sputnik News (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://tr.sputniknews.com/20210908/bakan-yanik-5-bin-113-polis-akademisi-ogrencisine-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-egitimi-verildi-1048716497.html>

⁴⁴⁴⁷ Minister Yanik: 5 thousand 113 Police Academy students were given training on combating violence against women, Sputnik News (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://tr.sputniknews.com/20210908/bakan-yanik-5-bin-113-polis-akademisi-ogrencisine-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-egitimi-verildi-1048716497.html>

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 1 December 2020, the UK announced GBP7 million in humanitarian and remittance funding to provide support to almost 750,000 people living in eight Southern African countries, including Madagascar, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴⁴⁸ This funding includes water, hygiene and sanitation services, food security assistance and gender-based violence protection measures, including mental health care, behavior change campaigns and access to protection networks.⁴⁴⁴⁹

On 9 December 2020, Minister for Africa James Duddridge announced that the UK would contribute GBP21.8 million for Somalia's long-term security and stability wherein GBP8 million would be specifically for supporting Somalia's health services like antenatal care and vaccinations for women and children.⁴⁴⁵⁰

On 10 December 2020, the UK launched a 10-week call for evidence including knowledge, opinions and experiences of victims and support organizations, in order to tackle violence against women and girls.⁴⁴⁵¹

On 15 December 2020, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock published the Gender Pay Gap in Medicine Review, highlighting the structural barriers in medicine for women.⁴⁴⁵² According to which, the Government has committed to tackle the gap by dismantling barriers, making senior roles more accessible to women, improving pay transparency and promoting cultural changes.⁴⁴⁵³

On 17 December 2020, Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss addressed the UK's new approach to tackle inequality across the UK.⁴⁴⁵⁴ The three-way approach involves "delivering fairness through modernization, increased choice and openness," "concentrating on data and research" and "taking [a] big[er] and broad[er] look...at the challenges."⁴⁴⁵⁵ In addition, Minister Truss announced the discontinuation of unconscious bias training in government and civil service, as it is shown to have reinforced stereotypes and exacerbated biases.⁴⁴⁵⁶

⁴⁴⁴⁸ UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

⁴⁴⁴⁹ UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

⁴⁴⁵⁰ UK Minister reiterates UK commitment to Somalia and the region's response to the threat of Al-Shabaab, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-minister-reiterates-uk-commitment-to-somalia-and-the-regions-response-to-the-threat-of-al-shabaab>

⁴⁴⁵¹ Nationwide call for views on tackling violence against women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationwide-call-for-views-on-tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls>

⁴⁴⁵² Government takes forward plans to cut gender pay gap in medicine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-forward-plans-to-cut-gender-pay-gap-in-medicine>

⁴⁴⁵³ Government takes forward plans to cut gender pay gap in medicine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-forward-plans-to-cut-gender-pay-gap-in-medicine>

⁴⁴⁵⁴ Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

⁴⁴⁵⁵ Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

⁴⁴⁵⁶ Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

On 11 January 2021, Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety Nadine Dorries introduced the Safer Medicines in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Consortium, which brings together 16 leading organizations including the National Health Service under a united pledge to fulfill information needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women and healthcare professionals through accessible and consistent advice.⁴⁴⁵⁷ This new initiative aims to ensure pregnant and breastfeeding women are able to make informed decisions about their own healthcare.⁴⁴⁵⁸

On 14 January 2021, the UK launched the Ask for ANI codeword scheme with independent pharmacies and Boots to allow victims of domestic abuse to ask for help discreetly.⁴⁴⁵⁹ Trained staff in participating pharmacies will offer victims a safe and private space where the situation can be understood.⁴⁴⁶⁰ The launch of the codeword scheme is committed in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, as to provide a further lifeline for victims who are trapped by their perpetrators.⁴⁴⁶¹

On 14 January 2021, Home Secretary Priti Patel announced new laws to reform pre-charge bail in order to provide better protection for victims and witnesses in cases of violent and sexual offences.⁴⁴⁶² The full package of reforms will be called “Kay’s Law” and will enable police to impose strict conditions on suspects in high-harm cases including most cases of domestic and sexual violence.⁴⁴⁶³

On 22 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the New Health and Wellbeing Fund, which focuses on mothers living in black, Asian or minority ethnic communities or deprived areas of the UK.⁴⁴⁶⁴ This new fund will aid 19 projects to promote nutrition, learning, language development and mental health during pregnancy and post-birth for women with each

⁴⁴⁵⁷ New partnership pledges clear and consistent evidence-based guidance on medicines for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-pledges-clear-and-consistent-evidence-based-guidance-on-medicines-for-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women--2>

⁴⁴⁵⁸ New partnership pledges clear and consistent evidence-based guidance on medicines for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-pledges-clear-and-consistent-evidence-based-guidance-on-medicines-for-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women--2>

⁴⁴⁵⁹ Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

⁴⁴⁶⁰ Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

⁴⁴⁶¹ Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

⁴⁴⁶² Home Secretary to introduce “Kay’s Law” reform to better protect victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-to-introduce-kays-law-reform-to-better-protect-victims>

⁴⁴⁶³ Home Secretary to introduce “Kay’s Law” reform to better protect victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-to-introduce-kays-law-reform-to-better-protect-victims>

⁴⁴⁶⁴ Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

project receiving a share of up to GBP7.6 million across three years.⁴⁴⁶⁵ This fund aims to reduce health inequalities in the UK.⁴⁴⁶⁶

On 1 February 2021, the UK confirmed an additional GBP40 million to a previously GBP99.5 million funding commitment to help victims of rape and domestic abuse during the pandemic and beyond.⁴⁴⁶⁷ Out of the GBP40 million funding, GBP20.7 million will go to local, community-based services, GBP16 million to adviser recruitment, GBP2 million to small specialist organizations and GBP1.3 million to remote and online services.⁴⁴⁶⁸ In addition, the UK Government also launched the #ItStillMatters campaign that aims to “raise awareness amongst victims and survivors [of domestic abuse] of the support available.”⁴⁴⁶⁹

On 12 February 2021, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Eddie Hughes announced an allocation of GBP125 million to councils across England to support domestic abuse victims and their children.⁴⁴⁷⁰ The fund will go to ensure access to life-saving support, including “therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation.”⁴⁴⁷¹ This funding is for a new legal duty on councils to ensure victims and their children are able to access adequate support in safe accommodation as part of the government’s Domestic Abuse Bill to come into effect in several months.⁴⁴⁷²

On 23 February 2021, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) granted employers a six-month extension to 5 October 2021 to report their gender pay gap information.⁴⁴⁷³ The gender pay gap regulation enforcement is aimed to encourage employers to ‘demonstrate the steps they are taking to reduce long-term pay gaps through detailed action plans.’⁴⁴⁷⁴ If employers fail to report their gender pay gap data, the EHRC has the power to investigate and impose unlimited fines on

⁴⁴⁶⁵ Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

⁴⁴⁶⁶ Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

⁴⁴⁶⁷ Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

⁴⁴⁶⁸ Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

⁴⁴⁶⁹ Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

⁴⁴⁷⁰ £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

⁴⁴⁷¹ £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

⁴⁴⁷² £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

⁴⁴⁷³ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

⁴⁴⁷⁴ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

employers after court action.⁴⁴⁷⁵ The gender pay gap regulation enforcement was suspended in March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19.⁴⁴⁷⁶

On 1 March 2021, the Home Office announced the allocation of GBP500,000 to successful organisations that will research domestic abuse perpetrators.⁴⁴⁷⁷ It is to develop a stronger understanding of the issue and strengthen the evidence base for existing works.⁴⁴⁷⁸

On 5 March 2021, Minister Truss called for flexible working to be a standard option for employees to help level-up the UK, boost opportunities for women and reduce geographic inequality as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴⁷⁹

On 8 March 2021, the UK launched the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) to empower women and girls across the world as countries recover from the pandemic.⁴⁴⁸⁰ The GEAC will focus on supporting action on education, economic empowerment and ending violence against women.⁴⁴⁸¹

On 15 March 2021, the House of Commons debated about the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which aims to have an impact on victims of crimes, perpetrators and the safety of the wider community.⁴⁴⁸² The Bill was criticized for its insufficiency in addressing violence against women amid the controversy of the policing of the Sarah Everard vigil in London, which “ended with women being handcuffed on the floor and removed from the gathering.”⁴⁴⁸³

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson chaired a meeting of the Criminal Justice Taskforce to provide immediate reassurance of safety for women and girls after the death of Sarah Everard.⁴⁴⁸⁴ The UK will double the size of the Safer Streets fund in order to provide neighbourhood

⁴⁴⁷⁵ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

⁴⁴⁷⁶ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

⁴⁴⁷⁷ New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

⁴⁴⁷⁸ New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

⁴⁴⁷⁹ Government says in the interest of employers and employees to make offer of flexible working standard, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-says-in-the-interest-of-employers-and-employees-to-make-offer-of-flexible-working-standard>

⁴⁴⁸⁰ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

⁴⁴⁸¹ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

⁴⁴⁸² Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill House of Commons, Second Reading, 15 March and 16 March 2021, Local Government Association (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-house-commons-second>

⁴⁴⁸³ PM defends policing bill amid criticism it fails to protect women, BBC (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56399860>

⁴⁴⁸⁴ Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

measures like better lighting and video surveillance.⁴⁴⁸⁵ The UK will also launch pilots of Project Vigilant across the country, which includes measures such as police officers attending areas surrounding nightclubs and bars both in uniform and plain clothes in order to better ensure the safety of women, with increased patrols near closing times.⁴⁴⁸⁶

On 31 March 2021, the UK and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.⁴⁴⁸⁷ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.⁴⁴⁸⁸

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Justice announced that the new Victims’ Code has entered into force with better support from the police, courts and other criminal justice agencies for victims of crimes.⁴⁴⁸⁹ The new Victims’ Code enables victims of rape and sexual violence to choose the sex of their police interviewer and provides clearer advice on when they can have their evidence pre-recorded before trial instead of suffering the stress of cross-examination in a courtroom.⁴⁴⁹⁰

On 29 April 2021, the House of Commons and the House of Lords passed the Domestic Abuse Bill and signed it into law.⁴⁴⁹¹ The Domestic Abuse Act will protect victims of domestic abuse and clamp down perpetrators further.⁴⁴⁹² It includes a wider definition of domestic abuse that extends beyond physical violence, prohibition of cross-examination from abusers in the courtroom, access to special measures for victims in the courtroom, provision of immediate protection from abusers and new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders that aim to change perpetrators’ behaviour.⁴⁴⁹³ The newest amendments include new or extended offence of non-fatal strangulation, controlling or coercive behaviour and threats to share intimate images.⁴⁴⁹⁴ Under this new Act, those who are homeless due

⁴⁴⁸⁵ Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

⁴⁴⁸⁶ Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

⁴⁴⁸⁷ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

⁴⁴⁸⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

⁴⁴⁸⁹ New Victims’ Code comes into force, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-victims-code-comes-into-force>

⁴⁴⁹⁰ New Victims’ Code comes into force, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-victims-code-comes-into-force>

⁴⁴⁹¹ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

⁴⁴⁹² Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

⁴⁴⁹³ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

⁴⁴⁹⁴ New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

to domestic abuse will receive priority in accommodations found by councils in order to ensure victims do not stay with their abuser in fear of being homeless.⁴⁴⁹⁵

On 17 June 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) launched a new online tool to help expectant parents access and understand the Shared Parental Leave and Pay scheme.⁴⁴⁹⁶ This scheme helps working women exercise greater choice about when to return to work and encourages men or partners to take greater roles in child care if desired.⁴⁴⁹⁷ This online tool allows parents to check their eligibility for the scheme, calculate what pay they would be entitled to, and notify their employer through the tool.⁴⁴⁹⁸

On 4 July 2021, Minister of Maternity Safety Nadine Dorries announced GBP2.45 million in funding to benefit National Health Service (NHS) maternity staff and to improve the safety of the women and babies cared for by NHS staff.⁴⁴⁹⁹ This funding will be used to survey maternity staff and parents to find best practices for monitoring and responding to a baby's wellbeing during labor and also used to develop a new workforce planning tool for maternity medics to ensure patients receive the medical support they require.⁴⁵⁰⁰ This funding support the Government of the UK's plans to halve the 2010 rates of stillbirth, neonatal and maternal death and brain injuries that occur during or soon after birth by the year 2025.⁴⁵⁰¹

On 21 July 2021, Home Secretary Patel published the government's new strategy of protecting women and girls from violence at home, online and on the streets both with immediate steps and steps in the long term.⁴⁵⁰² Building on previous actions that aim to criminal justice response, including the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, the Safer Streets Fund and the government's call for evidence, the new strategy further increases support for victims, strengthens preventative measures and enforces laws that pursue after perpetrators.⁴⁵⁰³

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government launched the Respite Rooms Trial Programme with GBP3.7 million in funding for 12 local areas across England

⁴⁴⁹⁵ More support for domestic abuse victims and their children as Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children-as-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royal-assent>

⁴⁴⁹⁶ New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

⁴⁴⁹⁷ New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

⁴⁴⁹⁸ New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

⁴⁴⁹⁹ Government pledges £2.45 million to improve childbirth care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-245-million-to-improve-childbirth-care>

⁴⁵⁰⁰ Government pledges £2.45 million to improve childbirth care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-245-million-to-improve-childbirth-care>

⁴⁵⁰¹ Government pledges £2.45 million to improve childbirth care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-245-million-to-improve-childbirth-care>

⁴⁵⁰² Tackling violence against women and girls strategy launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-launched>

⁴⁵⁰³ Tackling violence against women and girls strategy launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-launched>

to fund accommodation and support services for victims of domestic abuse, exploitation, rape or sexual assault, as well as sex workers.⁴⁵⁰⁴ This funding will create a total of 140 bed spaces and support over 1,100 people across a 12-month trial period.⁴⁵⁰⁵ This program provides single gender spaces for victims as well as support services from charities specializing in homelessness, domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls.⁴⁵⁰⁶

On 19 August 2021, the UK allocated GBP20 million in additional funding to improve the Family Hubs programme.⁴⁵⁰⁷ Half of the funding will be used for the Family Hubs Transformation Fund to support local authorities to open family hubs in 10 new areas of England.⁴⁵⁰⁸ The other half of the funding will go towards expanding the Growing Up Well digital project to enhance information sharing between professionals working with vulnerable families and children at these Family Hubs.⁴⁵⁰⁹ The Family Hubs provide vulnerable or low-income families in England with access to early education, health and care services including counselling and advice for victims of domestic violence.⁴⁵¹⁰

On 26 August 2021, the BEIS joined the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) as a Beacon member in order to increase support for employees who have been victims of or at risk of domestic abuse, and to raise awareness and training among staff.⁴⁵¹¹ By joining the EIDA, employers receive access to a suite of training and development and specific account management to implement human resources processes and procedures to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.⁴⁵¹²

The United Kingdom has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence that affect women disproportionately such as providing funding for maternal health initiatives,

⁴⁵⁰⁴ Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safe-housing-and-support-for-rough-sleepers-experiencing-violence-and-abuse>

⁴⁵⁰⁵ Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safe-housing-and-support-for-rough-sleepers-experiencing-violence-and-abuse>

⁴⁵⁰⁶ Safe housing and support for rough sleepers experiencing violence and abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/safe-housing-and-support-for-rough-sleepers-experiencing-violence-and-abuse>

⁴⁵⁰⁷ £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

⁴⁵⁰⁸ £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

⁴⁵⁰⁹ £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

⁴⁵¹⁰ £20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-to-provide-more-early-help-for-vulnerable-families>

⁴⁵¹¹ Government department champions new support for victims of domestic abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-department-champions-new-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

⁴⁵¹² Government department champions new support for victims of domestic abuse, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-department-champions-new-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

creating new programs and legislation to support victims of domestic and/or sexual violence, and increasing accessibility of schemes in support of working mothers.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo released a statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, affirming the United States' commitment to end violence against women, stand with and empower survivors, and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than before.⁴⁵¹³ Pompeo acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women in the fields of gender-based violence and job insecurity, and pledged to improve circumstances for women in this regard.⁴⁵¹⁴

On 4 January 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD4 million in grant funding to the International Labor Organization “to improve worker rights in rural sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a focus on women’s rights.”⁴⁵¹⁵ The project “seeks to improve compliance with labor standards, including occupational safety and health standards, and to address wage inequality and workplace discrimination against women in targeted rural sectors in the Philippines and other Indo-Pacific countries.”⁴⁵¹⁶

On 14 January 2021, the Department of State announced the launch of the United Women’s Economic Development Network, which will “advance women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, a major facet of US foreign policy, in line with the White House-led Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative.”⁴⁵¹⁷ The network will focus on providing entrepreneurship, networking and cross-country partnership opportunities for businesswomen.⁴⁵¹⁸

On 22 January 2021, the Department of Justice announced a grant of USD5.3 million for “Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities.”⁴⁵¹⁹ The grant seeks to support groups and organizations involved in response to disabled women who are victims of gender-based

⁴⁵¹³ Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/observance-of-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/index.html>

⁴⁵¹⁴ Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/observance-of-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/index.html>

⁴⁵¹⁵ US Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific With a Focus on Women’s Rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210104>

⁴⁵¹⁶ US Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific With a Focus on Women’s Rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210104>

⁴⁵¹⁷ Launch of United Women’s Economic Development Network, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/launch-of-united-womens-economic-development-network/index.html>

⁴⁵¹⁸ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

⁴⁵¹⁹ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

violence including sexual assault and domestic violence.⁴⁵²⁰ This grant will provide training and resources to improve the capacity of and collaboration between these organizations.⁴⁵²¹

On 28 January 2021, President Joseph Biden signed a Presidential Memorandum allocating USD32.5 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which helps protect vulnerable women and girls.⁴⁵²² Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that the UNFPA will “help improve the lives of women and children around the world by expanding the base of partners implementing US health assistance and increasing access to critical health services, including HIV/AIDS care for key populations, family planning information and services, and effective tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment.”⁴⁵²³ Secretary of State Blinken particularly highlighted the importance of increasing women’s access to healthcare in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which he noted has disproportionately affected women.⁴⁵²⁴

On 25 February 2021, the Department of Labor awarded a USD5 million grant to Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere for their efforts to “reduce child labor in Ethiopia’s coffee fields using a gender-focused approach.”⁴⁵²⁵ It pledges to “work with vulnerable women and girls in the country’s coffee sector to challenge community social norms and traditions that promote child labor and gender inequality, and transform structures such as laws, policies and institutions to be more gender equitable and help reduce child labor there.”⁴⁵²⁶ The project focuses on women’s labour rights and improved economic outcomes for women and girls.⁴⁵²⁷

On 26 February 2021, the Department of Defense announced an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military.⁴⁵²⁸ The commission will focus on holding those who committed acts of sexual violence in the military accountable as well as reviewing the “climate [and] culture” of the

⁴⁵²⁰ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

⁴⁵²¹ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

⁴⁵²² Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

⁴⁵²³ Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

⁴⁵²⁴ Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

⁴⁵²⁵ US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

⁴⁵²⁶ US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

⁴⁵²⁷ US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

⁴⁵²⁸ Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

military and discussing strategies to prevent further sexual violence.⁴⁵²⁹ The commission intends to present its initial recommendations within 60 days and began its investigation on 24 March 2021.⁴⁵³⁰

On 3 March 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) promoted their Hear Her campaign, which seeks to bring attention to pregnancy-related health issues.⁴⁵³¹ The promotion involved an announcement that American Olympic athlete Allyson Felix would be joining the campaign.⁴⁵³² In doing so, the CDC says it hopes to bring greater attention to pregnancy-related health risks women face, especially women of color in the United States.⁴⁵³³

On 3 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) committed to “undertake a robust national outreach campaign to ensure that eligible families know about the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children’s (WIC) benefits and offer new easy ways for them to enroll.”⁴⁵³⁴ Through the American Rescue Plan, President Joe Biden has called on Congress to commit large investments into the WIC.⁴⁵³⁵ The investments should reach eligible mothers and children and support innovation in WIC such as waivers and demonstration projects in order to improve service delivery.⁴⁵³⁶ The investments should also increase access to fruits and vegetables in grocery stores and farmers markets for WIC participants by temporarily increasing the amount given to each participant to USD35 per person, per month.⁴⁵³⁷ The WIC program aims to support the health of new mothers and young children with nutritious diets and better healthcare.⁴⁵³⁸

On 10 March 2021, the House of Representatives passed HR 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides USD880 million to mothers and their children in expanded access to fruits and

⁴⁵²⁹ Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

⁴⁵³⁰ Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

⁴⁵³¹ Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

⁴⁵³² Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

⁴⁵³³ Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

⁴⁵³⁴ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

⁴⁵³⁵ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

⁴⁵³⁶ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

⁴⁵³⁷ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

⁴⁵³⁸ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

vegetables.⁴⁵³⁹ This is part of an initiative to ensure Americans – in particular those in vulnerable communities, such as women – have access to food, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to which the USDA acknowledges has exacerbated existing inequalities in food access.⁴⁵⁴⁰

On 17 March 2021, the House of Representatives renewed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which added firearm restrictions for convicted domestic abusers and expanded protections for gay, bisexual and transgender people.⁴⁵⁴¹ VAWA builds upon programs such as violence prevention and housing assistance for domestic abuse victims, reaffirms legal protections for victims and their families, and will more aggressively focus resources on minority communities.⁴⁵⁴²

On 18 March 2021, the US along with Chile, Germany and Women for Women International hosted the event “Marginalized women in fragile and conflict settings – How to make their voices count?”⁴⁵⁴³ The event looked at cross-regional policies, the implementation of mechanisms that enable the inclusion and representation of marginalized women and intersectional and rights-based approaches.⁴⁵⁴⁴ The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.⁴⁵⁴⁵

On 6 April 2021, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights announced they would be undertaking a “comprehensive review” of the Department’s regulations regarding the implementation of Title IX (gender equality) law.⁴⁵⁴⁶ The action will be “gathering the public’s views and insights on the issue of sexual harassment in school environments, including sexual violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” and determine what changes, if any, need to be made based on this feedback.⁴⁵⁴⁷

⁴⁵³⁹ FACT SHEET: United States Department of Agriculture Provisions in H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-004221>

⁴⁵⁴⁰ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

⁴⁵⁴¹ House Renews Landmark Domestic Violence Bill, but Obstacles Wait in Senate, The New York Times (New York) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/politics/violence-against-women-act.html>

⁴⁵⁴² House Renews Landmark Domestic Violence Bill, but Obstacles Wait in Senate, The New York Times (New York) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/politics/violence-against-women-act.html>

⁴⁵⁴³ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴⁵⁴⁴ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴⁵⁴⁵ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴⁵⁴⁶ Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Launches Comprehensive Review of Title IX Regulations to Fulfill President Biden’s Executive Order Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Sex Discrimination, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educations-office-civil-rights-launches-comprehensive-review-title-ix-regulations-fulfill-president-bidens-executive-order-guaranteeing-educational-environment-free-sex-discrimination>

⁴⁵⁴⁷ Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Launches Comprehensive Review of Title IX Regulations to Fulfill President Biden’s Executive Order Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Sex Discrimination, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educations-office-civil-rights-launches-comprehensive-review-title-ix-regulations-fulfill-president-bidens-executive-order-guaranteeing-educational-environment-free-sex-discrimination>

On 12 April 2021, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra announced USD12 million would be made available over the next four years for Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies.⁴⁵⁴⁸ This will expand access to maternal and prenatal health care for women in rural areas, a particularly vulnerable and underserved demographic in the United States, with a focus on Black women.⁴⁵⁴⁹

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in grant funding to increase the number of women in registered apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.⁴⁵⁵⁰ The program will provide women with pre-apprenticeship skills, ongoing orientation in the apprenticeship and non-traditional occupation career environment, and set up support groups, networks and support services for women in these occupations.⁴⁵⁵¹ The goal is to address and combat gender disparity in the fields of apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.⁴⁵⁵²

On 11 May 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded USD40 million in American Rescue Plan funding to emergency home visiting funds in order to support children and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁵³ The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program aids the delivery of high quality, voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to pregnant women and children living in communities vulnerable to poor maternal and child health outcomes.⁴⁵⁵⁴

On 15 June 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD1.5 million funding opportunity “to develop partnerships with community-based organizations and other non-profits to conduct outreach to women workers to help them understand and exercise their rights and benefits in the

⁴⁵⁴⁸ HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/12/hhs-marks-black-maternal-health-week-announcing-measures-improve-maternal.html>

⁴⁵⁴⁹ HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/12/hhs-marks-black-maternal-health-week-announcing-measures-improve-maternal.html>

⁴⁵⁵⁰ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

⁴⁵⁵¹ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

⁴⁵⁵² US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

⁴⁵⁵³ HHS Awards \$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/11/hhs-awards-40-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-support-emergency-home-visiting-assistance-families-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

⁴⁵⁵⁴ HHS Awards \$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/11/hhs-awards-40-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-support-emergency-home-visiting-assistance-families-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

workplace.”⁴⁵⁵⁵ The grants are designed to help low-income women workers with less access to labor rights information.⁴⁵⁵⁶

On 2 July 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin declared that sexual assault cases in the United States military will no longer be prosecuted by commanders.⁴⁵⁵⁷ Instead, there will be designated officers handling sexual assault cases.⁴⁵⁵⁸ This comes in response to recommendations from an independent review of sexual assault in the United States military completed earlier this year.⁴⁵⁵⁹

On 25 August 2021, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra released a statement celebrating Women’s Equality Day.⁴⁵⁶⁰ Secretary Becerra affirmed the United States’ commitment to women’s health equity, which includes continuing efforts to advance health care services such as maternal health, and to fund programs that expand access to care for women.⁴⁵⁶¹

On 9 September 2021, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh announced USD3.3 million in grants “to expand job opportunities for women in apprenticeships [and] nontraditional occupations.”⁴⁵⁶² The grants will be administered by the Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau and Employment Training Administration.⁴⁵⁶³ This funding will “support women’s participation in a range of fields in which women have traditionally been underrepresented” by providing “supportive services such as child care, transportation, tuition costs and work-related equipment.”⁴⁵⁶⁴

On 9 September 2021, Attorney General Merrick Garland announced that the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the state of Texas over Senate Bill Eight, a bill which “effectively bans most

⁴⁵⁵⁵ US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability of \$1.5M in Grants to Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

⁴⁵⁵⁶ US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability of \$1.5M in Grants to Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

⁴⁵⁵⁷ Sexual Assaults Will No Longer Be Prosecuted by Commanders, Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2681848/sexual-assaults-will-no-longer-be-prosecuted-by-commanders/>

⁴⁵⁵⁸ Sexual Assaults Will No Longer Be Prosecuted by Commanders, Department of Defense (Washington) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2681848/sexual-assaults-will-no-longer-be-prosecuted-by-commanders/>

⁴⁵⁵⁹ Sexual Assaults Will No Longer Be Prosecuted by Commanders, Department of Defense (Washington) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2681848/sexual-assaults-will-no-longer-be-prosecuted-by-commanders/>

⁴⁵⁶⁰ Statements by HHS Secretary Becerra, Dr. Levine, CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure Celebrating Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2021, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/25/statements-by-hhs-secretary-becerra-dr-levine-cms-administrator-brooks-lasure.html>

⁴⁵⁶¹ Statements by HHS Secretary Becerra, Dr. Levine, CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure Celebrating Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2021, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/08/25/statements-by-hhs-secretary-becerra-dr-levine-cms-administrator-brooks-lasure.html>

⁴⁵⁶² US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

⁴⁵⁶³ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

⁴⁵⁶⁴ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

abortions in the state.”⁴⁵⁶⁵ Garland declared that this bill was “clearly unconstitutional” in its depriving women of the right to bodily autonomy with regards to reproductive health.⁴⁵⁶⁶ The lawsuit will seek to have the bill struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States.⁴⁵⁶⁷

The United States has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to all three spheres of Health, Economic Security, and Gender-Based Violence through funding programs supporting maternal and prenatal healthcare, allocating grants to encourage women’s participation in various labor sectors, and changing administrative processes on cases of sexual assaults.

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

Analyst: Rachel Zack

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 24 November 2020, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) published a handbook to help eliminate sexism in the workplace, specifically in EU institutions and agencies.⁴⁵⁶⁸ The aim of this handbook is to help organizations ensure that both women and men employees feel safe, respected and fulfilled in the workplace.⁴⁵⁶⁹

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy introduced the EU’s new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III), which aims to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in all external actions of the EU.⁴⁵⁷⁰ The GAP III details that at least 85 per cent of all new actions throughout the EU’s external relations will contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment by 2025 with a specific focus on fighting gender-based violence and promoting the socio-economic and political empowerment of women and girls.⁴⁵⁷¹ The GAP III

⁴⁵⁶⁵ Justice Department Sues Texas of Over Senate Bill 8, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-texas-over-senate-bill-8>

⁴⁵⁶⁶ Justice Department Sues Texas of Over Senate Bill 8, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-texas-over-senate-bill-8>

⁴⁵⁶⁷ Justice Department Sues Texas of Over Senate Bill 8, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-texas-over-senate-bill-8>

⁴⁵⁶⁸ Sexism at work: How can we stop it?, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/sexism-work-how-can-we-stop-it>

⁴⁵⁶⁹ Sexism at work: How can we stop it?, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/sexism-work-how-can-we-stop-it>

⁴⁵⁷⁰ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184

⁴⁵⁷¹ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184

also places renewed emphasis on universal access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls.⁴⁵⁷²

On 9 December 2020, the European Union and the Tony Elumelu Foundation formed a EUR20 million partnership to support more than 2,500 African women entrepreneurs through increased access to finance and venture capital investment.⁴⁵⁷³ The initiative addresses barriers such as funding, knowledge, and market constraints through gender-sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital for female-run businesses.⁴⁵⁷⁴ The goal of this program is to “help women participate in economic development, realise their full potential and accelerate economic inclusion.”⁴⁵⁷⁵

On 27 January 2021, the European Commission and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States signed a new initiative of EUR14.5 million with the United Nations Capital Development Fund in order to support the potential of digital finance.⁴⁵⁷⁶ This initiative is aimed at increasing access to digital technology and financial literacy tools for more than 600,000 women, youth and entrepreneurs living in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.⁴⁵⁷⁷ The initiative hopes to enhance the capacity of women and youth living in these regions to absorb economic shocks due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁷⁸

On 8 February 2021, the European Commission launched an open public consultation on a new legislative initiative to better support victims and prosecute perpetrators of gender-based violence.⁴⁵⁷⁹ The European Commission launched this consultation to gather the views of the public on the measures taken by the EU member states to address gender-based violence against women and domestic violence.⁴⁵⁸⁰

On 4 March 2021, the EU adopted an Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, which puts gender equality at its core and establishes, amongst others, targets for women’s

⁴⁵⁷² Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184

⁴⁵⁷³ EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353

⁴⁵⁷⁴ EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353

⁴⁵⁷⁵ EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353

⁴⁵⁷⁶ COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188

⁴⁵⁷⁷ COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188

⁴⁵⁷⁸ COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188

⁴⁵⁷⁹ Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12682-Preventing-and-combatting-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

⁴⁵⁸⁰ Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12682-Preventing-and-combatting-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

participation in the labour market.⁴⁵⁸¹ The document specifically states that the EU will dedicate an overall budget of EUR1.55 billion to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, which will promote “gender equality, equal treatment and equal rights of all in order to promote more democratic, diverse and open societies.”⁴⁵⁸²

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a proposal on pay discrimination and transparency to ensure that women and men in the EU receive equal pay for equal work.⁴⁵⁸³ The legislative proposal introduces enforcement mechanics focusing on two core elements of equal pay: measures to ensure pay transparency for workers and employers as well as better access to justice for victims of pay discrimination.⁴⁵⁸⁴

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission released the 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU.⁴⁵⁸⁵ The document outlines the European Union’s policy objectives around gender inequality and highlights the available data on the gendered impact of the COVID-19 crisis for each area of the strategy policy.⁴⁵⁸⁶ The document specifically states that the Commission will put forward a Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices against women related to Female Genital Mutilation as announced in the Gender Equality Strategy.⁴⁵⁸⁷ The report also states that the Commission continues to fund projects tackling FGM through the EU’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, and its successor, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program.⁴⁵⁸⁸ To improve monitoring and tracking progress of each of the 27 EU member states on meeting the Gender Equality Strategy, the European Commission launched a Gender Equality Strategy Monitoring Portal, which is accessible to the general public.⁴⁵⁸⁹

On 5 March 2021, the European Union adopted a EUR130 million assistance package through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis in order to support Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon through social protection and healthcare services.⁴⁵⁹⁰ The support package for Lebanon includes EUR45 million for social protection and assistance of the most vulnerable in Lebanon and the development of a comprehensive national social protection system, EUR29 million to increase access to healthcare services, and EUR10 million to increase

⁴⁵⁸¹ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

⁴⁵⁸² The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

⁴⁵⁸³ Pay Transparency: Commission proposes measures to ensure equal pay for equal work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

⁴⁵⁸⁴ Pay Transparency: Commission proposes measures to ensure equal pay for equal work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

⁴⁵⁸⁵ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

⁴⁵⁸⁶ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

⁴⁵⁸⁷ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

⁴⁵⁸⁸ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

⁴⁵⁸⁹ International Women's Day 2021: COVID-19 pandemic is a major challenge for gender equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

⁴⁵⁹⁰ EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

access to essential water services.⁴⁵⁹¹ The support package for Jordan includes EUR8 million for the protection of women and children.⁴⁵⁹²

On 5 March 2021, the EIGE released its report on the COVID-19 outbreak between March 2020 to September 2020 and on cases concerning intimate partner violence against women in the EU.⁴⁵⁹³ This report provides recommendations for the EU and its member states on how to better support and protect victims of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁹⁴

On 15 March 2021, the European Commission, Argentina and Namibia issued a joint statement at the General Discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women.⁴⁵⁹⁵ The statement reaffirmed the need to ensure compliance with international obligations on gender equality and the need to eradicate the feminization of poverty and violence against women and girls.⁴⁵⁹⁶

On 24 March 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the exploratory opinion titled, “Challenges of Teleworking: organization of working time, work life balance and the right to disconnect.”⁴⁵⁹⁷ In this opinion, the EESC focused on the risk of teleworking serving as a double burden of paid and unpaid work and the unequal division of domestic work between women and men.⁴⁵⁹⁸ The EESC urged all EU member states to promptly implement the Work-Life Balance Directive and a “Care Deal for Europe,” which makes available accessible and affordable care services for children and other people with special needs.⁴⁵⁹⁹ This opinion recognizes the need to urgently address the effects of telework on gender inequality in order to better support women’s economic security during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁶⁰⁰

On 14 April 2021, the European Commission announced a new Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), focusing on preventing human trafficking in general, bringing

⁴⁵⁹¹ EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

⁴⁵⁹² EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

⁴⁵⁹³ The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

⁴⁵⁹⁴ The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

⁴⁵⁹⁵ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

⁴⁵⁹⁶ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

⁴⁵⁹⁷ Challenges of Teleworking: organization of working time, work life balance and the right to disconnect, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/challenges-teleworking-organization-working-time-work-life-balance-and-right-disconnect>

⁴⁵⁹⁸ EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

⁴⁵⁹⁹ EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

⁴⁶⁰⁰ EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

traffickers to justice, and protecting and empowering victims.⁴⁶⁰¹ The Strategy focuses on women and children and seeks to improve early identification of victims, strengthen referrals for additional assistance or protection, enhance victim empowerment programs and facilitate reintegration through gender-specific and child-sensitive training of police officers, social workers, border guards and healthcare staff.⁴⁶⁰² This Strategy recognizes that women and children are the most vulnerable to trafficking and sexual violence, and thus, must be prioritized.⁴⁶⁰³

On 11 May 2021, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality approved a report recognizing that the right to health, specifically sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), are fundamental women's rights and cannot be watered down or withdrawn in any manner.⁴⁶⁰⁴ The MEPs called on all EU member states to ensure access to high quality SRHR and to remove all barriers impeding full access to them, which includes the guaranteed access to safe and legal abortion.⁴⁶⁰⁵

On 24 June 2021, the European Parliament voted in a plenary session to adopt a report calling for EU member states to ensure universal access for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁴⁶⁰⁶ The report recognizes the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women's health and rights and urges member states to ensure access to safe and legal abortion as well as high-quality contraceptive methods and family counseling.⁴⁶⁰⁷ The report emphasizes the need for comprehensive sexuality education for primary and secondary school children to help reduce sexual violence and harassment.⁴⁶⁰⁸ Members of the European Parliament also endorsed exemptions for value-added tax (VAT) on menstrual products.⁴⁶⁰⁹

On 2 July 2021, President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the EU will be providing at least EUR4 billion in its 2021-2027 long-term budget for women's and girls' empowerment at the Paris-held Generation Equality Forum, the UN Women-convened summit to accelerate gender equality

⁴⁶⁰¹ Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663

⁴⁶⁰² Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663

⁴⁶⁰³ Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663

⁴⁶⁰⁴ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210510IPR03806/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

⁴⁶⁰⁵ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210510IPR03806/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

⁴⁶⁰⁶ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

⁴⁶⁰⁷ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

⁴⁶⁰⁸ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

⁴⁶⁰⁹ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06637/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

investments.⁴⁶¹⁰ President von der Leyen also pledged to propose new legislation by the end of 2021 to combat gender-based violence and hate crimes against LGBTIQ people, as well as adding all forms of hate crimes to the list of crimes in the EU treaties.⁴⁶¹¹

On 10 September 2021, the EU pledged to invest USD8.5 million until December 2022 to the Spotlight Initiative, which aims to end violence against women and girls.⁴⁶¹² The investment will be used by the Government of Mozambique to fund interventions addressing violence against women and girls in Gaza, Manica and Nampula Provinces of Mozambique.⁴⁶¹³ These interventions will include community engagement to change social norms, improving case management for delivery of essential services to survivors of violence, improving data collection and management, and investment in longer-term recovery services and economic opportunities for women and girls experiencing violence.⁴⁶¹⁴ The EU Ambassador Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar said “we, the European Union, remain committed to supporting gender equality in Mozambique, through joint efforts with the Government, the United Nations and Civil Society Organizations, in this tireless fight to pass the message that gender-based violence by no means should be accepted and that it can be combated.”⁴⁶¹⁵

On 16 September 2021, members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted a legislative initiative with 427 votes in favour, 119 against, and 140 abstentions, demanding targeted legislation and policies to address all forms of violence and discrimination based on gender, whether offline or online.⁴⁶¹⁶ The legislation would include prevention measures (through gender-sensitive and intersectional education programming), support services, measures to end all forms of gender-based violence, as well as cooperation among EU member states and the exchange of best practices, information, and expertise.⁴⁶¹⁷ After this session, European Commission President von der Leyen told MEPs that, by the end of the year, the Commission will propose a law to combat violence

⁴⁶¹⁰ Speech by President von der Leyen at the Generation Equality Forum via videoconference, EU Monitor (Brussels) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vlk3o80nomzm?ctx=vh94ercwm6u9&tab=1&start_tab1=5

⁴⁶¹¹ Speech by President von der Leyen at the Generation Equality Forum via videoconference, EU Monitor (Brussels) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vlk3o80nomzm?ctx=vh94ercwm6u9&tab=1&start_tab1=5

⁴⁶¹² Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

⁴⁶¹³ Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

⁴⁶¹⁴ Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

⁴⁶¹⁵ Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

⁴⁶¹⁶ Make gender based violence a crime under EU Law, MEPs Say, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11927/make-gender-based-violence-a-crime-under-eu-law-meps-say>

⁴⁶¹⁷ Make gender based violence a crime under EU Law, MEPs Say, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11927/make-gender-based-violence-a-crime-under-eu-law-meps-say>

against women which will include prevention, protection, and effective prosecution, both online and offline.⁴⁶¹⁸

The European Union has taken strong concrete actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence spheres through budgetary re-allocations for women empowerment, adopting plans to ensure universal access to women's sexual and reproductive health, and funding international projects to combat gender-based violence.

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

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⁴⁶¹⁸ Make gender based violence a crime under EU Law, MEPs Say, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210910IPR11927/make-gender-based-violence-a-crime-under-eu-law-meps-say>

11. Gender: Economic Participation

“We will take steps to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | 0 | |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | | 0 | |
| Japan | | 0 | |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | | +1 |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 0 | |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.70 (85%) | |

Background

Women’s active participation in the economy is crucial for economic growth and sustainable development around the world.⁴⁶¹⁹ Despite considerable efforts in progress, many women are currently still left out of the labour markets.⁴⁶²⁰ Data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) indicates that the average rate of labour force participation for men, aged 25 to 54, is almost twice the number for women from the same age group.⁴⁶²¹ Meanwhile, they are overrepresented in unpaid work, including household activities and childcare and temporary employment under precarious conditions.⁴⁶²²

According to UN Women, women are often paid less than men, resulting in a “gender wage gap” of an estimated 23 per cent.⁴⁶²³ In addition, mothers face a potential “motherhood wage penalty,”

⁴⁶¹⁹ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶²⁰ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

⁴⁶²¹ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶²² Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶²³ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

meaning a fall in pay due to childbirth, which rises with the number of children (or the number of periods of maternal leave).⁴⁶²⁴ They also encounter more disadvantages when planning to start businesses and thus less likely to eventually become entrepreneurs than their male counterparts.⁴⁶²⁵

Increasing women's participation in economic and entrepreneurial activities is essential for achieving gender equality, which underpins the efforts towards realizing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁴⁶²⁶ The 2018 World Economic Forum stated that “empowering women to participate equally in the global economy could add [USD28 trillion] in GDP growth by 2025.”⁴⁶²⁷

The G20 recognizes and repeatedly emphasize the importance of engaging women's participation in the global economy. At the 2009 London Summit, the G20 leaders first declared a commitment to promote gender equality, agreeing to “build a fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”⁴⁶²⁸ They recognized that challenges to the world economy affect “the lives of women, men and children in every country,” with disproportionate impacts on the poorest and the most vulnerable population and called for a joint resolution to enable recovery and reform from economic crises.⁴⁶²⁹

At the 2010 Summits in Toronto and Seoul, the G20 started to pay special attention to the promotion of gender equality and inclusive economic growth. In the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, the G20 leaders committed to promoting gender equality together.⁴⁶³⁰ They then endeavoured to identify the impact of “gender gaps” as part of the “barriers to increasing investment in skills development and productivity” in the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development.⁴⁶³¹

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the G20 Leaders committed to taking “concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women's full economic social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies,” which includes access to financial services and financial education.⁴⁶³² The Los Cabos Summit importantly marked the first time for the G20 leaders to dedicate separate commitments and promise concrete steps towards removing barriers and expanding opportunities for women's full economic participation in society.⁴⁶³³

At the 2013 St Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders committed to assisting women to overcome barriers to find and remain in employment, outlining specific measures to increase financial inclusion and financial literacy for women and girls through collaborations with the OECD/International Network

⁴⁶²⁴ The motherhood pay gap: A review of the issues, theory and international evidence, International Labour Office (Geneva) 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms_348041.pdf

⁴⁶²⁵ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

⁴⁶²⁶ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

⁴⁶²⁷ This is why women must play a greater role in the global economy, World Economic Forum (Geneva) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/this-is-why-women-must-play-a-greater-role-in-the-global-economy/>

⁴⁶²⁸ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

⁴⁶²⁹ G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

⁴⁶³⁰ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

⁴⁶³¹ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

⁴⁶³² G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

⁴⁶³³ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

for Financial Education (INFE) and the World Bank Group.⁴⁶³⁴ In the 2014 Brisbane Action Plan, the G20 again committed to promoting greater participation and better quality for women's employment in the labour market, aiming to reduce the gap of labour force participation rates between men and women in G20 member countries by 25 per cent by 2025 and to "bring more than 100 million women into the labour force."⁴⁶³⁵ This marked the first time G20 members agreed to a timeline and incorporated numeric targets to improve women's economic participation.

The G20 established an official engagement group, named "Women 20 (W20)," during the 2015 Antalya Summit cycle to further efforts in achieving gender equality and women's economic empowerment.⁴⁶³⁶ The 2016 Hangzhou Summit then marked the first time the G20 Leaders committed to supporting policies that encourage greater participation of women entrepreneurs and women-led firms in the global economy.⁴⁶³⁷

The 2017 Hamburg Summit outlined the establishment of several initiatives in support of women's entrepreneurship and marked the first time the G20 Leaders dedicated a separate section to specify their commitments in "Women's Empowerment."⁴⁶³⁸ They recognized that equal access to economic opportunities is fundamental for achieving gender equality, which forms a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth.⁴⁶³⁹ Between the years 2017 and 2018, the G20 members launched the #eSkills4Girls initiative to promote opportunities and equal participation for women and girls in the digital economy via enhanced access to information and communication technology (ICT) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).⁴⁶⁴⁰ They also established Women Entrepreneurs Financing Initiative (We-Fi), hosted by the World Bank Group, to reduce barriers to financial inclusion and enhance women's access to capital, markets and technical assistance.⁴⁶⁴¹ Additionally, they organized a Business Women Leaders' Taskforce to explore methods to increase women's economic participation and make relevant recommendations at the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit.⁴⁶⁴²

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the G20 Leaders placed significant emphasis on women's empowerment. They committed to addressing the "gender gap in unpaid care work," which they identified as a major obstacle that impedes women's participation in the labour market.⁴⁶⁴³

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, albeit held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 Leaders echoed the relevant UN declarations and the 2019 Osaka summit in many aspects of women's

⁴⁶³⁴ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

⁴⁶³⁵ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

⁴⁶³⁶ Women's Summit Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 October 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151017-w20.html>

⁴⁶³⁷ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communicue.html>

⁴⁶³⁸ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁴⁶³⁹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁴⁶⁴⁰ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁴⁶⁴¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁴⁶⁴² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁴⁶⁴³ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

empowerment.⁴⁶⁴⁴ They reaffirmed the importance of women’s and girl’s empowerment and recognized the enhancement of women’s participation as a key driver of economic growth.⁴⁶⁴⁵ They also committed to further action to reduce gender pay gaps and combat stereotypes to end all forms of discrimination against women, including gender-based violence.⁴⁶⁴⁶ Under the Saudi Presidency, the G20 commenced the Private Sector Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women’s Economic Representation (EMPOWER) for women’s advancement in leadership positions in the realm.⁴⁶⁴⁷

Commitment Features

The G20 commitment is to take steps to remove the barriers to women’s 1) economic participation and 2) entrepreneurship.⁴⁶⁴⁸ As the world continues to experience setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 Leaders also promised actions to mitigate any widening of gender inequalities or undermining of the progress over recent decades.⁴⁶⁴⁹ The goal of the commitment is to eliminate any impediment to increasing the overall level of women’s participation in the labour market and enhancing the quality of their employment, while assisting women in any entrepreneurial endeavours.

“To take steps” means to take any form of particular action towards the realization of a proposed goal. These actions can include, but not limited to, initiating new programs, implementing new policies, voicing verbal support and reinforcing existing efforts to eliminate things that prevent women from participating in the labour market and entrepreneurship.

“To remove” is understood to mean the elimination of gender-based hardship for women’s full participation in the economy and successful entrepreneurship. “Barriers” is understood to mean any obstacles that undermine women’s ability to fully participate in the labour market and global economy, as well as to engage and achieve success in entrepreneurship.

“Women” refers to female persons aged 15 and above, who are either employed, unemployed or absent in the labour force.⁴⁶⁵⁰ Furthermore, the extent of “women’s economic participation” in society uses labour force participation rate as the main indicator; it measures the proportion of a country’s working-age female population that actively engages in the labour market, including those working and looking for work.⁴⁶⁵¹

“Entrepreneurship” is understood to mean any commercial activity conducted by an independent business owner for profits.

⁴⁶⁴⁴ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁶⁴⁵ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁶⁴⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>; Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁶⁴⁷ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁶⁴⁸ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁶⁴⁹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁶⁵⁰ Labour Force Participation Rate, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_LFPR_EN.pdf

⁴⁶⁵¹ Labour Force Participation Rate, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_LFPR_EN.pdf

According to the ILO, there are two levels of women's economic participation: 1) employment and 2) management.⁴⁶⁵² Therefore, both the unemployment and underemployment of women reflect these obstacles. On the one hand, unemployment refers to the gap between female share in the working-age population and female share in employment, illustrating "hurdles to access paid work."⁴⁶⁵³ On the other hand, underemployment indicates the gap between female share in employment and female share in the management, underscoring the existence of a "glass ceiling."⁴⁶⁵⁴ An action that addresses both elements would have more breadth than another action that only addresses either element. Moreover, an action that brings structural reform beneficial for the promotion of gender equality in the long term would have more breadth than another remedial measure aimed to undo the damage due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A G20 member must take significant action on both the domestic and international levels for full compliance. If a G20 member only takes partial action on one or both levels, it would only be considered partial compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss women's economic participation and entrepreneurship. For strong actions, a G20 would have to initiate a program or new law, contribute financial or technical assistance or implement policy changes to remove gender-based barriers by promoting women's full participation in the labour market and economy and implementing specific measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurship.

Women entrepreneurs encounter certain gender-based barriers to the initiation and growth of their businesses; these disadvantages can include, while not limited to, discriminatory property, matrimonial and inheritance laws and/or cultural practices, limitations on mobility, lack of voice and representation and unequal shares of family and household responsibilities. The G20 members should also recognize that women entrepreneurs are not a homogenous group.⁴⁶⁵⁵

To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take concrete actions to eradicate obstacles for women's full participation in the labour market and economy, as well as implement specific measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurship. Efforts to remove gender-based barriers to women's full participation in the labour market and economy include both initiatives to address "hurdles to access paid work" and "glass ceiling."⁴⁶⁵⁶ These steps feature social policies and programs that increase women's labour force participation rate, reduce the gender pay gap, improve work conditions, enhance access to paid full-time employment, eliminate gender stereotypes, encourage the equal division of household and childcare responsibilities, promote representation of women in leadership positions and more.⁴⁶⁵⁷ Efforts to remove barriers to women's engagement and success in entrepreneurship include social policies and programs that enable women entrepreneurs'

⁴⁶⁵² Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶⁵³ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶⁵⁴ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶⁵⁵ Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality, Phase III, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS_099683/lang--en/index.htm

⁴⁶⁵⁶ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

⁴⁶⁵⁷ Gender equality in the G20 – Additional analysis from the time dimension, International Labour Organization (Tokyo) 22-24 April 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---cabinet/documents/publication/wcms_713377.pdf

access to commercial credits from formal financial service providers, more lucrative markets, ongoing training in aspects like finance and technology and more.⁴⁶⁵⁸

Partial compliance entails the G20 member’s ability to take action to remove gender-based barriers in at least one of the objectives: either the improvement of women’s full participation in the economy or the implementation of social policies that enhance the business environment for female entrepreneurs. For a score of non-compliance, the G20 member has completed none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does NOT take any action to remove barriers to women’s full participation in the labour market and economy NOR does it implement any specific measure to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship. |
| 0 | G20 member partially removes gender-based barriers by promoting women’s full participation in the labour market and economy OR implementing specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship. |
| +1 | G20 member fully removes gender-based barriers by promoting to women’s full participation in the labour market and economy AND implementing specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship. |

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Lead Analyst: Nour Elassinty*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 24 November 2020, the National Administration of Social Security enacted Resolution 418/2020, which aimed to ensure that non-sexist language is used in all official documentation within the national administration.⁴⁶⁵⁹ The goal of this resolution is to work towards creating an official environment where gender does not play a role in hindering any individual’s (especially women’s) economic opportunities.⁴⁶⁶⁰

On 18 December 2020, the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority enacted Resolution 275/2020, which mandated the procedure of appointing representatives to their Board of Directors to consider gender parity.⁴⁶⁶¹ The goal of this resolution is to ensure that women occupy leadership positions within the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority.⁴⁶⁶² On the same day, the Ministry of Economy’s Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective (formalized on 23 December 2020) assessed Argentina’s 2020 performance regarding gender in relation to the economy and set their goals for 2021.⁴⁶⁶³ In setting the 2021 economic gender goals, the Bureau met with specific provincial officials from Tierra del Fuego, Catamarca, San Juan, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Río Negro, Misiones, Tucuman,

⁴⁶⁵⁸ Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality, Phase III, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS_099683/lang--en/index.htm

⁴⁶⁵⁹ Resolution 418/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/237689/20201125>

⁴⁶⁶⁰ Resolution 418/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/237689/20201125>

⁴⁶⁶¹ Resolution 275/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239164/20201224?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁶² Resolution 275/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/237689/20201125?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁶³ Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with Gender Perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_mf-genero.pdf

La Rioja and La Pampa individually and with officials from the remaining provinces collectively, whereof, at such meetings, the Bureau had the provinces commit to working towards policies that advance women's status in the economy.⁴⁶⁶⁴ The goal of having the provinces make these commitments is to ensure that Argentina's provincial governments work in tandem with the national government in working to advance women's status in the economy.⁴⁶⁶⁵

On 22 December 2020, the Ministry of Public Works enacted Resolution 193/2020, which implements the "Program for the Transversalization of Gender and Diversity Policies," a program which promotes equality in the public sphere to build a more just and inclusive society.⁴⁶⁶⁶ The goal of this resolution is to expand and promote women's equitable employment in the public sphere, especially in the Ministry of Public Works.⁴⁶⁶⁷

On 23 December 2020, the National Parks Administration enacted Resolution 431/2020, which created the "Advisory Committee on Gender, Equality and Diversity Policies" under the National Parks Administration.⁴⁶⁶⁸ This committee was created to advise and recommend courses of action to the National Parks Administration Board of Directors that generate public policies on issues of gender, equality, diversity and the elimination of violence.⁴⁶⁶⁹ The goal of this resolution is to expand and promote women's equitable employment in the public sphere, specifically for those women working for and/or with the National Parks Administration.⁴⁶⁷⁰

On 23 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy enacted "Resolution 704/2020," which formally established the Federal Board of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective ("la Mesa Federal de Políticas Económicas con Perspectiva de Género") under the Ministry of Economy.⁴⁶⁷¹ The ministry created this board to promote gender equality everywhere in Argentina, to improve the technical capacities of economic decision makers (providing analysis and building a set of indicators with a gendered perspective), to promote dialogue between the National Public Administration with the provincial administrations and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in tackling gender-economic issues, to strengthen economic policy tools with a gender perspective and map the data collected and missing by jurisdiction (specifically on gender gaps).⁴⁶⁷² The goal is to create a government entity that can, in a focused and specialized manner, especially considering the disproportionately negative effect that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women's economic opportunities, work towards restoring women's "access to basic rights."⁴⁶⁷³

⁴⁶⁶⁴ Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with Gender Perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_mf-genero.pdf

⁴⁶⁶⁵ Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with Gender Perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_mf-genero.pdf

⁴⁶⁶⁶ Resolution 193/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239215/20201228?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁶⁷ Resolution 193/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239215/20201228?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁶⁸ Resolution 431/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239274/20201229?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁶⁹ Resolution 431/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239274/20201229?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁷⁰ Resolution 431/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239274/20201229?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁷¹ Resolution 704/2020, Ministry of Economy, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239169/20201224>

⁴⁶⁷² Resolution 704/2020, Ministry of Economy, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239169/20201224>

⁴⁶⁷³ Resolution 704/2020, Ministry of Economy, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239169/20201224>

On 1 January 2021, Argentina's 2021 National Budget came into effect and allocated ARS1.3 trillion to public policies that contribute to closing gaps in gender.⁴⁶⁷⁴ The goal of such public policies is to reduce the economic disparities between men and women.⁴⁶⁷⁵

On 6 January 2021, Resolution 4/2021 was enacted, which saw the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority join the "Gender and Diversity Network of the Ministry of Public Works," a joint public-sector alliance which works to achieve gender equality in the public sphere (specifically within the Ministry of Public Works).⁴⁶⁷⁶ The goal of this resolution is to expand and promote women's equitable employment in the public sphere, specifically for those women working for and/or with the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority.⁴⁶⁷⁷

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Argentina attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁴⁶⁷⁸

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Nation enacted Resolution 8/2021, which created the "Public registry of complaints filed against magistrates for situations related to gender violence" in the area of the Plenary of the Council of the Magistracy.⁴⁶⁷⁹ This public registry serves as an institution that survivors of gender violence from magistrates can go to report incidents, whereof, following reports from survivors, appropriate legal action can be taken.⁴⁶⁸⁰ While the goal of creating this public registry was not directly having to do with women's involvement in the economy, through working against abuses by public magistrates which disproportionately affect women, this initiative serves to aid women in terms of accessibility to government services (which, in turn, aids women in advancing their economic status through government initiatives).⁴⁶⁸¹ On the same day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship enacted Resolution 38/2021, which instructed a variety of foreign affairs offices under the Ministry to implement policies that reduce gender inequalities of opportunity and treatment and created a "Gender Observatory" to design policies to reduce the gender gap.⁴⁶⁸² The goal of this resolution is to work to

⁴⁶⁷⁴ Budget: Law 27591, Legislation and Official Notices, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238364/20201214>

⁴⁶⁷⁵ D'Alessandro: "The Budget is the tool we have to transform societies into more just an inclusive," Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dalessandro-el-presupuesto-es-la-herramienta-que-tenemos-para-transformar-las-sociedades-en>

⁴⁶⁷⁶ Resolution 4/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239658/20210108?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁷⁷ Resolution 4/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239658/20210108?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁷⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvelicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁴⁶⁷⁹ Resolution 8/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241646/20210310?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸⁰ Resolution 8/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241646/20210310?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸¹ Resolution 8/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241646/20210310?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸² Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241604/20210309?busqueda=1>

improve women's employment opportunities and quality of employment within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship.⁴⁶⁸³

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy's Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective implemented a new financial training course which will teach up to 800 people how to use the "financial tools of the banking system and the capital market to promote the financial inclusion of people who work in the National Public Administration."⁴⁶⁸⁴ The goal of this training course is to promote the economic opportunities of those individuals who have traditionally been marginalized within the National Public Administration (with women being a plurality within this marginalized group).⁴⁶⁸⁵

On 15 April 2021, the Ministry of Transportation enacted Resolution 116/2021, which approved the "Strategic Plan for the incorporation of gender perspective in the scope of competence of the Ministry of Transport – 2020-2023" which is "aimed at mainstreaming the gender perspective in the competition policies of the Ministry of Transportation as thus also in the organizations and companies acting in its jurisdictional orbit."⁴⁶⁸⁶ The goal of this resolution is to fight discrimination against women within the Ministry of Transportation by mainstreaming and institutionally integrating the gender perspective.⁴⁶⁸⁷

On 22 April 2021, the Chair of Ministers Secretariat for Public Innovation enacted Resolution 38/2021, which resolved to create the "G + T Center – Gender Center In Technology" under the Public Innovation Secretariat of the Head of Ministers Cabinet.⁴⁶⁸⁸ Moving forward, this center will work to implement its nine point plan to promote women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The goal of this resolution is to work towards the "development of a more just, equitable and supportive society."⁴⁶⁸⁹

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity enacted Resolution 186/2021, which created the "Producir" program.⁴⁶⁹⁰ This program is designed to provide economic aid to survivors of gender-based violence, most notably women.⁴⁶⁹¹ The goal of this program is to "promote the development of life projects with economic independence for women and LGBTI+

⁴⁶⁸³ Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241604/20210309?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸⁴ The course on financial tools with a gender perspective for State workers was presented, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-el-curso-sobre-herramientas-financieras-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para-las-0>

⁴⁶⁸⁵ The course on financial tools with a gender perspective for State workers was presented, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-el-curso-sobre-herramientas-financieras-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para-las-0>

⁴⁶⁸⁶ Resolution 116/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243146/20210419?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸⁷ Resolution 116/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243146/20210419?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸⁸ Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243452/20210423?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁸⁹ Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243452/20210423?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁹⁰ Resolution 186/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243502/20210426?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁹¹ Resolution 186/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243502/20210426?busqueda=1>

who are going through or have gone through situations of gender-based violence, by strengthening productive projects and economic units for social organizations.”⁴⁶⁹²

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of the Interior presented the Public Management and Political Exercise with a Gender Perspective program.⁴⁶⁹³ This program will provide training to individuals working within the Ministry of the Interior with the “aim of building workspaces free of discrimination and violence” (providing more opportunities to groups who have traditionally faced discrimination in the workplace, such as women).⁴⁶⁹⁴

On 6 May 2021, the Federal Public Revenue Administration enacted General Resolution 4984/2021, which (among other acts) provides employers with financial benefits for hiring women.⁴⁶⁹⁵ This resolution aims (among other initiatives) to encourage employers to hire more women.⁴⁶⁹⁶

On 12 May 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Nation, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, and the Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies presented the National Plan for Equality in Diversity (2021-2023).⁴⁶⁹⁷ This proposal includes more than 200 commitments made by state organizations to “reduce inequalities between women, LGBTI+ and men in relation to work, health, education, politics, sports and culture, among others.”⁴⁶⁹⁸

On 19 May 2021, the Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean launched a course for “the elaboration of indicators with a gender perspective that will allow the elaboration of better policies to close the gender gap.”⁴⁶⁹⁹ The course seeks to provide members of the Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective with the tools necessary for the “production, analysis and use of gender statistics, necessary for the elaboration of public policies that close inequality gaps.”⁴⁷⁰⁰ The aim of this training

⁴⁶⁹² Resolution 186/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243502/20210426?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁹³ Wado de Pedro and Gómez Alcorta launched trainings on Public Management and Political Exercise with a Gender Perspective, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/wado-de-pedro-y-gomez-alcorta-lanzaron-capacitaciones-sobre-gestion-publica-y-ejercicio-0>

⁴⁶⁹⁴ Wado de Pedro and Gómez Alcorta launched trainings on Public Management and Political Exercise with a Gender Perspective, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/wado-de-pedro-y-gomez-alcorta-lanzaron-capacitaciones-sobre-gestion-publica-y-ejercicio-0>

⁴⁶⁹⁵ General Resolution 4984/2021, Federal Public Revenue Administration, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/244064/20210507?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁹⁶ General Resolution 4984/2021, Federal Public Revenue Administration, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/244064/20210507?busqueda=1>

⁴⁶⁹⁷ The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

⁴⁶⁹⁸ The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

⁴⁶⁹⁹ The Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender and ECLAC trained female officials from all over the country in indicators with a gender perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-direccion-de-economia-igualdad-y-genero-y-cepal-capacitaron-funcionarias-de-todo-el-pais>

⁴⁷⁰⁰ The Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender and ECLAC trained female officials from all over the country in indicators with a gender perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-direccion-de-economia-igualdad-y-genero-y-cepal-capacitaron-funcionarias-de-todo-el-pais>

is to make economic decision makers more equipped to make decisions that advance women's economic equity.⁴⁷⁰¹

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security enacted Resolution 286/2021, which (among other initiatives) de-genders Unique Labor Identification Codes.⁴⁷⁰² The aim of this resolution is to reduce the discrimination that women face when interacting with the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security.⁴⁷⁰³

On 1 June 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity developed the course "Tools for the construction of a Budget with a gender and diversity perspective," which is aimed to train government officials charged with preparing the National Budget.⁴⁷⁰⁴ The initiative seeks to "improve public policies that close gender gaps."⁴⁷⁰⁵ Also on 1 June 2021, the Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat and the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity enacted Joint Resolution 4/2021, which established the "Interministerial Equal Housing Program," an initiative to promote public housing and urban development policies with a gender perspective, aimed at women and LGBTI+.⁴⁷⁰⁶ The initiative will aim to house women and members of the LGBTI+ community.⁴⁷⁰⁷

On 11 June 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity launched the Forming Equality Program, which seeks to "promote training in the gender and diversity perspective in the private sector from a human rights, development and sustainability perspective, to promote equality for women and LGBTI+ and prevent gender violence in the world of work."⁴⁷⁰⁸ The training that this program promotes works towards creating (among other things) equitable work environments for LGBTI+ individuals and women.⁴⁷⁰⁹

⁴⁷⁰¹ The Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender and ECLAC trained female officials from all over the country in indicators with a gender perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-direccion-de-economia-igualdad-y-genero-y-cepal-capacitaron-funcionarias-de-todo-el-pais>

⁴⁷⁰² Resolution 286/2021, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245180/20210602?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁰³ Resolution 286/2021, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245180/20210602?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁰⁴ Representatives of all the Ministries participated in the course "Tools for the construction of a Budget with a gender and diversity perspective," Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/representantes-de-todos-los-ministerios-participaron-en-el-curso-herramientas-para-la>

⁴⁷⁰⁵ Representatives of all the Ministries participated in the course "Tools for the construction of a Budget with a gender and diversity perspective", Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/representantes-de-todos-los-ministerios-participaron-en-el-curso-herramientas-para-la>

⁴⁷⁰⁶ Joint Resolution 4/2021, Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat and Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245192/20210602?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁰⁷ Joint Resolution 4/2021, Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat and Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245192/20210602?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁰⁸ Forming Equality Program, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/capacitaremos-al-sector-privado-para-promover-la-igualdad-y-prevenir-la-violencia-de-genero>

⁴⁷⁰⁹ Forming Equality Program, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/capacitaremos-al-sector-privado-para-promover-la-igualdad-y-prevenir-la-violencia-de-genero>

On 16 June 2021, the Senate and Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation meeting in Congress passed law 27630, a modification to the Income Tax Law.⁴⁷¹⁰ Included in this law is a 40% increase to a special tax deduction for women, providing women with a greater degree of financial freedom overall.⁴⁷¹¹

On 17 June 2021, the National Institute of Film and Audiovisual Arts enacted Resolution 725/2021, which created the “Violet Glasses Program” within the Federal Development Deputy Management of the National Institute of Film and Audiovisual Arts.⁴⁷¹² This program aims to advise and collaborate with different areas of the National Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts to promote the equitable treatment of women.⁴⁷¹³

On 18 June 2021, the National Director of Transparency and National Director of Economy, Equality and Gender of the Ministry of Economy presented the “Budget with a Gender and Public works perspective.”⁴⁷¹⁴ This document will work as a report complementary to the 2021 Budget, focusing on three central investment axes which all work to “reduce inequality gaps” between men and women.⁴⁷¹⁵

On 24 June 2021, the Chair of Ministers Secretariat for Public Innovation enacted Resolution 65/2021, which created the “Digital Country Scholarships” Program, a program designed “to promote digital inclusion and participation of women and diversities in the Information and Communication Technologies industry, and train in programming, marketing digital and data science, in order to respond to the labor demand of people qualified in digital skills.”⁴⁷¹⁶ This program aims to promote women’s economic opportunities in the Information and Communication Technologies industry.⁴⁷¹⁷

On 25 June 2021, the Director of Economy, Equality and Gender together with the Governor of La Rioja announced the launch of the Constructoras Program, which aims to “provide tools to promote

⁴⁷¹⁰ Income Tax Law, Senate and Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation meeting in Congress, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245673/20210616?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷¹¹ Income Tax Law, Senate and Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation meeting in Congress, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245673/20210616?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷¹² Resolution 725/2021, National Institute of Film and Audiovisual Arts, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 17 June 2021. 25 July 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245885/20210622?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷¹³ Resolution 725/2021, National Institute of Film and Audiovisual Arts, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 17 June 2021. 25 July 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/245885/20210622?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷¹⁴ We participate in a dialogue on budgeting with a gender perspective in public works, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-en-un-dialogo-sobre-presupuesto-con-perspectiva-de-genero-en-obras-publicas>

⁴⁷¹⁵ We participate in a dialogue on budgeting with a gender perspective in public works, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-en-un-dialogo-sobre-presupuesto-con-perspectiva-de-genero-en-obras-publicas>

⁴⁷¹⁶ Resolution 65/2021, Chair of Ministers Secretariat for Public Innovation, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246115/20210628?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷¹⁷ Resolution 65/2021, Chair of Ministers Secretariat for Public Innovation, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246115/20210628?busqueda=1>

the labor insertion of women in the construction sector.”⁴⁷¹⁸ The goal of this program is to promote women’s economic opportunities in the construction sector.⁴⁷¹⁹

On 29 June 2021, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security signed a framework agreement that “lays the foundations to reduce the gender gaps detected in the sector.”⁴⁷²⁰ The goal of this agreement is to promote women’s employment and inclusion within the motor transport sector.⁴⁷²¹

On 15 July 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity presented the course “Elements for the Construction of a Budget with a Gender and Diversity Perspective” which is designed to teach provincial governments how to construct their own budgets with gender and diversity perspectives included.⁴⁷²² This training most centrally intends to teach provincial governments how to “prepare budgets that include measures to reduce gender gaps.”⁴⁷²³

On 17 July 2021, Argentina enacted Decree 475/2021, which modified the integrated retirement and pension system.⁴⁷²⁴ Included in this decree are certain measures which make it easier for women with children and pregnant persons to access the Universal Basic Benefit.⁴⁷²⁵ Access to this benefit provides women with children and pregnant persons with a greater degree of financial freedom.⁴⁷²⁶

⁴⁷¹⁸ Mercedes D’Alessandro participated in the launch of the La Rioja Construction Program, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/mercedes-dalessandro-participo-en-el-lanzamiento-del-programa-constructoras-de-la-rioja>

⁴⁷¹⁹ Mercedes D’Alessandro participated in the launch of the La Rioja Construction Program, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/mercedes-dalessandro-participo-en-el-lanzamiento-del-programa-constructoras-de-la-rioja>

⁴⁷²⁰ A program was presented to promote and include women in the motor transport activity, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-un-programa-para-promover-e-incluir-mujeres-en-la-actividad-del-transporte>

⁴⁷²¹ A program was presented to promote and include women in the motor transport activity, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-un-programa-para-promover-e-incluir-mujeres-en-la-actividad-del-transporte>

⁴⁷²² We began training on budgets with a gender and diversity perspective for provincial authorities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comenzamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-presupuestos-con-perspectiva-de-genero-y-diversidad>

⁴⁷²³ We began training on budgets with a gender and diversity perspective for provincial authorities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comenzamos-la-capacitacion-sobre-presupuestos-con-perspectiva-de-genero-y-diversidad>

⁴⁷²⁴ Decree 475/2021, The President of the Argentine Nation in General Agreement of Ministers, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246989/20210719?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷²⁵ Decree 475/2021, The President of the Argentine Nation in General Agreement of Ministers, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246989/20210719?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷²⁶ Decree 475/2021, The President of the Argentine Nation in General Agreement of Ministers, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246989/20210719?busqueda=1>

On 20 July 2021, the National Institution of Public Administration developed the second edition of the course titled “Tools for the construction of a Budget with a gender and diversity perspective.”⁴⁷²⁷ Similar to the first edition, this second edition aims to train government officials responsible for preparing the National Budget and thus seeks to “improve public policies that close gender gaps”.⁴⁷²⁸

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security enacted Resolution 434/2021.⁴⁷²⁹ This resolution resolves to create the “Program for the Strengthening of the Leadership of Women and Sexual Diversities in the Trade Union Organizations” under the Secretariat for Inclusion Policies in the World of Labor, dependent on the Secretariat of Labor.⁴⁷³⁰ This program’s purpose is to “provide and facilitate tools for the empowerment of women and sexual diversities in their union organizations, through union training and education.”⁴⁷³¹ Such initiatives will make unions more equitable for women within the union itself as well as through how the union interacts with employers.⁴⁷³²

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity enacted Resolution 357/2021.⁴⁷³³ This resolution resolves to create a “National Program for the Strengthening of the Perspective of Gender and Equality in Diversity in Rural Development” under the Secretariat for Equality Policies of the Secretariat for Equality and Diversity Policies, with the main objective of strengthening public policies and actions of civil society that guarantee equality for women and members of the LGBTI+ community in rural areas.⁴⁷³⁴ Such a program will improve women’s economic opportunities in rural areas by fighting economic discrimination in such areas.⁴⁷³⁵

⁴⁷²⁷ Ministers, Secretaries and Directors from all over the country participated in the course “Tools for the construction of a Budget with a gender and diversity perspective”, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministras-secretarias-y-directoras-de-todo-el-pais-participaron-en-el-curso-herramientas>

⁴⁷²⁸ Ministers, Secretaries and Directors from all over the country participated in the course “Tools for the construction of a Budget with a gender and diversity perspective,” Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministras-secretarias-y-directoras-de-todo-el-pais-participaron-en-el-curso-herramientas>

⁴⁷²⁹ Resolution 434/2021, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247423/20210728?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³⁰ Resolution 434/2021, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247423/20210728?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³¹ Resolution 434/2021, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247423/20210728?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³² Resolution 434/2021, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247423/20210728?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³³ Resolution 357/2021, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247579/20210802?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³⁴ Resolution 357/2021, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247579/20210802?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³⁵ Resolution 357/2021, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247579/20210802?busqueda=1>

In July 2021, the National Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender incorporated fixed and monthly female expenses, such as wipes and tampons, into the Universal Child Allowance benefit.⁴⁷³⁶ This incorporation means that women who qualify for the Universal Child Allowance benefit can be financially compensated for their fixed and monthly female expenses, providing them with more economic freedom overall.⁴⁷³⁷

On 6 August 2021, President Alberto Fernandez decreed Decree 493/2021 on employer contributions and provisions.⁴⁷³⁸ Among other initiatives, in the pursuit of advancing women's economic status in Argentina, article 2 of the decree creates "a reduction of ninety-five percent (95%) of the employer contributions corresponding to the first twelve (12) months from the month of the beginning of the new employment relationship, inclusive, in the case of hiring a female person."⁴⁷³⁹ Such an incentive encourages employers to hire women, providing women with more opportunities to advance their economic status in society.⁴⁷⁴⁰

On 9 August 2021, the National Directorate of Economy, Equality and Gender met with officials from the Ministry of Public Works.⁴⁷⁴¹ The objective of this meeting was to "[generate] contributions and recommendations incorporate the gender perspective in the procurement documents in the budget of the Ministry of Public Works."⁴⁷⁴² Such contributions and recommendations work to advance women's economic opportunities in that they make the Ministry of Public Works a more equitable workplace, thus providing women with more economic opportunities within the Ministry of Public Works.⁴⁷⁴³

On 10 August 2021, the Ministry of Public Works enacted Resolution 252/2021.⁴⁷⁴⁴ This resolution resolves to, among other initiatives, create the "Care Infrastructure Program" which "[strengthens] the care infrastructure network to guarantee the effective exercise of rights, not only to those who

⁴⁷³⁶ The creation of the Behavioral Sciences and Public Policies Unit was announced, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-anuncio-la-creacion-de-la-unidad-de-ciencias-del-comportamiento-y-politicas-publicas>

⁴⁷³⁷ The creation of the Behavioral Sciences and Public Policies Unit was announced, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-anuncio-la-creacion-de-la-unidad-de-ciencias-del-comportamiento-y-politicas-publicas>

⁴⁷³⁸ Decree 493/2021, The President of the Argentine Nation, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247763/20210806?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷³⁹ Decree 493/2021, The President of the Argentine Nation, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247763/20210806?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁴⁰ Decree 493/2021, The President of the Argentine Nation, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247763/20210806?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁴¹ D'Alessandro participated in the fourth meeting of the working group on Gender and Public Works, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dalessandro-participo-en-la-cuarta-reunion-del-grupo-de-trabajo-sobre-genero-y-obras>

⁴⁷⁴² D'Alessandro participated in the fourth meeting of the working group on Gender and Public Works, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dalessandro-participo-en-la-cuarta-reunion-del-grupo-de-trabajo-sobre-genero-y-obras>

⁴⁷⁴³ D'Alessandro participated in the fourth meeting of the working group on Gender and Public Works, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dalessandro-participo-en-la-cuarta-reunion-del-grupo-de-trabajo-sobre-genero-y-obras>

⁴⁷⁴⁴ Resolution 252/2021, Ministry of Public Works, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247896/20210810?busqueda=1>

receive care...but also those who provide care (workers, the vast majority of whom are women).⁴⁷⁴⁵ This strengthened care infrastructure will improve the workplace environment for those individuals pursuing economic opportunities in the care sector, many of whom are women.⁴⁷⁴⁶

On 11 August 2021, the Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurs enacted Resolution 75/2021.⁴⁷⁴⁷ This resolution resolves to, among other initiatives, “promote equal opportunities between male and female entrepreneurs and shorten the gaps in access to training and network of contacts for the development of their ventures.”⁴⁷⁴⁸ Such initiatives will work to aid those women looking to become entrepreneurs.⁴⁷⁴⁹

On 1 September 2021, the Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Internal Trade enacted Resolution 889/2021.⁴⁷⁵⁰ This resolution, among other things, approves the enactment of the course on “Continuous and Compulsory Gender Training” which must be taken by members of the Consumer Arbitration Courts.⁴⁷⁵¹ Members of the Consumer Arbitration Courts taking this course will work to make consumer arbitration more equitable for women, thus empowering them in an economic area of the law.⁴⁷⁵²

On 1 September 2021, the Ministry of Economy presented the project “Economic Policies to Accelerate Gender Equality In Argentina..⁴⁷⁵³ The project aims to “contribute to a sustainable recovery in Argentina through diagnoses, management tools and public policies, focused on two axes,” one of which is “[achieving] more inclusion of women and diversities in the strategic sectors

⁴⁷⁴⁵ Resolution 252/2021, Ministry of Public Works, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247896/20210810?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁴⁶ Resolution 252/2021, Ministry of Public Works, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/247896/20210810?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁴⁷ Resolution 75/2021, Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurs, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/248014/20210812?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁴⁸ Resolution 75/2021, Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurs, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/248014/20210812?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁴⁹ Resolution 75/2021, Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurs, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/248014/20210812?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁵⁰ Resolution 889/2021, Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Internal Trade, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/249043/20210903?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁵¹ Resolution 889/2021, Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Internal Trade, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/249043/20210903?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁵² Resolution 889/2021, Ministry of Productive Development Secretariat of Internal Trade, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/249043/20210903?busqueda=1>

⁴⁷⁵³ The Ministry of Economy presented the project Economic Policies to Accelerate Gender Equality in Argentina, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-economia-presento-el-proyecto-politicas-economicas-para-acelerar-la>

of the economy.”⁴⁷⁵⁴ The usage of such diagnostic techniques, management tools and public policies will all work to promote women’s economic status in Argentina.⁴⁷⁵⁵

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as implementing anti-discriminatory regulations, mandating appointment procedures to consider gender parity, allocating funds to address economic disparity between men and women in annual budget and creating groups to lead and promote women’s participation in STEM fields and entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ethan Ullmann

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 26 November 2020, the Australian Government launched the Women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program.⁴⁷⁵⁶ The program aims to “promote equality of opportunity in higher education” and provide “grants to higher education providers and employers, to improve participation of women in STEM Fields of Education.”⁴⁷⁵⁷ This includes, “[increasing] the number of women with STEM qualifications in the labour force; [helping] women to upskill in STEM or gain job relevant skills to help build a STEM career; and [developing] a pathway to produce graduates with practical workplace skills in STEM sectors vital to Australia’s future productivity.”⁴⁷⁵⁸

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry for Industry, Science and Technology announced an additional AUD11.6 million under the Boosting Female Founders Initiative. The Initiative provides grants and mentoring placements to Australian start-up businesses that are majority owned and led by women to build their businesses and expand into national and international markets, increasing the gender diversity of Australia’s start-up ecosystem.⁴⁷⁵⁹

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment announced that it had opened applications for higher education providers to participate in the Women in STEM Cadetships

⁴⁷⁵⁴ The Ministry of Economy presented the project Economic Policies to Accelerate Gender Equality in Argentina, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-economia-presento-el-proyecto-politicas-economicas-para-acelerar-la>

⁴⁷⁵⁵ The Ministry of Economy presented the project Economic Policies to Accelerate Gender Equality in Argentina, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-economia-presento-el-proyecto-politicas-economicas-para-acelerar-la>

⁴⁷⁵⁶ Other Grants Guidelines (Education) Amendment (Women in STEM) 2020, Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01515/Html/Text>

⁴⁷⁵⁷ Other Grants Guidelines (Education) Amendment (Women in STEM) 2020, Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01515/Html/Text>

⁴⁷⁵⁸ Other Grants Guidelines (Education) Amendment (Women in STEM) 2020, Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01515/Html/Text>

⁴⁷⁵⁹ Helping businesswomen take on the world, Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/karenandrews/media-releases/helping-businesswomen-take-world>

and Advanced Apprenticeships Program from December 2021 to January 2021.⁴⁷⁶⁰ The program has approved 18 higher education providers and supported nearly 600 women across Australia.⁴⁷⁶¹ Higher education providers who participate in this program also help to pair students with potential employers.⁴⁷⁶² The program supports working women from a variety of industries, including those undertaking courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Agriculture.⁴⁷⁶³ On the same day, the Australian Government announced the winners for their Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program.⁴⁷⁶⁴ The Australian Government has committed AUD24.8 million to the program this year.⁴⁷⁶⁵ The program aims to support working women to study an “industry-relevant, higher education Diploma, Associate Degree or Advanced Diploma in a STEM field.”⁴⁷⁶⁶ Grant funds will be allocated to both higher education providers and employers in order to implement approved STEM programs as well as cover the potential costs associated with flexible work hours.⁴⁷⁶⁷ Additionally, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the launch of his AUD18 million advertisement campaign, focusing on the “issue of appropriate respect” and protecting women from violence.⁴⁷⁶⁸ The goal is to challenge discriminatory notions fundamental to disrespectful languages and behaviours, such as comments like “playing like a girl,” in order to change the overall attitudes towards women.⁴⁷⁶⁹

On 3 May 2021, the Government of Australia launched the second edition of the STEM Equity Monitor. This annual data report presents the current state of STEM gender equity in Australia. It provides a baseline for measuring change and trends over time on women’s engagement with STEM through school, higher education, graduate outcomes and the workforce. The government has committed to 10 years of the Monitor, through to 2028-29.⁴⁷⁷⁰

⁴⁷⁶⁰ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶¹ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶² Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶³ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶⁴ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶⁵ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶⁶ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶⁷ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

⁴⁷⁶⁸ Remarks, International Women’s Day, Government of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

⁴⁷⁶⁹ Remarks, International Women’s Day, Government of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

⁴⁷⁷⁰ Second national data report on girls and women in STEM, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/second-national-data-report-on-girls-and-women-in-stem>

On 11 May 2021, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a package of almost AUD3.4 billion to support women's rights in the 2021-2022 Budget.⁴⁷⁷¹ This package includes AUD1.9 billion to support women's economic security of which AUD1.7 billion is for improving the affordability of childcare services. The allocation of the new Budget aims to increase women's workforce participation and promote women's leadership opportunities.⁴⁷⁷² Australia will also be providing AUD13.9 million over four years to establish an Early Stage Social Enterprise Foundation focused on providing capacity building and financial support for early stage social enterprises that improve the economic security of Indigenous women, particularly those who are experiencing or have experienced domestic violence. The Foundation will provide flexible loans and grants to approximately 30 Australian social enterprises each year to support Indigenous women entrepreneurs.⁴⁷⁷³

On 22 May 2021, Australia announced its commitment of AUD39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program as a part of the effort to re-open, recover and reform Australia's economy.⁴⁷⁷⁴ Organizations of the program will use the funds to increase women's opportunities and support women's development in five areas: job creation, economic security, workforce participation, leadership, and safety.⁴⁷⁷⁵

On 24 May 2021, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet announced the grant recipients for the Women's Leadership and Development Program. This program supports projects to increase women's opportunities and women's development in six areas: job creation, economic security, workforce participation, leadership, safety, and international. Around AUD60 million over 2020-21 to 2023-24 is currently provided under the program for 75 individual projects, with a number directly focused on supporting women entrepreneurs. More information on project details can be found in the links.⁴⁷⁷⁶

On 4 June 2021, upon the results of their STEM Equity Monitor data, the Australian government announced their investment of AUD2 Million in the Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship (WiSE) program. The Australian government acknowledges that women are underrepresented in the STEM field and earn on average, less money than their male colleagues. With this investment, the WiSE grant projects will "nurture the next generation of women leaders in STEM and entrepreneurial activities."⁴⁷⁷⁷

On 19 August 2021, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment released a self-assessment questionnaire for employers to identify actions and policies they could implement in their business to

⁴⁷⁷¹ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

⁴⁷⁷² Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

⁴⁷⁷³ Women's Budget Statement 2021-22, Government of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. https://budget.gov.au/2021-22/content/womens-statement/download/womens_budget_statement_2021-22.pdf

⁴⁷⁷⁴ \$39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/398-million-projects-under-womens-leadership-and-development-program>

⁴⁷⁷⁵ \$39.8 million for projects under the Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/398-million-projects-under-womens-leadership-and-development-program>

⁴⁷⁷⁶ Women's Leadership and Development Program, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/office-women/grants-and-funding/wldp-2020-21>

⁴⁷⁷⁷ The WiSE way to improving gender equity in STEM, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/the-wise-way-to-improving-gender-equity-in-stem>

improve their workplace for women. This information was released in order to “assist employers to improve attraction, recruitment and retention of women in Australian workplaces.”⁴⁷⁷⁸

On 6 September 2021, the Government of Australia hosted the virtual National Summit on Women’s Safety to address key issues such as women’s “economic security and financial independence.”⁴⁷⁷⁹ The Summit, which lasts until 7 September 2021, included keynote addresses, panel discussions and closed roundtables with experts, advocates and service providers, which will build on the existing National Plan to aid the development of the next plan.⁴⁷⁸⁰

Australia has fully complied with its commitment by taking action to remove gender-based barriers by promoting women’s full participation in the labour market and economy through its Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program as well as its anti-violence advertisement campaign. Australia also promoted women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities by implementing and providing funding for programs that support women’s entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amanda Morana

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 20 December 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) launched the Qualifica Mulher (“Qualify Women”) pilot project, which aims to create a network of partnerships among governmental authorities and private entities in order to increase the employability of women facing socially vulnerable situations.⁴⁷⁸¹ This project offers professional courses in person or online and facilitates financial education and entrepreneurship workshops.⁴⁷⁸² The COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor in the implementation of the Qualifica Mulher project as an initiative to promote women’s economic autonomy.⁴⁷⁸³ More than 25,700 women have received training and attended entrepreneurship workshops.⁴⁷⁸⁴

⁴⁷⁷⁸ Employing and Supporting Women in Your Organization, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 August 2021. Access Date 8 September 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/employing-and-supporting-women-your-organisation>

⁴⁷⁷⁹ National Summit key step towards ending violence against women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/national-summit-key-step-towards-ending-violence-against-women>

⁴⁷⁸⁰ National Summit key step towards ending violence against women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/national-summit-key-step-towards-ending-violence-against-women>

⁴⁷⁸¹ Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

⁴⁷⁸² Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

⁴⁷⁸³ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

⁴⁷⁸⁴ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

On 20 April 2021, Minister of Women, Family and Human Rights Damares Alves, Governor of the Federal District Ibaneis Rocha and First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro attended the opening of the first CMB in Ceilandia, the most populated region in the Federal District.⁴⁷⁸⁵ During this event, a Technical Cooperation Agreement of the Safe and Protected Women Program was signed by figures from the federal and district governments, the Court of Justice of the Federal District and Territories, and the Public Defender's Office of the Federal District.⁴⁷⁸⁶ This Agreement aims to expand existing public services for female victims of violence through specialized services from the public healthcare system, opportunities for justice, social assistance networks, and promotions of women's economic independence.⁴⁷⁸⁷

On 29 April 2021, the MMFDH launched the Qualify for Entrepreneurship in Pernambuco initiative in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.⁴⁷⁸⁸ This initiative is part of the MMFDH's Qualifica Mulher project, which aims to promote female economic autonomy, and is an attempt at regionalization of the Qualifica Mulher project in order to better meet economic needs of different regions of Brazil.⁴⁷⁸⁹ This initiative covers courses in entrepreneurship, social media, waste management, hospitality in health units, hospital sanitation and hygiene, and food production, and is aimed at socially vulnerable women living in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Paulista, São Lourenço da Mata and Recife.⁴⁷⁹⁰

On 26 May 2021, the MMFDH funded BRL287,000 for the Health Services Hygienist course as part of the Qualifica Mulher pilot project. This initiative provides 300 women in vulnerable situations, especially immigrants, with 280 hours of training over four months to support the economic independence of women.⁴⁷⁹¹

On 31 May 2021, the National Secretariat for Global Protection hosted the third edition of the National Forum on Responsibility with representatives from the MMFDH. The forum's theme was "Business and Human Rights: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

⁴⁷⁸⁵ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

⁴⁷⁸⁶ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

⁴⁷⁸⁷ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

⁴⁷⁸⁸ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

⁴⁷⁸⁹ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

⁴⁷⁹⁰ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

⁴⁷⁹¹ Three hundred vulnerable women receive a training course in Uberlândia (MG), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/trezentas-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-recebem-curso-de-capitacao-em-uberlandia-mg>

Women and Families.” Forum participants discussed topics such as equal pay and work-life balance.⁴⁷⁹²

On 25 June 2021, the MMFDH initiated the socio-economic inclusion program “Beleza Além das Fronteiras” in partnership with the Virada Feminina Movement, the International Organization for Migration and Casa Venezuela.⁴⁷⁹³ This program supports the economic independence of over 200 Venezuelan women and migrants by training them to enter the beauty market. Training includes courses on hairdressing, entrepreneurship, and interview training.⁴⁷⁹⁴

On 23 July 2021, the MMFDH, in partnership with Associação Aliança Empreendedora (AE), launched a project to provide free courses for 270,000 women in situations of social vulnerability. Themes of courses include entrepreneurship, financial education, digital marketing, crafts, and more. Women with a monthly income of up to one and a half of minimum wage are prioritized for these courses.⁴⁷⁹⁵

On 29 July 2021, the MMFDH and the National Supply Company agreed on protocols of intentions for an initiative to support women from rural communities. This initiative will offer free courses in vocational training and entrepreneurship targeted at empowering female farmers.⁴⁷⁹⁶ The initiative especially recognizes the potential of women farmers that did not attend school but lead many family farming establishments.⁴⁷⁹⁷

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment by implementing specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship through partnerships with private entities, governmental authorities and universities, as well as actions to remove barriers by implementing projects focused on expanding employment access to women.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nika Asgari

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

⁴⁷⁹² 3rd Take Responsibility Forum will discuss the rights of people with disabilities, women and families, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/3o-forum-responsabilize-se-discutira-direitos-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia-mulheres-e-familias>

⁴⁷⁹³ Minister Damares Alves participates in the launch of the “Beleza Beyond Borders” program, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministra-damara-alves-participa-do-lancamento-do-programa-201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d>

⁴⁷⁹⁴ “Beauty Beyond Borders” promotes economic autonomy for Venezuelans and migrants from neighboring countries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/201cbeleza-alem-das-fronteiras201d-promove-autonomia-economica-de-venezuelanas-e-migrantes-de-paises-vizinhos>

⁴⁷⁹⁵ Free courses are available for vulnerable women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/cursos-gratuitos-estao-disponiveis-para-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade>

⁴⁷⁹⁶ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasilia) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

⁴⁷⁹⁷ Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers (Brasilia) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

On 1 January 2021, Canada implemented the “Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention Regulations” in order to curb workplace harassment and violence which women are often a target of.⁴⁷⁹⁸ This policy outlines regulations for violence prevention in the workplace and procedures to respond to incidences of violence or harassment in the workplace.⁴⁷⁹⁹ Thus, creating a less hostile work environment for marginalized groups.⁴⁸⁰⁰

On 1 January 2021, Canada implemented an amendment to the “Employment Equity Regulations” which introduced a new policy which requires “federally regulated private sector employers” to report salary data.⁴⁸⁰¹ The aim of this measure is to gain more data on wage gaps experienced by marginalized groups, which will be included in reports on employment equity and help inform future policies on the matter.⁴⁸⁰²

On 11 February 2021, Canada announced its “Feminist Response and Recovery Fund” which will direct CAD100 million in funds towards helping women “launch new projects or scale up past projects that increase women and girls’ participation in Canada’s economic, social, democratic and political life.”⁴⁸⁰³ The funding aimed to provide an “intersectional response to COVID-19” by providing support for marginalized and underrepresented women.⁴⁸⁰⁴

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Canada attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Russia, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁴⁸⁰⁵

⁴⁷⁹⁸ Government of Canada publishes new regulations to prevent harassment and violence in federal workplaces, Employment and Development Canada (Quebec) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invites-canadian-workplaces-to-get-ready-for-new-regulations-against-harassment-and-violence.html>

⁴⁷⁹⁹ Government of Canada publishes new regulations to prevent harassment and violence in federal workplaces, Employment and Development Canada (Quebec) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invites-canadian-workplaces-to-get-ready-for-new-regulations-against-harassment-and-violence.html>

⁴⁸⁰⁰ Government of Canada publishes new regulations to prevent harassment and violence in federal workplaces, Employment and Development Canada (Quebec) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invites-canadian-workplaces-to-get-ready-for-new-regulations-against-harassment-and-violence.html>

⁴⁸⁰¹ Regulations Amending the Employment Equity Regulations, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-11-25/html/sor-dors236-eng.html>

⁴⁸⁰² Regulations Amending the Employment Equity Regulations, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-11-25/html/sor-dors236-eng.html>

⁴⁸⁰³ Government of Canada to invest \$100 million to support women impacted by the pandemic, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

⁴⁸⁰⁴ Government of Canada to invest \$100 million to support Women impacted by the pandemic, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

⁴⁸⁰⁵ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

On 24 February 2021, Canada announced that it will invest CAD843,750 in the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA).⁴⁸⁰⁶ FAFIA will use these funds to combat systemic barriers to women's social and economic participation.⁴⁸⁰⁷

On 8 March 2021, Canada announced that it will formulate a task force of experts that will propose policies aimed at creating equitable opportunities for economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁸⁰⁸ Recognizing that women face systemic barriers in the economy, this task force will specifically tackle economic issues facing women.⁴⁸⁰⁹

On 16 March 2021, Canada announced that it would be allocating CAD3.18 million to female entrepreneurs across the Prairies as part of its Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem.⁴⁸¹⁰ This funding will be used to aid women entrepreneurs through the financial hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also helping their businesses grow.⁴⁸¹¹

On 19 April 2021, Canada delivered its 2021 federal budget which included several policies that help facilitate women's economic participation.⁴⁸¹² The budget included an investment of CAD30 billion over five years as part of its Early Learning and Child Care Plan which is aimed at reducing the costs of childcare so that mothers are able to return to work.⁴⁸¹³ Additionally, the budget also allocated CAD146.9 million over four years to the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy which will help women entrepreneurs have "greater access to financing, mentorship and training."⁴⁸¹⁴ Finally, the budget provides an incentive of CAD10,000 for employers that hire underrepresented Canadians (including women) in the construction and manufacturing Red Seal trades.⁴⁸¹⁵

On 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada would be allocating CAD180 million for projects that help advance gender equality in Canada and around

⁴⁸⁰⁶ Government of Canada invests \$1.6 million to help women and girls succeed, Women and Gender Equality (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-16-million-to-help-women-and-girls-succeed.html>

⁴⁸⁰⁷ Government of Canada invests \$1.6 million to help women and girls succeed, Women and Gender Equality (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-16-million-to-help-women-and-girls-succeed.html>

⁴⁸⁰⁸ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

⁴⁸⁰⁹ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

⁴⁸¹⁰ Government of Canada supports recovery and growth of women-led businesses across the Prairies amid COVID-19 pandemic, Western Economic Diversification Canada (Winnipeg) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-recovery-and-growth-of-women-led-businesses-across-the-prairies-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>

⁴⁸¹¹ Government of Canada supports recovery and growth of women-led businesses across the Prairies amid COVID-19 pandemic, Western Economic Diversification Canada (Winnipeg) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-recovery-and-growth-of-women-led-businesses-across-the-prairies-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>

⁴⁸¹² Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

⁴⁸¹³ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

⁴⁸¹⁴ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

⁴⁸¹⁵ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

the world.⁴⁸¹⁶ This donation is meant to provide governments with the funding needed to implement a feminist response to the COVID-19 pandemic that helps create more jobs and opportunities for women, while also tackling the inequalities experienced by women on a day-to-day basis.⁴⁸¹⁷

On 7 July 2021, Canada disclosed that the Canadian Pay Equity Act would come into effect on August 31, 2021. The aim of the Pay Equity Act is to enforce long-term regulations that will help close the gender wage gap. To achieve this goal, the act mandates that any employer with ten or more employees must create a “proactive pay equity plan” so that Canadian workplaces can become “more fair, safe and inclusive” in the future. This proactive pay equity approach is among many new regulations that the Government of Canada has added to enhance pay equity.⁴⁸¹⁸

On 20 July 2021, Canada announced that it would be providing a non-profit organization called “Réseau des Femmes d’affaires du Québec” with over CAD1 million in financial support. Since Réseau des Femmes d’affaires du Québec is an organization that helps foster growth among female-owned businesses, this funding aims to revitalize female entrepreneurship in Quebec.⁴⁸¹⁹

On 29 July 2021, Canada announced that it would be allocating CAD100 million to 237 projects under the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund. These projects are specifically aimed at aiding the economic recovery of women during the COVID-19 pandemic which has “magnified systemic and longstanding inequalities” experience by women.⁴⁸²⁰

On 3 August 2021, Canada disclosed that the 2021 government budget would include CAD5 million of funding for the advancement of women’s economic empowerment.⁴⁸²¹ This funding will allow Canada’s Women Entrepreneurship Strategy to complete more research and divert more resources to supporting Canadian women entrepreneurs.⁴⁸²²

⁴⁸¹⁶ Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

⁴⁸¹⁷ Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

⁴⁸¹⁸ Government of Canada announces that the Pay Equity Act will come into force on August 31, 2021, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-that-the-pay-equity-act-will-come-into-force-on-august-31-2021.html>

⁴⁸¹⁹ The Honourable Chrystia Freeland announces over \$1 million in Government of Canada support for Réseau des Femmes d’affaires du Québec, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (Longueuil) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2021/07/the-honourable-chrystia-freeland-announces-over-1-million-in-government-of-canada-support-for-reseau-des-femmes-daffaires-du-quebec.html>

⁴⁸²⁰ Government of Canada announces recipients of \$100-million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-100-million-feminist-response-and-recovery-fund.html>

⁴⁸²¹ Minister Ng announces investment in Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub to support women’s economic development, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (St.John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/minister-ng-announces-investment-in-women-entrepreneurship-knowledge-hub-to-support-womens-economic-empowerment.html>

⁴⁸²² Minister Ng announces investment in Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub to support women’s economic development, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (St.John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/minister-ng-announces-investment-in-women-entrepreneurship-knowledge-hub-to-support-womens-economic-empowerment.html>

On 11 August 2021, Canada announced that it would be supporting the success of racialized newcomer women in Canada by providing the Racialized Newcomer Women Pilot with CAD2.1 million in federal funding.⁴⁸²³ These funds will be used to kickstart eleven projects that are aimed at addressing any gender or race-based discrimination that racialized newcomer women face.⁴⁸²⁴

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and the economy through implementing domestic policies such as anti-harassment regulations and family-friendly childcare programs. Canada has also demonstrated actions in promoting women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities through allocating funds to help women entrepreneurs overcome financial hardship and grow their businesses.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Lougein Metwally

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 22 December 2020, President Xi Jinping stated that China will take the recovery from the pandemic as an opportunity to provide new opportunities for women to participate in politics and to improve women's participation in the management of national, economic, cultural and social affairs at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing.⁴⁸²⁵ President Jinping spoke about the continuation of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Action Plan through the protection of women and girls' rights and interests in an important position in public health and the resumption of work by broadening the employment channels for women and combat violations of women's rights.⁴⁸²⁶

On 2 February 2021, The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) stated during its executive committee meeting that it will help women to secure more jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in digital industries and the e-commerce sector, among other areas of the modern industrial system in 2021.⁴⁸²⁷ More specifically, the Women's Federation will step up their financial support of women

⁴⁸²³Government announces new initiatives to help racialized newcomer women succeed in Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (Ottawa) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2021/08/government-announces-new-initiatives-to-help-racialized-newcomer-women-succeed-in-canada.html>

⁴⁸²⁴ Government announces new initiatives to help racialized newcomer women succeed in Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (Ottawa) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2021/08/government-announces-new-initiatives-to-help-racialized-newcomer-women-succeed-in-canada.html>

⁴⁸²⁵ Speech by Xi Jinping at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://he.mof.gov.cn/zt4/dj/xyd/202012/t20201222_3636319.htm

⁴⁸²⁶ Speech by Xi Jinping at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://he.mof.gov.cn/zt4/dj/xyd/202012/t20201222_3636319.htm

⁴⁸²⁷ All-China Women's Federation Vows to Help Women Secure More Professional Opportunities, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/Highlight/2102/3454-1.htm>

entrepreneurs and launch more training sessions and entrepreneurship competitions amid efforts to empower women.⁴⁸²⁸

On 23 February 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the “Opinions on Accelerating the Rejuvenation of Rural Talents.”⁴⁸²⁹ Article 25 of the publication addressed the government’s intention to speed up the development of rural vocational education to encourage veterans, laid-off workers, migrant workers, high-quality farmers and left-behind women to apply for higher vocational colleges to decrease the gender gap in workforces.⁴⁸³⁰ Institutions can appropriately lower the admission scores for the above populations on the corresponding quality tests.⁴⁸³¹

On 6 March 2020, President Jinping spoke of the protection of women’s rights and women’s development on multiple occasions at the fourth annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.⁴⁸³² President Jinping stated that women represent an important force, driving social development and progress.⁴⁸³³ He addressed the importance for party committees and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of developing women’s undertakings.⁴⁸³⁴ These include increases in attention, support and effort to severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that infringe on women’s rights.⁴⁸³⁵

On 15 May 2021, the All-China Women’s Federation will open a bidding for a national project aims to encourage women to actively participate in the construction of network civilization and network ecological content governance.⁴⁸³⁶ The project is a procurement project for all small and medium-sized Chinese enterprises.⁴⁸³⁷ The applicants and companies may be prison enterprises or welfare

⁴⁸²⁸ All-China Women's Federation Vows to Help Women Secure More Professional Opportunities, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/Highlight/2102/3454-1.htm>

⁴⁸²⁹ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

⁴⁸³⁰ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

⁴⁸³¹ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

⁴⁸³² Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

⁴⁸³³ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

⁴⁸³⁴ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

⁴⁸³⁵ When Xi Jinping visited the members of the medical and health education sector who participated in the CPPCC meeting, Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<http://www.mca.gov.cn/article/xw/tt/202103/20210300032328.shtml>

⁴⁸³⁶ All-China Women’s Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

⁴⁸³⁷ All-China Women’s Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

units for people with disabilities.⁴⁸³⁸ By providing resources through online and offline communication, this project aims to remove barriers for housewives and women in rural China to participate in network social governance and to improve their comprehensive network literacy.⁴⁸³⁹

On 19 July 2021, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the All-China Women's Federation, together with eleven other departments, launched a series of measures to support women researchers' greater roles in scientific and technological (sci-tech) innovation. According to the Federation, the State Council of China will push forward measures to help women in the fields of scientific and technological innovations.⁴⁸⁴⁰ These measures include training on high-level sci-tech skills, supporting women's innovation and entrepreneurship capabilities, improving evaluation mechanisms for them, and supporting their research during pregnancy and nursing periods.⁴⁸⁴¹ The ministry announced seven specific goals and directions, including 1) to deeply understand the importance of supporting women in the field of scientific and technological innovations, 2) to cultivate high-level scientific and technological skills among women, 3) to support the innovation and entrepreneurship of women and their technological talents, 4) to improve the evaluation and incentivizing mechanism for promoting scientific and technological skills among women, 5) to support the scientific research work by women in the fields of scientific and technological innovations during pregnancy and nursing, 6) to strengthen women's training of skills in science and technology, 7) to improve the work environment for women in the fields of scientific and technological innovations.⁴⁸⁴² The ministry will work with relevant governmental and municipal departments to implement these measures locally.⁴⁸⁴³

On 21 July 2021, Deputy Head of the National Health Commission Yu Xuejun announced that the government had adopted a decision to officially implement complementary programs to allow couples to have three children (previously two).⁴⁸⁴⁴ The complementary programs will be in place to employ more flexible work leave for female workers.⁴⁸⁴⁵ The aim is to protect the physical and mental health of pregnant and lying-in women, to ensure women who wish to have more children are

⁴⁸³⁸ All-China Women's Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

⁴⁸³⁹ All-China Women's Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

⁴⁸⁴⁰ China Helping to Stimulate Innovation Vitality of Among Women in the Fields of Scientific and Technological Innovations, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html

⁴⁸⁴¹ China Helping to Stimulate Innovation Vitality of Among Women in the Fields of Scientific and Technological Innovations, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html

⁴⁸⁴² China Helping to Stimulate Innovation Vitality of Among Women in the Fields of Scientific and Technological Innovations, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html

⁴⁸⁴³ China Helping to Stimulate Innovation Vitality of Among Women in the Fields of Scientific and Technological Innovations, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/19/content_WS60f55e9cc6d0df57f98dd3c9.html

⁴⁸⁴⁴ Third-child Policy to Unleash Childbirth Potential, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/22/content_WS60f8c05ac6d0df57f98dd5ef.html

⁴⁸⁴⁵ Third-child Policy to Unleash Childbirth Potential, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/22/content_WS60f8c05ac6d0df57f98dd5ef.html

discouraged from doing so due to workforce pressure, and to minimize and eliminate discriminations towards women in the workforce.⁴⁸⁴⁶

China has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as multiple verbal affirmations and national projects to increase women's participation in network social governance. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ziyi Liu

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 26 January 2021, the drafting of a guide for an international standard on gender equality under the high patronage of President Emmanuel Macron began.⁴⁸⁴⁷ It is announced by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery, as well as the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, together with the French National Standards Association, that the guide for this standard will be published in June 2021.⁴⁸⁴⁸ This standard aims to develop a normative reference in France, which can also provide a basis for an international standard.⁴⁸⁴⁹ It will apply to both internal and external dimensions of activities in French organizations, including private and public sectors.⁴⁸⁵⁰ The guide covers the topics of education and training of specific measures, reproductive and sexual rights for women in the workforce, prevention

⁴⁸⁴⁶ Third-child Policy to Unleash Childbirth Potential, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/22/content_WS60f8c05ac6d0df57f98dd5ef.html

⁴⁸⁴⁷ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

⁴⁸⁴⁸ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

⁴⁸⁴⁹ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

⁴⁸⁵⁰ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

and elimination of violence and discrimination to girls and women and economic empowerment of women and their participation in public and economic life.⁴⁸⁵¹

On 21 February 2021, representatives from France attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁴⁸⁵²

On 25 February 2021, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran participated in the launch of the Global Initiative on the place of women in the health and care sector, supported by the French government, the World Health Organization and the non-governmental organization Women in Global Health.⁴⁸⁵³ Minister Véran presented the objectives of this initiative, including to promote the place of women in the health and care sector in positions of responsibility on a global scale, to promote the recognition of unpaid work and reduce the pay gap between women and men, to protect women against sexual harassment and violence at work and to guarantee safe and decent working conditions.⁴⁸⁵⁴

On 3 March 2021, France, together with UN Women, Mexico and civil societies announced that they will hold the Generation Equality Forum virtually in Mexico City on 29-31 March 2021.⁴⁸⁵⁵ This forum will aim to highlight the need for international economic gender equality for women and girls by providing a platform for women and Action Coalitions.⁴⁸⁵⁶ The forum will also lead to an announcement at the Paris event of commitment and announce investments into gender equality.⁴⁸⁵⁷

On 8 March 2021, the French National Standards Association, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity announced the launch an initiative intended to establish

⁴⁸⁵¹ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

⁴⁸⁵² Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁴⁸⁵³ Launch of the Initiative on the place of women in the health and care sector, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/article/lancement-de-l-initiative-sur-la-place-des-femmes-dans-le-secteur-de-la-sante>

⁴⁸⁵⁴ Launch of the Initiative on the place of women in the health and care sector, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/article/lancement-de-l-initiative-sur-la-place-des-femmes-dans-le-secteur-de-la-sante>

⁴⁸⁵⁵ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins?idiom=en&fbclid=IwAR1eqLpqvwdKojVQX7LlSeB90vlzy1k_m7tVK-XmWchA9D30q0f_zrJO5Es

⁴⁸⁵⁶ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins?idiom=en&fbclid=IwAR1eqLpqvwdKojVQX7LlSeB90vlzy1k_m7tVK-XmWchA9D30q0f_zrJO5Es

⁴⁸⁵⁷ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins?idiom=en&fbclid=IwAR1eqLpqvwdKojVQX7LlSeB90vlzy1k_m7tVK-XmWchA9D30q0f_zrJO5Es

an international standard on gender equality.⁴⁸⁵⁸ The initiative will cover the following topics: education, health and sexual reproductive rights, prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, the rights of women and girls and female economic empowerment.⁴⁸⁵⁹

On 22 March 2021, the World Health Organization announced that France co-sponsored the 65th Commission on the Status of Women Side Event, which was organized under the Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce Initiative.⁴⁸⁶⁰ The event aimed to discuss women's leadership in the healthcare sector and feasible policy interventions to ensure a more gender-equitable and representative leadership provided by women.⁴⁸⁶¹ A high-level interactive panel discussion was planned for the event to explore opportunities to advance women's leadership in the health and care workforce.⁴⁸⁶² This year's priority theme for the 65th Commission on the Status of Women is "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, sexual harassment, for achieving gender equality, public safety and for empowering all women and girls working in the public sphere."⁴⁸⁶³

On 29 to 31 March 2021, the Generation Equality Forum, organized by UN Women and co-hosted by France and Mexico, was held in Mexico City and will culminate in Paris 30 June to 2 July 2021.⁴⁸⁶⁴ The Forum aims to enhance women's leadership as countries recover from COVID-19.⁴⁸⁶⁵ It included 100 official side-events, which all revolve around the urgency and accountability for gender equality in the public sphere.⁴⁸⁶⁶

On 29 June 2021, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher will take part in a round table within the framework of the Generation Equality Forum 2021 on the theme "Beyond the Law, the Role Investment Community

⁴⁸⁵⁸ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

⁴⁸⁵⁹ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

⁴⁸⁶⁰ Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce: Enabling Women to Lead, World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/23/default-calendar/gender-equal-health-and-care-workforce-enabling-women-to-lead>

⁴⁸⁶¹ Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce: Enabling Women to Lead, World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/23/default-calendar/gender-equal-health-and-care-workforce-enabling-women-to-lead>

⁴⁸⁶² Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce: Enabling Women to Lead, World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/23/default-calendar/gender-equal-health-and-care-workforce-enabling-women-to-lead>

⁴⁸⁶³ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴⁸⁶⁴ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴⁸⁶⁵ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁴⁸⁶⁶ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

Plays in Reducing Gender Inequalities.”⁴⁸⁶⁷ This round table will be an opportunity to explore the key roles that the investment community has in promoting gender equality in France’s economy and society, more specifically, in the workforce and in the field of entrepreneurship.⁴⁸⁶⁸

On 7 July 2021, Minister Pannier-Runacher announced the roadmap for 2021-2022 at a meeting held by the Council for Gender Diversity in Industry. Besides extension of paternity leave, quotas in executive committees and implementation of representative organizations, the Council for Diversity in Industry has taken concrete actions in favor of more parity and equality in the workforce to encourage women entrepreneurship and engagement in all industries. For example, the IndustriElles Collective aims to make women’s talents and skills visible in all industries.⁴⁸⁶⁹ It also brings together all individuals who wish to contribute to the promotion of women in the industry. This 2021-2022 roadmap puts forward a publication, featuring an international version of the guide, to innovative good practices for gender diversity in companies in different types of industries. The roadmap also includes the need for reflection among industry players for a mixed representation of video games.⁴⁸⁷⁰ In terms of policies, more should be implemented to support engineering schools (Mines & Telecoms) with encouragement for applications from young women in industry and ensure their full success. New areas of work to improve gender diversity and professional equality in the industry include working with counselors and parents to encourage young girls to pursue careers. Executives also agreed to extending the commitments made by large companies on gender diversity, and subcontracting companies if needed, particularly those which employ women in a situation of invisibility.⁴⁸⁷¹

France has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as setting anti-discriminatory standards, supporting women’s leadership in workforce and hosting international forum on gender equality. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ziyi Liu

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 1 January 2021, UN Women released a report called Women in Politics: 2021, to present statistics that directly reflect the progress on women’s economic participation in Germany. According

⁴⁸⁶⁷ Round table: " Beyond the Law, the Role Investment Community Plays in Reducing Gender Inequalities", the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.
<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/table-ronde-role-communaute-investisseurs-reduction-inegalites-genre>

⁴⁸⁶⁸ Round table: " Beyond the Law, the Role Investment Community Plays in Reducing Gender Inequalities", the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.
<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/table-ronde-role-communaute-investisseurs-reduction-inegalites-genre>

⁴⁸⁶⁹ Council for gender diversity in industry: 2021-2022 roadmap (Paris) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.
<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-pour-mixite-industrie-feuille-de-route-2021-2022>

⁴⁸⁷⁰ Council for gender diversity in industry: 2021-2022 roadmap (Paris) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.
<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-pour-mixite-industrie-feuille-de-route-2021-2022>

⁴⁸⁷¹ Council for gender diversity in industry: 2021-2022 roadmap (Paris) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.
<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-pour-mixite-industrie-feuille-de-route-2021-2022>

to the report, Germany falls in the second-highest category of percentage of women in ministerial positions with around 40 per cent of women out of all minister positions.⁴⁸⁷²

On 3 January 2021, the new National Action Plan to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda was addressed in the Federal Cabinet with the goal of strengthening the participation of women in peace processes and strengthening the participation of women in crisis management.⁴⁸⁷³

On 6 January 2021, the federal government proposed the Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II. The draft law further develops and improves the Management Positions Act (FÜPoG) that came into force in 2015 by making it mandatory for certain private listed companies and public sector German businesses to include more women on their executive boards. The law came into force on 12 August 2021.⁴⁸⁷⁴

On 21 January 2021, the Federal Labour Court of Germany ruled that, the woman executive who managed a department within a public insurer in Hanover, “had earnings of EUR1,006 less per month than the median compensation, in terms of basic salaries and bonuses, of six male colleagues in comparable positions,” which was a clear indicator of gender discrimination.⁴⁸⁷⁵ “The court confirmed that the burden falls on her employer to prove that the disparity is not based on gender.”⁴⁸⁷⁶ This ruling was considered a guiding principle of the new decision on the Remuneration Transparency Act, which passed in 2017 (pay-transparency law) requiring employers to disclose male colleagues’ wages or salaries.⁴⁸⁷⁷

On 12 February 2021, the nationwide start-up agency sponsored by Germany’s Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, launched a digital series about women entrepreneurs. As a campaign to encourage and support more women in managerial positions, the series is meant to inspire and educate women entrepreneurship through career guidance and promotion of women entrepreneur role models.⁴⁸⁷⁸

On 6 March 2021, German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke about the need to defend the advances made in gender equality as the global coronavirus pandemic threatens the efforts towards removing

⁴⁸⁷² Women in Politics 2021, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (New York) March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/03/women-in-politics-map-2021>

⁴⁸⁷³ New Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Federal Cabinet, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

⁴⁸⁷⁴ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

⁴⁸⁷⁵ Top Gender Top German Labour Court Boosts Equal Pay Procedure for Women, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/top-german-labor-court-boosts-equal-pay-procedure-for-women/a-56305574>

⁴⁸⁷⁶ Top Gender Top German Labour Court Boosts Equal Pay Procedure for Women, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/top-german-labor-court-boosts-equal-pay-procedure-for-women/a-56305574>

⁴⁸⁷⁷ Information on the Law on Promotion of Pay Transparency, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 1 July 2017. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/117322/cbecce81bb4ce80ad969176e3a6b8293/das-entgelttransparenzgesetz-informationen-zum-gesetz-zur-foerderung-der-entgelttransparenz-data.pdf>

⁴⁸⁷⁸ Women can do Everything, The National Agency for Women Start-ups Activities and Services (Stuttgart) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/bga-Schwerpunkte/Pressemitteilung-Frauen-koennen-alles-10022021.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

traditional gender roles.⁴⁸⁷⁹ In an effort to reconcile this potential setback, “the chancellor said that the federal government was working on expanding childcare facilities, especially for pre-school-aged children, in order to make it easier for women to work.”⁴⁸⁸⁰ Another cause for concern that was raised by German chancellor was the gender pay gap in Germany, explaining the need for parity in all areas including wages between women and men.⁴⁸⁸¹

On 8 March 2021, the European Social Fund (ESF) Federal Program “Perspective Re-Entry” funded by the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth and the European Social Fund, launched a new month-long initiative under the motto “Strong Women” on International Women’s Day.⁴⁸⁸² The focus of the program is to promote and set an example for more social, societal and political equality between women and men through campaigns.⁴⁸⁸³ This ESF program is being implemented in cooperation with the Federal Employment Agency within the framework of the “Perspective re-entry” program.⁴⁸⁸⁴

On 10 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet decided to bring forward a new law in establishing a Federal Equality Foundation intended to promote and accelerate the necessary changes toward gender equality by finding solutions to inequality, providing a support network and increasing knowledge on issues among citizens.⁴⁸⁸⁵ “The draft law to establish the Federal Equality Foundation will be introduced to the German Bundestag at the initiative of the government parliamentary groups. After funds for the federal foundation have already been entered in the federal budget, important steps in establishing the foundation, such as the appointment of a board of directors, are to be taken this year.”⁴⁸⁸⁶ The establishment of the “Federal Equality Foundation” is a project from the Federal Government’s first inter-departmental gender equality strategy in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany.⁴⁸⁸⁷

On 8 April 2021, the Global Gender Gap Index published statistics which benchmark gender gap disparities on economic, education, health and political-based criteria. Germany ranked 11 with a score of 0.8, close to Iceland’s score of 0.87, which was ranked as number one in providing the most

⁴⁸⁷⁹ Angela Merkel calls for gender equality in face of pandemic, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/womens-day-angela-merkel-calls-for-gender-equality-in-face-of-pandemic/a-56794914>

⁴⁸⁸⁰ Angela Merkel calls for gender equality in face of pandemic, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/womens-day-angela-merkel-calls-for-gender-equality-in-face-of-pandemic/a-56794914>

⁴⁸⁸¹ Angela Merkel calls for gender equality in face of pandemic, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/womens-day-angela-merkel-calls-for-gender-equality-in-face-of-pandemic/a-56794914>

⁴⁸⁸² Perspective re-entry – unlocking potential starts the campaign Strong Women on International Women’s Day, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.perspektive-wiedereinstieg.de/Inhalte/DE/Service/Nachrichtenarchiv/perspektive_wiedereinstieg_potentiale_erschlie%C3%9Fen_startet_am_weltfrauentag_die_aktion_starke_frauen.html

⁴⁸⁸³ Perspective re-entry – unlocking potential starts the campaign Strong Women on International Women’s Day, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.perspektive-wiedereinstieg.de/Inhalte/DE/Service/Nachrichtenarchiv/perspektive_wiedereinstieg_potentiale_erschlie%C3%9Fen_startet_am_weltfrauentag_die_aktion_starke_frauen.html

⁴⁸⁸⁴ Perspective re-entry – unlocking potential starts the campaign Strong Women on International Women’s Day, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.perspektive-wiedereinstieg.de/Inhalte/DE/Service/Nachrichtenarchiv/perspektive_wiedereinstieg_potentiale_erschlie%C3%9Fen_startet_am_weltfrauentag_die_aktion_starke_frauen.html

⁴⁸⁸⁵ Minister Giffey wants to accelerate equality, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-will-gleichstellung-beschleunigen-174256>

⁴⁸⁸⁶ Minister Giffey wants to accelerate equality, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-will-gleichstellung-beschleunigen-174256>

⁴⁸⁸⁷ Minister Giffey wants to accelerate equality, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-will-gleichstellung-beschleunigen-174256>

gender equal conditions.⁴⁸⁸⁸ Germany is considered one of the countries where women are in the head-of-state positions more frequently.⁴⁸⁸⁹

On 15 April 2021, the German Bundestag approved a draft law for the establishment of the Federal Equality Foundation. The foundation will work by showing where more gender equality is needed, networking and supporting those committed to gender equality, and by discussing gender equality with citizens. The aim of the foundation is to enable women and men to lead a self-determined life so that they can develop their potential regardless of gender.⁴⁸⁹⁰

On 22 April 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel kicked off the 2021 Girls' Day event, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.⁴⁸⁹¹ Girls' Day is a large career orientation project for schoolgirls worldwide to educate and encourage girls within fields predominately pursued by males such as IT, crafts, natural sciences and technology.⁴⁸⁹² The event has allowed fellow girls to find apprenticeships or study courses that they didn't have that much knowledge about before; many girls participated in various workshops featuring meteorology, space travel, smart farming and software design.⁴⁸⁹³

On 28 May 2021, the law establishing "Bundesstiftung Gleichstellung", a federal foundation for gender equality, entered into force. In December 2020, German Bundestag (lower house of parliament) decided to set aside annual funds of five million euros in the federal budget for the establishment and operations of this foundation.⁴⁸⁹⁴ The foundation aims to bring more knowledge, action and innovation and will operate in three ways: firstly, it will show areas needing more equality and find solutions correspondingly; secondly, it serves as a network for supporting people committed to equality; thirdly, it discusses equality with citizens.⁴⁸⁹⁵

On 21 June 2021, the Bundesweite Gruenderinnenagentur, the National Agency for Women Start-ups Activities and Services, launched the National Day of Action which offered events nationwide to

⁴⁸⁸⁸ The Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum (Geneva) March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf

⁴⁸⁸⁹ The Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum (Geneva) March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf

⁴⁸⁹⁰ Bundestag resolves to establish a "Federal Equality Foundation," Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

⁴⁸⁹¹ Start of Girls' Day 2021, Girls' Day (Berlin) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.girls-day.de/fakten-zum-girls-day/rueckschau/girls-day/2021/bundeskanzlerin-angela-merkel-und-initiative-d21-eroeffnen-girls-day>

⁴⁸⁹² Start of Girls' Day 2021, Girls' Day (Berlin) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.girls-day.de/fakten-zum-girls-day/rueckschau/girls-day/2021/bundeskanzlerin-angela-merkel-und-initiative-d21-eroeffnen-girls-day>

⁴⁸⁹³ Girls' Day Kick-off in 2021 with Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel, D21 (Berlin) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://initiated21.de/girlsday-auftakt-2021-mit-bundeskanzlerin-dr-angela-merkel/>

⁴⁸⁹⁴ Law establishing the "Bundesstiftung Gleichstellung" in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021.

<https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/DE/Unternehmensnachfolge/NationalerAktionstag/nationaleraktionstag>

⁴⁸⁹⁵ Law establishing the "Bundesstiftung Gleichstellung" in force, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021.

<https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/DE/Unternehmensnachfolge/NationalerAktionstag/nationaleraktionstag>

publicize and promote female corporate success and progression throughout Germany.⁴⁸⁹⁶ The goal of this initiative was to increase the number of female company successors by sharing successful entrepreneurial case studies and skills towards self-employment by provisioning expert-led events from chambers, business development agencies and management consultancies. The National Day of Action was led by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth.⁴⁸⁹⁷

On 30 June 2021, during the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel announced EUR140 million in fresh funding for the economic empowerment of girls and women worldwide, with a specific contribution of EUR25 million by the Government of Germany to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi).⁴⁸⁹⁸ We-Fi focuses on supporting female-led businesses in developing countries by enabling entrepreneurs to access financial aid and tackle the post-Covid recovery and grow their enterprises.⁴⁸⁹⁹ With improved access to robust data, technological innovation and key skills, women entrepreneurs are able to scale, digitize and optimize their businesses.⁴⁹⁰⁰ With a goal to improve equality among women as well, We-Fi will strive to direct at least 50 per cent of its resources to programs for women-led enterprises in low-income countries and conflict-affected areas.⁴⁹⁰¹

On 2 July 2021, the Government of Germany committed to working closely with the International Planned Parenthood Federation to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health, rights and education in order to increase gender equality and peace for women globally.⁴⁹⁰² These movements will provide the right space to advance safe and inclusive measures to empower women in promoting women's rights.⁴⁹⁰³

⁴⁸⁹⁶ National Day of Action on Business Succession by Women, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

<https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/DE/Unternehmensnachfolge/NationalerAktionstag/nationaleraktionstag.html#:~:text=Nationaler%20Aktionstag%20zur%20E%20%9EUnternehmensnachfolge%20durch%20Frauen%20%9C,-Auch%20in%20diesem&text=%E2%80%9C%20bieten%20die%20Akteurinnen%20und%20Akteure,bekannt%20zu%20Machen%20und%20voranzubringen>

<https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/DE/Unternehmensnachfolge/NationalerAktionstag/nationaleraktionstag>

⁴⁸⁹⁷ National Day of Action on Business Succession by Women, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

<https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/DE/Unternehmensnachfolge/NationalerAktionstag/nationaleraktionstag.html#:~:text=Nationaler%20Aktionstag%20zur%20E%20%9EUnternehmensnachfolge%20durch%20Frauen%20%9C,-Auch%20in%20diesem&text=%E2%80%9C%20bieten%20die%20Akteurinnen%20und%20Akteure,bekannt%20zu%20Machen%20und%20voranzubringen>

⁴⁸⁹⁸ Germany steps up projects in support of women's economic participation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-support-of-womens-economic-participation-85230>

⁴⁸⁹⁹ Germany steps up projects in support of women's economic participation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-support-of-womens-economic-participation-85230>

⁴⁹⁰⁰ Germany steps up projects in support of women's economic participation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-support-of-womens-economic-participation-85230>

⁴⁹⁰¹ Germany steps up projects in support of women's economic participation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-support-of-womens-economic-participation-85230>

⁴⁹⁰² Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions launch transformative commitments for gender equality, UN Women (New York) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/7/news-gef-paris-action-coalitions-launch-commitments-for-gender-equality>

⁴⁹⁰³ Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions launch transformative commitments for gender equality, UN Women (New York) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/7/news-gef-paris-action-coalitions-launch-commitments-for-gender-equality>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as presenting statistics about domestic status quo, issuing compensations and implementing family-friendly childcare programs. Furthermore, Germany has taken action to support women's entrepreneurship through the digital series to promote women in entrepreneurship positions.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizabeth Lerman

India: 0

India has partially complied with taking steps to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 3 February 2021, Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan announced that the budget for the 2021-2022 year will include an amount of INR10,000 million for the welfare of women Tea workers and their children, particularly in Assam and West Bengal.⁴⁹⁰⁴ This will benefit approximately 623,000 women workers.⁴⁹⁰⁵

On 23 February 2021, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu stated that though the current Lok Sabha had the historically highest number of women in parliament, namely 78, they account for only 14 per cent of the total number of people in parliament and in legislatures.⁴⁹⁰⁶ He added that creating reservations for women in parliament and legislature "needs urgent attention and consensus of all political parties."⁴⁹⁰⁷

On 7 July 2021, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy hosted a webinar entitled "Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability" in partnership with the International Solar Alliance.⁴⁹⁰⁸ This webinar offered the opportunity of dialogue for bringing more women to leadership positions in the renewable energy sector and creating entrepreneurial opportunities for women.⁴⁹⁰⁹

On 23 July 2021, Department of Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan stated that the Government e-Marketplace is increasing market access to various seller groups, including women's

⁴⁹⁰⁴ Key Highlights of Union Budget 2021-2022, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1693907>

⁴⁹⁰⁵ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/?hilite=%27women%27>

⁴⁹⁰⁶ Vice President calls for ending low representation to women in Parliament and legislatures, Ministry of Finance (Hyderabad) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://vicepresidentofindia.nic.in/pressrelease/vice-president-calls-ending-low-representation-women-parliament-and-legislatures>

⁴⁹⁰⁷ Vice President calls for ending low representation to women in Parliament and legislatures, Ministry of Finance (Hyderabad) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://vicepresidentofindia.nic.in/pressrelease/vice-president-calls-ending-low-representation-women-parliament-and-legislatures>

⁴⁹⁰⁸ Webinar on "Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability," Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733498>

⁴⁹⁰⁹ Webinar on "Women in Renewable Energy and Sustainability," Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 17 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733498>

self-help groups.⁴⁹¹⁰ This policy is intended to reinforce the “Make in India,” “Atmanirbhar Bharat” and “Vocal for Local” initiatives and promote local products.⁴⁹¹¹

India has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as allocating funds and offering verbal affirmations. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Debasmita Bhattacharya

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied in its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 10 December, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection in collaboration with the UN Population Fund, Indonesia and UN Women released the Guidelines for the Protection of Women’s Rights from Discrimination and Gender-Based Violence in Pandemic Situations.⁴⁹¹² The guidelines were shared to several “ministries/agencies, local government organizations and program and service providers related to women.”⁴⁹¹³ The guidelines’ aims include the prevention of “stigma,” “discrimination,” and ensure that proper rights are granted against survivors of gender-based violence (which includes “economic empowerment”).⁴⁹¹⁴

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Law and Human Rights Yasonna H. Laoly discussed the update for the National Plan for Human Rights in a speech for World Human Rights Day.⁴⁹¹⁵ The new update serves to include concrete actions with the goal of “resolving human rights issues of vulnerable groups” including women (which is an attempt at decreasing women’s barriers to

⁴⁹¹⁰ GeM providing increasing market access to seller groups like MSEs, Women SHGs and Startups to reinforce the Make in India Initiative, Department of Commerce (Delhi) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.ibef.org/news/gem-providing-increasing-market-access-to-seller-groups-like-mses-women-shgs-and-startups-to-reinforce-the-make-in-india-initiative>

⁴⁹¹¹ GeM providing increasing market access to seller groups like MSEs, Women SHGs and Startups to reinforce the Make in India Initiative, Department of Commerce (Delhi) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.ibef.org/news/gem-providing-increasing-market-access-to-seller-groups-like-mses-women-shgs-and-startups-to-reinforce-the-make-in-india-initiative>

⁴⁹¹² A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence During the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

⁴⁹¹³ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence During the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

⁴⁹¹⁴ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence During the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

⁴⁹¹⁵ International Human Rights Day, Menkumham: Government Prepares the 5th RANHAM Focuses on Resolving Vulnerable Human Rights Issues, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/publikasi/siaran-pers/hari-ham-internasional-menkumham-pemerintah-menyusun-ranham-ke-5-fokus-menyelesaikan-isu-hak-asasi-kelompok-rentan>

economic participation).⁴⁹¹⁶ Furthermore, President Joko Widodo in a speech for World Human Rights Day also announced that the Joint Secretariat of the National Action Plan for Human Rights has finished the draft of the action plan which he hopes will be implemented in 2021.⁴⁹¹⁷ Director General of Human Rights Mualimin Abdi also stated that he hopes that the National Action Plan for Human Rights will be signed by the President “in the near future.”⁴⁹¹⁸

On 12 December 2020, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati attended a webinar entitled “Towards a Planet 50:50 Business Contribution to Achieving SDG ‘5’” hosted by Indonesia Business Coalition for Women Empowerment and the Global Reporting Initiative.⁴⁹¹⁹ In the webinar, Minister Indrawati emphasized that the Indonesian State Budget should be used to advance gender equality, which includes equality in economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹²⁰ She discussed that some barriers that women face are “social norms, cultural norms and even interpretations of religious teachings.”⁴⁹²¹ She highlighted the government’s existing efforts to help women, for instance through social assistance, like the Family Hope Program which is given almost exclusively to female heads of families.⁴⁹²² Furthermore, she emphasizes policies that support small and medium enterprises, such as the use of ultra-micro financing and small business credits for businesses that are mainly composed of and owned by women.⁴⁹²³ Furthermore, she highlighted the new initiative of Special Non-Physical Allocation Funds to protect women and children (which is a form of women’s economic empowerment).⁴⁹²⁴

⁴⁹¹⁶ International Human Rights Day, Menkumham: Government Prepares the 5th RANHAM Focuses on Resolving Vulnerable Human Rights Issues, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/publikasi/siaran-pers/hari-ham-internasional-menkumham-pemerintah-menyusun-ranham-ke-5-fokus-menylesaikan-isu-hak-asasi-kelompok-rentan>

⁴⁹¹⁷ Government is Fully Committed to Upholding Human Rights, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/berita/pemerintah-berkomitmen-penuh-dalam-penegakan-ham>

⁴⁹¹⁸ The Fifth Generation of RANHAM, Not Just a Document, is Now the Benchmark of Commitment to Implementing Human Rights, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/berita/ranham-generasi-kelima-tak-sekedar-dokumen-kini-jadi-tolok-ukur-komitmen-pelaksanaan-ham>

⁴⁹¹⁹ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perlindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

⁴⁹²⁰ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perlindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

⁴⁹²¹ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perlindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

⁴⁹²² In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perlindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

⁴⁹²³ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perlindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

⁴⁹²⁴ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perlindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection implemented the the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.⁴⁹²⁵ This program is meant to increase women’s economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁹²⁶ The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.⁴⁹²⁷

On 22 December 2020, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection hosted a virtual ceremony for Mother’s Day.⁴⁹²⁸ The ceremony aimed to empower Indonesian women. In the ceremony, Minister of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection I Gusti Ayu Bintang Darmawati emphasized that patriarchal perceptions of women in Indonesian society hinder women’s economic participation.⁴⁹²⁹ She emphasized that “equal partnerships between women and men” are essential to advance policy agendas. She also stressed that that women’s empowerment is a step toward increased economic participation by women and gender equality.⁴⁹³⁰

On 15 to 17 February 2021, Secretary General of the Ministry of Manpower Anwar Sanusi served as Co-Chair of the G20 Employment Working Group meeting.⁴⁹³¹ In the meeting, G20 leaders discussed increasing women’s economic participation and increasing “social protection for workers.”⁴⁹³² In particular, they discussed their goal of lowering women’s labour force participation gap to 25 per cent by 2025.⁴⁹³³ Secretary General Sanusi stated that in Indonesia women have a labour force participation gap of 29.28 per cent, but that he is confident that Indonesia will meet the target by 2025.⁴⁹³⁴ He asked for assistance in the form of “easy access and easy mobility to obtain

⁴⁹²⁵ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁴⁹²⁶ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁴⁹²⁷ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁴⁹²⁸ The peak of the 92nd PHI, The Importance of Gender Equality in Nation Development, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/499444/puncak-phi-ke-92-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan-bangsa>

⁴⁹²⁹ The peak of the 92nd PHI, The Importance of Gender Equality in Nation Development, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/499444/puncak-phi-ke-92-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan-bangsa>

⁴⁹³⁰ The peak of the 92nd PHI, The Importance of Gender Equality in Nation Development, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/499444/puncak-phi-ke-92-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan-bangsa>

⁴⁹³¹ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

⁴⁹³² Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

⁴⁹³³ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

⁴⁹³⁴ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

training, capital assistance, entrepreneurship development, adequate social protection and a working environment that is conducive to the ‘non-workforce’ group, especially those who take care of the household” to help increase women’s economic participation.⁴⁹³⁵

On 5 March 2021, the Strategic Plan of the Deputy for Gender Equality was signed by Deputy for Gender Equality Agustina Erni.⁴⁹³⁶ It contains “policies and strategies” to help the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection to achieve its targets as indicated in the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection’s Strategic Plan of 2020-2024, which includes women empowerment in economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹³⁷ The report also aims to “provide clarity and goals and objectives” as well as outline “outcome indicators.”⁴⁹³⁸

On 8 March 2021, the Center for Strengthening Character of the Ministry of Education and Culture hosted a webinar promoting women’s leadership and gender equality.⁴⁹³⁹ During the webinar, Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makarim identified “intolerance, sexual violence and bullying” as three barriers to women’s success.⁴⁹⁴⁰ Furthermore, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani attended the Women’s World Banking Virtual Conference entitled “Call to Action: Reaching Financial Equality for Women” in which she highlighted that a barrier that women face (in economic participation and entrepreneurship) are a lack of financial and digital literacy, as well as difficulty receiving capital from banks and other financial institutions.⁴⁹⁴¹ She emphasized Indonesia’s previous attempts in providing easier access to banks more, such as implementing interest subsidies, increased assistance to ultra-micro and small and medium enterprises and digital and financial literacy classes.⁴⁹⁴²

On 9 March 2021, Secretary General of the Ministry of Communication and Information Mira Tayyiba attended a virtual conference for the Network of Women (NOW) in the International Telecommunication Union.⁴⁹⁴³ NOW strives for gender equality leading up to the World

⁴⁹³⁵ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

⁴⁹³⁶ The Strategic Plan Deputy for Field Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/1ebd0-renstra-deputi-bidang-kg-2020-2024.pdf>

⁴⁹³⁷ The Strategic Plan Deputy for Field Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/1ebd0-renstra-deputi-bidang-kg-2020-2024.pdf>

⁴⁹³⁸ The Strategic Plan Deputy for Field Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/1ebd0-renstra-deputi-bidang-kg-2020-2024.pdf>

⁴⁹³⁹ Minister of Education and Culture: Education Must be Free of Intolerance, Sexual Violence and Bullying, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/516522/mendikbud-dunia-pendidikan-harus-bebas-intoleransi-kekerasan-seksual-dan-perundungan#>

⁴⁹⁴⁰ Minister of Education and Culture: Education Must be Free of Intolerance, Sexual Violence and Bullying, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/516522/mendikbud-dunia-pendidikan-harus-bebas-intoleransi-kekerasan-seksual-dan-perundungan#>

⁴⁹⁴¹ Minister of Finance: Covid-19 Has Severely Affected Women, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-covid-19-has-severely-affected-women/>

⁴⁹⁴² Minister of Finance: Covid-19 Has Severely Affected Women, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-covid-19-has-severely-affected-women/>

⁴⁹⁴³ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

Development Telecommunications Conference in November 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁴⁹⁴⁴ This meeting was specific to the Asia-Pacific region.⁴⁹⁴⁵ In the meeting, Secretary General of Communication and Information Mira Tayyiba acknowledged a communication and technology gap of one per cent for women's cell phone usage and a five per cent gap for internet usage.⁴⁹⁴⁶ Secretary General Tayyiba stated that she would like to see a decrease in the digital skills gap and increase participation for women in the information and technology sector.⁴⁹⁴⁷ She reaffirmed Indonesia's existing effort to reduce the gap through the "Digital Talent Scholarship Program."⁴⁹⁴⁸

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection announced that Indonesia will be hosting G20 Empower in 2022. In a meeting for the Socialization and Discussion on Preparation for G20 Empower Implementation Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga pushed for the implementation of more regional policies to empower women and decrease barriers in terms of "health, education and economy."⁴⁹⁴⁹ The District/City Office of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in Bali Province, the Indonesian Entrepreneurs Association and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also in attendance to discuss policies for women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁵⁰ Minister Puspayoga also called on the Indonesian Entrepreneurs Association to support female entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁵¹

On 14 April 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection announced the Government of Indonesia has allocated IDR101,747 billion for the Special Non-Physical Allocation Fund for Women and Child Protection Services.⁴⁹⁵² This fund was created to reduce instances of violence against women and children, improve access to services for victims of violence, as well as provide "operational assistance" through the form of legal aid, which attempts to reduce barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁵³

⁴⁹⁴⁴ NETWORK OF WOMEN (NoW), International Telecommunication Union (Geneva). Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/NoW/default.aspx>

⁴⁹⁴⁵ NETWORK OF WOMEN (NoW), International Telecommunication Union (Geneva). Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/NoW/default.aspx>

⁴⁹⁴⁶ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

⁴⁹⁴⁷ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

⁴⁹⁴⁸ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

⁴⁹⁴⁹ Minister Bintang Asks Regional Heads to make more Pro-Women Policies, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Denpasar) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3137/menteri-bintang-minta-kepala-daerah-membuat-kebijakan-berpihak-pada-perempuan>

⁴⁹⁵⁰ Minister Bintang Asks Regional Heads to make more Pro-Women Policies, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Denpasar) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3137/menteri-bintang-minta-kepala-daerah-membuat-kebijakan-berpihak-pada-perempuan>

⁴⁹⁵¹ Minister Bintang Asks Regional Heads to make more Pro-Women Policies, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Denpasar) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3137/menteri-bintang-minta-kepala-daerah-membuat-kebijakan-berpihak-pada-perempuan>

⁴⁹⁵² Minister Bintang Asks the Use of the DAK Budget to be Right on Target, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Denpasar) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3138/menteri-bintang-minta-penggunaan-anggaran-dak-tepat-sasaran>

⁴⁹⁵³ Minister Bintang Asks the Use of the DAK Budget to be Right on Target, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Denpasar) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3138/menteri-bintang-minta-penggunaan-anggaran-dak-tepat-sasaran>

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection affirmed their commitment to the protection of women and children from violence in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 65 of 2020.⁴⁹⁵⁴ It highlighted its current efforts to reduce violence against women and children, through its distribution of the Special Non-Physical Allocation Fund for Women and Child Protection Services, which is an attempt to reduce barriers for women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁵⁵ Furthermore, Minister Puspayoga attended a virtual meeting entitled “The Fruit of Raden Ajeng Kartini’s Thoughts on Creating Dignified Indonesian Women Towards an Advanced Indonesia” to discuss women’s economic empowerment.⁴⁹⁵⁶ Minister Puspayoga emphasized that women should have equal opportunities for higher education and choice of career, which are essential for women’s economic participation.⁴⁹⁵⁷

On 24 April 2021, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection affirmed their goal to increase women’s economic participation, especially in micro, small and medium enterprises.⁴⁹⁵⁸ It highlighted the importance of female employment and acknowledges that increased coordination with non-governmental agencies, local governments, community organizations and private actors is needed to ensure women’s economic participation.⁴⁹⁵⁹ Furthermore, the Ministry mentioned previous attempts to empower women through their creation of “Women Friendly and Child Care Villages.”⁴⁹⁶⁰ Furthermore, Minister Puspayoga attended the National Webinar 05 Central Board of the Prosperous Justice Party to discuss women’s empowerment and economic participation.⁴⁹⁶¹ She acknowledges that women’s participation is needed for “national economic development” and that the COVID-19 pandemic and several natural disasters has only exacerbated struggles faced by

⁴⁹⁵⁴ Improve the Scope and Quality of Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence through Special Allocation Funds, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3157/kemen-pppa-tingkatkan-cakupan-dan-kualitas-layanan-bagi-perempuan-dan-anak-korban-kekerasan-melalui-dana-alokasi-khusus-dak>

⁴⁹⁵⁵ Improve the Scope and Quality of Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence through Special Allocation Funds, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3157/kemen-pppa-tingkatkan-cakupan-dan-kualitas-layanan-bagi-perempuan-dan-anak-korban-kekerasan-melalui-dana-alokasi-khusus-dak>

⁴⁹⁵⁶ Interpreting RA Kartini’s Struggle, Women Have the Right to Take an Active Role and Develop According to Their Own Choices, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 24 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. [kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri](https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri)

⁴⁹⁵⁷ Interpreting RA Kartini’s Struggle, Women Have the Right to Take an Active Role and Develop According to Their Own Choices, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 24 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. [kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri](https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri)

⁴⁹⁵⁸ Realizing Women’s Economic Empowerment in Gender-Based MSMEs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3162/wujudkan-pemberdayaan-perkonomian-perempuan-dalam-umkm-berbasis-gender#>

⁴⁹⁵⁹ Realizing Women’s Economic Empowerment in Gender-Based MSMEs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3162/wujudkan-pemberdayaan-perkonomian-perempuan-dalam-umkm-berbasis-gender#>

⁴⁹⁶⁰ Realizing Women’s Economic Empowerment in Gender-Based MSMEs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3162/wujudkan-pemberdayaan-perkonomian-perempuan-dalam-umkm-berbasis-gender#>

⁴⁹⁶¹ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

women, especially female entrepreneurs.⁴⁹⁶² She affirmed Indonesia's commitment to empowering women in entrepreneurship as outlined in Indonesia's 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan.⁴⁹⁶³ Minister Puspayoga suggested that women should be more included in "national economic recovery."⁴⁹⁶⁴ The webinar affirmed Indonesia's commitment to "increasing women's empowerment in entrepreneurship" as outlined in the existing 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan.⁴⁹⁶⁵ Furthermore, Minister Puspayoga also emphasized that increasing women's "access and skills" to information and communication technology is essential for the empowerment of female entrepreneurs.⁴⁹⁶⁶ The webinar also discussed "data and information on the progress and challenges of Indonesian women in various fields of development," which includes economic participation.⁴⁹⁶⁷

On 28 April, Minister Puspayoga attended a virtual public meeting with the Association for the Development of Women's Resources.⁴⁹⁶⁸ During the meeting, Minister Puspayoga affirmed Indonesia's commitment to increasing women's economic participation and spoke to several women involved in local initiatives to improve women's engagement in "entrepreneurship, cooperatives and digital literacy."⁴⁹⁶⁹ Deputy for Gender Equality Lenny N. Rosalin also discussed future collaboration with "women survivors of violence, women survivors of disasters and women heads of families" to inspire other women and encourage them to participate in the economic sector.⁴⁹⁷⁰

On 26 May 2021, Minister Puspayoga affirmed Indonesia's commitment to women's economic empowerment following the ceremony handing over the chairmanship of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurship Network from Thailand to Indonesia.⁴⁹⁷¹ In particular, she supports the main goals of the women's network which include training female entrepreneurs and workers and encouraging

⁴⁹⁶² Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

⁴⁹⁶³ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

⁴⁹⁶⁴ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

⁴⁹⁶⁵ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

⁴⁹⁶⁶ Continue Kartini's Ideal, Women are Required to Be Technologically Skilled, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3163/lanjutkan-cita-cita-kartini-perempuan-dituntut-terampil-teknologi>

⁴⁹⁶⁷ Continue Kartini's Ideal, Women are Required to Be Technologically Skilled, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3163/lanjutkan-cita-cita-kartini-perempuan-dituntut-terampil-teknologi>

⁴⁹⁶⁸ Optimizing Women's Economic Participation to Improve the National Economy, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

⁴⁹⁶⁹ Optimizing Women's Economic Participation to Improve the National Economy, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

⁴⁹⁷⁰ Optimizing Women's Economic Participation to Improve the National Economy, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

⁴⁹⁷¹ The Ministry of PPPA Supports the Realization of Women's Economic Empowerment at the ASEAN Level, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3209/kemen-pppa-dukung-terwujudnya-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-tingkat-asean>

women's financial inclusion and literacy.⁴⁹⁷² This is a form of women empowerment as it promotes knowledge sharing among ASEAN nations with the purpose of encouraging women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁷³

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection and the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration held a meeting to coordinate actions for the Women Friendly Villages and Care for Children that was announced in November 2020.⁴⁹⁷⁴ The meeting discussed the metrics of success for these villages, which included "increasing women entrepreneurs in villages" and "women's representation in village structures." Minister Puspayoga also spoke with village heads to discuss possible ways to empower women through their work in micro, small and medium enterprises and tourism villages.⁴⁹⁷⁵ This meeting served as a way to empower women as it discussed methods of measuring and increasing women's participation in labour and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁷⁶

On 10 June 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection held a press release encouraging women who are victims of sexual assault to report their cases to law enforcement and seek medical assistance.⁴⁹⁷⁷ Deputy for the Protection of Women's Rights Ratna Susianawati recommended that victims of sexual assault report their case to the Regional Technical Implementation Unit for the Protection of Women and Children or the hotline Friends of Women and Children.⁴⁹⁷⁸ Deputy Susianawati emphasized that women who are victims of sexual violence should speak out despite the negative stigma that women may face. She also that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia are working on a regulation with the aim of preventing

⁴⁹⁷² The Ministry of PPPA Supports the Realization of Women's Economic Empowerment at the ASEAN Level, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3209/kemen-pppa-dukung-terwujudnya-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-tingkat-asean>

⁴⁹⁷³ The Ministry of PPPA Supports the Realization of Women's Economic Empowerment at the ASEAN Level, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3209/kemen-pppa-dukung-terwujudnya-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-tingkat-asean>

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⁴⁹⁷⁷ Kemen PPPA: Don't be Afraid, Report Sexual Violence Cases to the SAPA129 Service Hotline!, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3231/kemen-pppa-jangan-takut-laporkan-kasus-kekerasan-seksual-ke-hotline-layanan-sapa129>

⁴⁹⁷⁸ Kemen PPPA: Don't be Afraid, Report Sexual Violence Cases to the SAPA129 Service Hotline!, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3231/kemen-pppa-jangan-takut-laporkan-kasus-kekerasan-seksual-ke-hotline-layanan-sapa129>

and addressing sexual assault cases.⁴⁹⁷⁹ This press release aims to help women escape violence, which is a major barrier to women's economic participation.⁴⁹⁸⁰

On 29 June 2021, Deputy for Gender Equality at the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Lenny N Rosalin attended a virtual conference discussing sustainable development goals and women's economic empowerment.⁴⁹⁸¹ At the meeting, Deputy Rosalin emphasized the need to continue implementing its existing Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and use its Gender Responsive Budget to reduce the gender gap, specifically concerning economic participation.⁴⁹⁸²

On 21 July 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection is partnering with PT Permodalan Nasional Madani (PNM), which is a company that offers financial services.⁴⁹⁸³ They are partnering in order to facilitate "financing for underprivileged women."⁴⁹⁸⁴ This partnership is a part of PNM's Economic Empowerment Program.⁴⁹⁸⁵ At a virtual launch of the program, Minister Puspayoga acknowledged that "women's economic powerlessness" often a common factor among women who are victims of gender-based violence. Through the partnership, the Ministry also distributed information on gender equality to be distributed to human resources professionals and

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⁴⁹⁸² Encourage Gender Mainstreaming in Every SDG's Goals, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3261/dorong-pengarusutamaan-gender-di-setiap-tujuan-sdg-s>

⁴⁹⁸³ Kemen PPPA and PT PNM Increase the Capacity of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection for Human Resources Assisting in Economic Empowerment Programs, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3288/kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-tingkatkan-kapasitas-pemberdayaan-perempuan-dan-perlindungan-anak-bagi-sdm-pendamping-program-pemberdayaan-ekonomi><https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3288/kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-tingkatkan-kapasitas-pemberdayaan-perempuan-dan-perlindungan-anak-bagi-sdm-pendamping-program-pemberdayaan-ekonomi>

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customers at PNM locations. This partnership is a form of women's economic empowerment since it aims to give women economic agency.⁴⁹⁸⁶

On 26 May 2021, Minister Puspayoga affirmed Indonesia's commitment to women's economic empowerment following the ceremony handing over the chairmanship of the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurship Network from Thailand to Indonesia.⁴⁹⁸⁷ In particular, she supports the main goals of the women's network which include training female entrepreneurs and workers and encouraging women's financial inclusion and literacy. This is a form of women empowerment as it promotes knowledge sharing among ASEAN nations with the purpose of encouraging women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁸⁸

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection and the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration held a meeting to coordinate actions for the Women Friendly Villages and Care for Children that was announced in November 2020.⁴⁹⁸⁹ The meeting discussed the metrics of success for these villages, which included "increasing women entrepreneurs in villages" and "women's representation in village structures." Minister Puspayoga also spoke with village heads to discuss possible ways to empower women through their work in micro, small and medium enterprises and tourism villages.⁴⁹⁹⁰ This meeting served as a way to empower women as it discussed methods of measuring and increasing women's participation in labour and entrepreneurship.⁴⁹⁹¹

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the hotline Friends of Women and Children.⁴⁹⁹² Deputy Susianawati emphasized that women who are victims of sexual violence should speak out despite the negative stigma that women may face. She also said that the House of Representatives of Indonesia are working on a regulation with the aim of preventing and addressing sexual assault cases. This press release aims to help women escape violence, which is a major barrier to women's economic participation.⁴⁹⁹³

On 29 June 2021, Deputy Rosalin attended a virtual conference discussing sustainable development goals and women's economic empowerment.⁴⁹⁹⁴ At the meeting, Deputy Rosalin emphasized the need to continue implementing its existing Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and use its Gender Responsive Budget to reduce the gender gap, specifically concerning economic participation.⁴⁹⁹⁵

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gender-based violence.⁴⁹⁹⁹ Through the partnership, the Ministry also distributed information on gender equality to be distributed to human resources professionals and customers at PNM locations. This partnership is a form of women's economic empowerment since it aims to give women economic agency.⁵⁰⁰⁰

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection launched two training programs for women.⁵⁰⁰¹ It launched the Gender Perspective Entrepreneurship Training Program for Vulnerable Women and the Rural Women's Leadership Training Program.⁵⁰⁰² The programs aim to equip women with the tools to become leaders, with a focus on women in rural areas in order to create villages that are safe for women and children.⁵⁰⁰³ This is a form of empowering women economically, including in entrepreneurship, as it aims to give women the tools to become entrepreneurs and encourage them to take leadership roles in the workforce.⁵⁰⁰⁴ The Ministry also inaugurated the Service and Complaints Room for Friends of Women and Children which aims to provide various services to women and children experiencing violence including mental health support and paralegal services.⁵⁰⁰⁵ The creation of this room aims to help women escape violence, which is a barrier to women's economic participation.⁵⁰⁰⁶ Thus, the creation of this

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⁵⁰⁰¹ Ministry of PPPA Launches Entrepreneurship and Leadership Training for Rural Women, Encourages the Realization of Women-Friendly Villages and Cares for Children (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3325/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-pelatihan-kewirausahaan-dan-kepemimpinan-perempuan-perdesaan-dorong-terwujudnya-desa-ramah-perempuan-dan-peduli-anak>

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⁵⁰⁰⁵ Ministry of PPPA Opens Doors for Service and Complaints for Friends of Women and Children (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3324/kemen-pppa-buka-pintu-pelayanan-dan-pengaduan-sahabat-perempuan-dan-anak-sapa>

⁵⁰⁰⁶ Ministry of PPPA Opens Doors for Service and Complaints for Friends of Women and Children (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3324/kemen-pppa-buka-pintu-pelayanan-dan-pengaduan-sahabat-perempuan-dan-anak-sapa>

room is a form of women's economic empowerment as it aims to reduce barriers to women's economic participation.⁵⁰⁰⁷

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection held a meeting with Indonesia's National Commission on Women, the United Nations Population Fund Indonesia and other community organizations.⁵⁰⁰⁸ The meeting was held as a commemoration of Indonesia's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1984.⁵⁰⁰⁹ Assistant Deputy for Services for Women Victims of Violence Margareth Robin emphasized the Indonesian government's commitment to reducing instances of violence against women and helping female victims of violence.⁵⁰¹⁰ This meeting is a form of women's economic empowerment as it discussed reducing violence against women, which is a major barrier to women's economic participation.⁵⁰¹¹

On 12 August 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection launched the Sispreneur Program for Business Management Incubation.⁵⁰¹² The program was created in collaboration with PT XL Axiata, an organization that aims to educate female entrepreneurs on digital marketing to encourage women's participation in business.⁵⁰¹³ This program was created to give 1,000 female entrepreneurs expertise in management and in digital marketing.⁵⁰¹⁴ Hence, this program aims to empower women to participate in the economy and in entrepreneurship.⁵⁰¹⁵

On 14 August 2021, Minister Puspayoga attended and made opening remarks at the 2021 Kowani Fair Online Event.⁵⁰¹⁶ The event aims to encourage female owners of micro, small and medium

⁵⁰⁰⁷ Ministry of PPPA Opens Doors for Service and Complaints for Friends of Women and Children (Jakarta) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3324/kemen-pppa-buka-pintu-pelayanan-dan-pengaduan-sahabat-perempuan-dan-anak-sapa>

⁵⁰⁰⁸ 37 Years of Ratification of CEDAW, Protect and Fulfill the Rights of Women Victims of Sexual Violence! (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. [kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual](https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual)

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⁵⁰¹¹ 37 Years of Ratification of CEDAW, Protect and Fulfill the Rights of Women Victims of Sexual Violence! (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. [kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual](https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3327/37-tahun-ratifikasi-cedaw-lindungi-dan-penuhi-hak-perempuan-korban-kekerasan-seksual)

⁵⁰¹² Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

⁵⁰¹³ Sispreneur 2021, Increase Access to Digital Marketing for Women Entrepreneurs (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3342/sispreneur-2021-tingkatkan-akses-pemasaran-digital-bagi-pelaku-usaha-perempuan>

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⁵⁰¹⁶ Digitizing Women Entrepreneurs of SMEs, Encouraging National Economic Recovery During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3347/digitalisasi-perempuan-pelaku-umkm-dorong-pemulihan-ekonomi-nasional-di-masa-pandemi-covid-19>

enterprises to participate in the global digital market to support the national economy.⁵⁰¹⁷ This is a form of women's empowerment in entrepreneurship and the economy as it encourages female entrepreneurs to expand and contribute to Indonesia's economic recovery.⁵⁰¹⁸

On 26 August 2021, Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga attended the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment.⁵⁰¹⁹ The conference highlighted the need to empower women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and decrease the gender gap in financial and digital literacy. This conference is a form of women's economic empowerment as its aim is to support women in various sectors of the economy.⁵⁰²⁰

On 7 September 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection collaborated with e-commerce company Tokopedia to create a virtual training program for women. The training program would help women create an online business using the Tokopedia website.⁵⁰²¹ This program promotes women empowerment and entrepreneurship as it aims to give equip women with the knowledge to become entrepreneurs and become active members of the labour force.⁵⁰²²

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to removing barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through virtual conferences and webinars acknowledging these gender-based barriers and affirming support. Indonesia has also promoted women's engagement and success in entrepreneurship since the particular topics were covered extensively during the aforementioned discussions.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Veronique Nuqui

⁵⁰¹⁷ Digitizing Women Entrepreneurs of SMEs, Encouraging National Economic Recovery During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3347/digitalisasi-perempuan-pelaku-umkm-dorong-pemulihan-ekonomi-nasional-di-masa-pandemi-covid-19>

⁵⁰¹⁸ Digitizing Women Entrepreneurs of SMEs, Encouraging National Economic Recovery During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3347/digitalisasi-perempuan-pelaku-umkm-dorong-pemulihan-ekonomi-nasional-di-masa-pandemi-covid-19>

⁵⁰¹⁹ Attending G20 Women's Empowerment, Minister Bintang: Strengthening Commitment to Realizing Gender Equality in the Fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (Jakarta) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3363/hadiri-g20-women-s-empowerment-menteri-bintang-perkuat-komitmen-wujudkan-kesetaraan-gender-di-bidang-ilmu-pengetahuan-teknologi-teknik-dan-matematika>

⁵⁰²⁰ Attending G20 Women's Empowerment, Minister Bintang: Strengthening Commitment to Realizing Gender Equality in the Fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (Jakarta) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3363/hadiri-g20-women-s-empowerment-menteri-bintang-perkuat-komitmen-wujudkan-kesetaraan-gender-di-bidang-ilmu-pengetahuan-teknologi-teknik-dan-matematika>

⁵⁰²¹ Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment, Kemen PPPA Held Online Business Training for MSME Women with Tokopedia (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3379/perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-kemen-pppa-gelar-pelatihan-bisnis-online-bagi-perempuan-umkm-bersama-tokopedia>

⁵⁰²² Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment, Kemen PPPA Held Online Business Training for MSME Women with Tokopedia (Jakarta) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3379/perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-kemen-pppa-gelar-pelatihan-bisnis-online-bagi-perempuan-umkm-bersama-tokopedia>

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 29 January 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced that it will be holding its first two-day long meeting for the Employment Working Group of 2021 on 15 February 2021.⁵⁰²³ The meeting aims to discuss two of the three themes relating to work and social policies; female employment and the strengthening of social protection systems.⁵⁰²⁴ In particular, “the promotion of quality job opportunities for women, the reduction of the pay gap and the creation of a favourable environment for female entrepreneurship.”⁵⁰²⁵ This meeting is being held in order to invite members of the group to express their opinions and form proposals for the final documents that will be presented at the summit of the Ministers of Labor and Social policies on 23 June 2021, in Catania.⁵⁰²⁶

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP).⁵⁰²⁷ The RRP aims to define actions and interventions through the mobilization of EUR300 billion, in order to overcome the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁰²⁸ Almost half a million jobs were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic and of those 70 per cent were held by women.⁵⁰²⁹ The RRP will focus on kickstarting Italy's economy and increasing growth and employment rates while simultaneously paying close attention to gender inequality.⁵⁰³⁰

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Italy attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Russia, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵⁰³¹

On 23 February 2021, INPS announced clarifications to their 2021 Budget Law.⁵⁰³² The law aims to provide employers with a monetary benefit of up to EUR6,000 as an incentive to hire disadvantaged workers.⁵⁰³³ This includes “women at least 50 years of age and unemployed for over 12 months; women of any age, residing in regions eligible for funding under the structural funds of the European Union who have not been in regular paid employment for at least 6 months; women of any age who

⁵⁰²³ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

⁵⁰²⁴ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

⁵⁰²⁵ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

⁵⁰²⁶ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

⁵⁰²⁷ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

⁵⁰²⁸ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

⁵⁰²⁹ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

⁵⁰³⁰ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

⁵⁰³¹ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike-/](https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/)

⁵⁰³² Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

⁵⁰³³ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

carry out professions or work activities in economic sectors characterized by a marked employment disparity by gender and who have not been in regularly paid employment for at least 6 months; women of any age, resident everywhere and without regular paid employment for at least 24 months.”⁵⁰³⁴ The INPS recognizes incentivized employment relationships such as “fixed term hiring; permanent hiring; and permanent transformations of a previous facilitated relationship.”⁵⁰³⁵

On 8 April 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando met with the National Councillor for Equality, Francesca Bagni Cipriani to address the issue of female employment.⁵⁰³⁶

On 23 April 2021, Minister Orlando sent a letter to the Ministry inviting them to take the appropriate action to ensure the widest participation of women in the governing bodies of institutions and representative assemblies.⁵⁰³⁷

On 7 May 2021, President Mario Draghi spoke at the Porto Social Summit and announced the investment of EUR6 billion to the Employment and Skills Program as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan.⁵⁰³⁸ This program is designed to “train and retrain those who need to change jobs or are in search of their first occupation,” and help reduce the gender employment gap and inequity.⁵⁰³⁹

On 22 June 2021, the Ministers of Education and Labor met in a joint session and adopted the final Declaration of the G20 Labor Ministers.⁵⁰⁴⁰ The Italian Presidency has three main themes: “female employment and gender disparities in the labor market, adaptation of social protection systems to changes taking place, regulation of increasingly widespread forms of work such as remote and digital platforms.”⁵⁰⁴¹ The goal is to reduce the gender wage gap, increase female participation by 25 per cent by 2050, promote social protection, and combat gender stereotypes.⁵⁰⁴²

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development outlined the pillars of the 2021 Italian Presidency. The Italian Presidency will focus on a quick recovery from the pandemic that addresses

⁵⁰³⁴ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

⁵⁰³⁵ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

⁵⁰³⁶ Minister Orlando meets National Councillor for Equality, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Ministro-Orlando-incontra-Consigliera-Nazionale-di-Parita.aspx>

⁵⁰³⁷ Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

⁵⁰³⁸ Porto Social Summit, L'intervento del Presidente Draghi alla tavola rotonda “Employment and Jobs”, Ministry and Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/porto-social-summit-lintervento-del-presidente-draghi-alla-tavola-rotonda-employment-and>

⁵⁰³⁹ Porto Social Summit, L'intervento del Presidente Draghi alla tavola rotonda “Employment and Jobs”, Ministry and Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/porto-social-summit-lintervento-del-presidente-draghi-alla-tavola-rotonda-employment-and>

⁵⁰⁴⁰ G20: summary Final declaration by the Labor Ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/G20-sintesi-Dichiarazione-finale-dei-Ministri-del-Lavoro.aspx>

⁵⁰⁴¹ G20: summary Final declaration by the Labor Ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/G20-sintesi-Dichiarazione-finale-dei-Ministri-del-Lavoro.aspx>

⁵⁰⁴² G20: summary Final declaration by the Labor Ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/G20-sintesi-Dichiarazione-finale-dei-Ministri-del-Lavoro.aspx>

peoples needs. They aim to focus on “reducing inequalities, on women’s empowerment, on the younger generations and on protecting the most vulnerable.”⁵⁰⁴³

On 26 August 2021, President Mario Draghi spoke at the G20 Conference on Women’s Empowerment. President Draghi highlighted during this conference Italy’s efforts in June 2021 to reduce gender gaps in the labour force participation by 25 per cent by 2025. The president also stated that Italy has, “taken concrete measures to improve the position of women in the world of work, promote their emancipation and remove the obstacles that hamper their careers.”⁵⁰⁴⁴

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as allocating funds and designing policies to promote female employment. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Amanda Morana

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Japan attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Argentina, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵⁰⁴⁵

On 19 March 2021, Minister of State for Gender Equality Marukawa Tamayo issued a statement on behalf of Japan at the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion.⁵⁰⁴⁶ She announced new targets to the plan for gender equality, which Japan formulated last year based on the Basic Act in light of the Beijing Declaration.⁵⁰⁴⁷ She stated Japan’s intention to address gender-based disparities by 2030 through implementing measures to increase the proportion

⁵⁰⁴³ G20 – Italian Presidency, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/g20-en/g20-italian-presidency>

⁵⁰⁴⁴ Message from President Draghi at the opening of the G20 Conference on Women’s Empowerment, Italian Government Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 26 August 2021. Access Date 8 September 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/messaggio-del-presidente-draghi-apertura-del-g20-conference-women-s-empowerment/17736>

⁵⁰⁴⁵ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁵⁰⁴⁶ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women’s Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

⁵⁰⁴⁷ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women’s Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

of women in leadership positions to 30 per cent of all.⁵⁰⁴⁸ She also voiced support for victims of violence based on gender as well as intention to eliminate all kinds of violence against women.⁵⁰⁴⁹ Additionally, she echoed the UN's emphasis on women and girls amid global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and promised ongoing international cooperation for gender equality.⁵⁰⁵⁰

On 1 April 2021, Japan provided USD1.9 million to the United Nations Women's Safe and Prosperous District Programme. This funding focuses on protecting women's livelihoods in Papua New Guinea that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁰⁵¹ This programme aims to improve working conditions in Tari, Wewak and Alotau markets by increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities as well as security services.⁵⁰⁵² This programme also plans to increase access to financial tools for market vendors in recognition that over 60 per cent of market vendors who are women in Papua New Guinea.⁵⁰⁵³ This programme will focus on promoting digital financial tools and on training women in various different trades to access new economic opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁰⁵⁴

On 9 June 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) made a joint announcement with development finance institutions on the occasion of the G7 leaders' summit, which set a new goal of USD15 billion to be mobilized over 2021 and 2022 as a new phase of initiative called the G7 2X challenge: Financing for Women.⁵⁰⁵⁵ JICA aims to strengthen its cooperation with 2X member

⁵⁰⁴⁸ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

⁵⁰⁴⁹ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

⁵⁰⁵⁰ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

⁵⁰⁵¹ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁵⁰⁵² Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁵⁰⁵³ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁵⁰⁵⁴ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁵⁰⁵⁵ Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html

organizations in order to provide women access to employment, teach women to build resilient businesses, and help women manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁰⁵⁶

On 25 August 2021, JICA signed a USD50 million loan agreement with the Northern Arc Capital to fund non-bank financial entities that support financial services to women in India.⁵⁰⁵⁷ This loan will be co-financed with the United States International Development Finance Corporation and is implemented in support of the G7 2X Challenge: Finance for Women.⁵⁰⁵⁸ This initiative aims to improve Indian women's access to finance and ensure sustainable economic growth in India.⁵⁰⁵⁹

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as verbal affirmation and announcement of future policies to promote female economic empowerment. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nika Asgari

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.⁵⁰⁶⁰ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁰⁶¹ The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.⁵⁰⁶²

⁵⁰⁵⁶ Setting the new goal of \$15 billion for gender lens investment through a "2X Challenge: Financing for Women" initiative together with the development finance institutions of the G7 nations and others, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210623_41_en.html

⁵⁰⁵⁷ Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html

⁵⁰⁵⁸ Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html

⁵⁰⁵⁹ Signing a loan agreement for the "women's financial inclusion facility" in India (Private Sector Investment Finance): Improving women's access to finance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210831_10e.html

⁵⁰⁶⁰ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁵⁰⁶¹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

⁵⁰⁶² Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

On 19 January 2021, MOGEF enacted the “Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5 per cent,” which is a multi-policy program that makes childcare services more accessible and provides support to households requiring childcare services.⁵⁰⁶³ The objective of this program is to alleviate many households’ childcare burden (whereof, given that the childcare burden tends to primarily fall onto women, this program allows for many women to put more effort into involving themselves in the economy).⁵⁰⁶⁴

On 2 February 2021, MOGEF announced, through their 2021 Report on government business, “MOGEF’s Major business plan 2021,” which is a multi-action four section plan created to enhance women’s status in Korea overall.⁵⁰⁶⁵ Section one of the plan, “[Equality for All] Realizing a gender equality society,” provides three policy initiatives which all work towards improving women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.⁵⁰⁶⁶ The first policy initiative works to promote women’s employment in stable well paying positions, especially through the payment of the “Saeil employment subsidy” (KRW800,000) to employers hiring women as regular employees (after six months).⁵⁰⁶⁷ The second policy works to fight gender-based discrimination factors in “major policies” related to education, culture, welfare and employment.⁵⁰⁶⁸ Additionally, this policy initiative enhances the effects of gender equality systems including the launch of the Gender Awareness Budget Committee.⁵⁰⁶⁹ The third policy establishes a “foothold-type gender equality center” in Busan which serves to promote gender equality culture to the public.⁵⁰⁷⁰ The goals of these three policy initiatives are to promote women’s employment and create an employment culture of gender equality.⁵⁰⁷¹

On 18 February 2021, the Gender Equality Committee of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family finalized the “National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325,” which is a six-section plan created to improve women’s well-being, economic status and economic participation in Korea.⁵⁰⁷² Sections one to four and six are relevant to this report. Section one improves the cultural status of women, especially regarding the cultural status of women in the economy.⁵⁰⁷³ Section two has businesses directly employ women who are either currently working as interns or are not working at all. Section

⁵⁰⁶³ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%p, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021 http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707536

⁵⁰⁶⁴ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%p, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021 http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707536

⁵⁰⁶⁵ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁶⁶ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁶⁷ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁶⁸ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁶⁹ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁷⁰ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁷¹ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707549

⁵⁰⁷² Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707607

⁵⁰⁷³ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbtSn=707607

three promotes women working in public government enterprises to “higher-up positions.”⁵⁰⁷⁴ Section four expands childcare infrastructure to aid those individuals who take care of children (traditionally women), providing such individuals with more time to involve themselves in the economy.⁵⁰⁷⁵ Section six calls for the establishment of “local gender equality centers to...foster a gender equality atmosphere,” a 2021 gender equality status survey to be taken and for the execution of all the aforementioned policy programs.⁵⁰⁷⁶ The objective of all of these aforementioned programs is to promote women’s cultural status and employment status in the economy.⁵⁰⁷⁷

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Korea attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Argentina, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵⁰⁷⁸

On 2 March 2021, the Budget Office, Budget Policy Division of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, formalized additions to Korea’s 2021 Budget.⁵⁰⁷⁹ Among these additions were KRW2.1 trillion allocated to “help create jobs for young adults, middle-aged and women” and KRW0.2 trillion allocated to “Promote demand-driven job training and provide job seeker services for young adults and women.”⁵⁰⁸⁰ The goal of such additions is to, among other goals, promote women’s involvement in the economy, especially in light of the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on women’s employment.⁵⁰⁸¹

On 4 March 2021, MOGEF enacted “Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs,” which seeks to enhance the economic status of women in Korea through a five-point plan.⁵⁰⁸² Point one is expected to create 780,000 jobs for women.⁵⁰⁸³ Point two aids women who are actively seeking jobs

⁵⁰⁷⁴ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁵⁰⁷⁵ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁵⁰⁷⁶ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁵⁰⁷⁷ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

⁵⁰⁷⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁵⁰⁷⁹ 2021 Supplementary Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5080>

⁵⁰⁸⁰ 2021 Supplementary Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5080>

⁵⁰⁸¹ 2021 Supplementary Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5080>

⁵⁰⁸² Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁵⁰⁸³ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

and/or are actively trying to start up new businesses.⁵⁰⁸⁴ Point three helps those with childcare difficulties (mainly women) find or regain and secure job opportunities.⁵⁰⁸⁵ Point four reduces gender disparities in the workplace and enhances women's status in the labor force.⁵⁰⁸⁶ Point five strengthens government agencies that aid women in pursuing and securing good employment opportunities.⁵⁰⁸⁷ The goal of this program is to make the economy more equitable for women and, especially considering the disproportionately negative effect that COVID-19 has had on women's economic opportunities, help those women who have faced (and continue to face) employment difficulties due to COVID-19 return to work.⁵⁰⁸⁸

On 25 March 2021, the Budget Office, Budget Policy Division of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, put into law the aforementioned additions to Korea's 2021 Budget.⁵⁰⁸⁹

On 26 April 2021, MOGEF enacted "2025 Families Shoulder To Shoulder," which is a multi-point multi-year plan to improve the well-being of families and women in Korea.⁵⁰⁹⁰ This plan includes within it many initiatives which, although they are not explicitly designated as programs which improve the economic status of women in Korea, end up consequently improving the economic status of women in Korea. These initiatives include combatting discriminatory expressions in government publications (creating a more equitable socio-economic climate for women which does force them into the role of homemaker), "lowering the bar concerning the age bracket (from 24 to 34) eligible for additional childcare expense paid to single-parent families" (dominated by women, providing women with a greater amount of financial support, thus increasing women's economic opportunities), expanding childcare support services for single-parent families "with low income, disabled parents/children, etc." (dominated by women, relieving many economically marginalized women of some childcare pressures, thus increasing their overall economic opportunities) and expanding maternity leave eligibility "from wage earners to all workers" (expanding economic support for women who were previously ineligible for maternity leave).⁵⁰⁹¹ The goal of this program is to relieve families, especially single-parent families (which are dominated by women), of many of

⁵⁰⁸⁴ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁵⁰⁸⁵ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁵⁰⁸⁶ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁵⁰⁸⁷ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁵⁰⁸⁸ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

⁵⁰⁸⁹ 2021 Supplementary Budget Passed, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5094>

⁵⁰⁹⁰ 2025 Families shoulder to shoulder We will strive to build "a society wherein all families and their members are respected," Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707760

⁵⁰⁹¹ 2025 Families shoulder to shoulder We will strive to build "a society wherein all families and their members are respected," Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707760

the challenges they currently face, especially in relation to childcare (which are, at their core, economic issues).⁵⁰⁹²

On 28 April 2021, the MOGEF, jointly with the Embassy of Finland in Seoul, held a panel discussion on the enhancement of gender equality in the technical field.⁵⁰⁹³ At this panel, Minister Chung Young-ai vowed that the Ministry will “strive to work together with the international community regarding the need for better gender equality in daily life, which can be achieved through technological innovation where gender awareness is reflected.”⁵⁰⁹⁴ The purpose of this panel was to see how the governments of both Korea and Finland could work to enhance the economic opportunities that women have in the technical field.⁵⁰⁹⁵

On 8 June 2021, the MOGEF enacted “Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families,” which is a multi-point plan to legally aid those individuals in need of child support (mainly single-mothers) through improving child support enforcement procedures, imposing stronger restrictions of default on child support obligations and expanding support for emergency assistance for temporary child support and child support-related assistance.⁵⁰⁹⁶ The goal of this plan is to provide additional support to those individuals in need of child support, mainly women and children (improving women’s economic opportunities by extension in that increased child support means increased economic freedom for many single-mothers).⁵⁰⁹⁷

On 23 June 2021, the MOGEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN to establish the “UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality.”⁵⁰⁹⁸ This centre will serve to “achieve the common objectives of enhancing gender equality including protection of women’s human rights and strengthening of women’s capability” (including in the economic arena).⁵⁰⁹⁹

On 1 July 2021, the Budget Office, Budget Policy Division of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, formalized its second round of additions to Korea’s 2021 Budget.⁵¹⁰⁰ Among these additions was

⁵⁰⁹² 2025 Families shoulder to shoulder We will strive to build “a society wherein all families and their members are respected,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707760

⁵⁰⁹³ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field “Women in Tech” under the co-sponsorship of MOGEF and Embassy of Finland in Seoul (April 28), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707767

⁵⁰⁹⁴ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field “Women in Tech” under the co-sponsorship of MOGEF and Embassy of Finland in Seoul (April 28), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707767

⁵⁰⁹⁵ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field “Women in Tech” under the co-sponsorship of MOGEF and Embassy of Finland in Seoul (April 28), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707767

⁵⁰⁹⁶ Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869

⁵⁰⁹⁷ Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869

⁵⁰⁹⁸ UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896

⁵⁰⁹⁹ UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896

⁵¹⁰⁰ 2nd Supplementary Budget Proposal of 2021, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5165>

KRW2.1 trillion allocated to support “disabled, teen parents and people with bad credit”.⁵¹⁰¹ The goal of this addition is to, among other goals, financially support teen parents (many of whom are women), thus providing them with more economic opportunities in general.⁵¹⁰²

On 6 July 2021, the MOGEF amended the Sexual Violence Prevention Act (set to take force on 13 July 2021) to include a section which obligates individuals to inform the MOGEF of a sexual violence case in the public sector “immediately” (with there being penalties for failing to do so).⁵¹⁰³ The Ministry created this amendment to try to root out sexual violence within the public sector, thus allowing for an environment where individuals marginalized by sexual violence (mainly women) do not feel a risk (allowing for them to pursue more opportunities within the public sector).⁵¹⁰⁴

On 6 July 2021, the MOGEF amended the Enforcement Decree of the Act on Enforcing and Supporting Child Support Payment to include new punishments for those individuals who willfully default on their child support obligations (including, but not limited to, the suspension of defaulters drivers licences).⁵¹⁰⁵ The Ministry created this amendment to try to further disincentivize individuals from defaulting on their child support obligations, meaning that those individuals who are entitled to child support (mainly women) are more likely to receive that support (improving women’s economic opportunities by extension in that a reliable stream of child support means increased economic freedom for many single-mothers).⁵¹⁰⁶

On 9 July 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published its Economic Policies for the H2 2021.⁵¹⁰⁷ Within this document, the Ministry declared that it will “Seek Inclusive Recovery” and “work to narrow gaps in income, education and childcare.”⁵¹⁰⁸ Narrowing this gap of income, education and childcare between men and women will provide women with more economic opportunities by increasing women’s income and education, and by balancing out childcare obligations between men and women.⁵¹⁰⁹

⁵¹⁰¹ 2nd Supplementary Budget Proposal of 2021, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5165>

⁵¹⁰² 2nd Supplementary Budget Proposal of 2021, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5165>

⁵¹⁰³ You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector ‘immediately’. Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707926

⁵¹⁰⁴ You must inform Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of a sexual violence case in the public sector ‘immediately’. Failure to give information on a sexual violence case perpetrated through abuse of occupational authority is subject to punishment, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707926

⁵¹⁰⁵ Measures against willful defaulters on child support obligation: suspension of driver’s license, departure prohibition, and disclosure of list, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707925

⁵¹⁰⁶ Measures against willful defaulters on child support obligation: suspension of driver’s license, departure prohibition, and disclosure of list, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707925

⁵¹⁰⁷ Economic Policies for the H2 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20210709_policyFocus/popup.html

⁵¹⁰⁸ Economic Policies for the H2 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20210709_policyFocus/popup.html

⁵¹⁰⁹ Economic Policies for the H2 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20210709_policyFocus/popup.html

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance enacted their 2021 Tax Revision Bill.⁵¹¹⁰ Within this bill, the Ministry declares that it will “pursue inclusive growth” through measures such as easing the requirement for a tax reduction of up to 30 per cent of labour costs given to companies hiring women who seek reemployment.⁵¹¹¹ Such tax initiatives which economically benefit women will improve womens’ overall economic prospects in Korea.⁵¹¹²

On 28 July 2021, the 3rd Population Policy Taskforce released their third assignment which will work to “prepare for the country’s demographic challenges.”⁵¹¹³ More specifically, they declared their primary goal to be “finding ways to increase women’s participation in the labour market.⁵¹¹⁴ The 3rd population policy taskforce seeks to do this through measures such as increasing social security benefits for single-person households and creating work environments “in which women keep jobs and at the same time [are able to] take care of their families [if needed].”⁵¹¹⁵ Such measures aim to increase womens’ participation in the labour market, thus increasing their economic autonomy overall.⁵¹¹⁶

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance proposed their 2022 Budget.⁵¹¹⁷ Among other programs, this budget proposes that internship opportunities be offered to as many as 8000 women seeking reemployment.⁵¹¹⁸ Such a program would provide those reemployed women with an opportunity to improve their economic status in society.⁵¹¹⁹

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as allocating funds in the annual budget and implementing family-friendly childcare programs. Furthermore, Korea has invested in programs that support women trying to start their own businesses.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ethan Ullmann

⁵¹¹⁰ 2021 Tax Revision Bill, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5177>

⁵¹¹¹ 2021 Tax Revision Bill, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5177>

⁵¹¹² 2021 Tax Revision Bill, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5177>

⁵¹¹³ 3rd TF to Work on Boosting Women’s Participation in Labor Market, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5205>

⁵¹¹⁴ 3rd TF to Work on Boosting Women’s Participation in Labor Market, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5205>

⁵¹¹⁵ 3rd TF to Work on Boosting Women’s Participation in Labor Market, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5205>

⁵¹¹⁶ 3rd TF to Work on Boosting Women’s Participation in Labor Market, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5205>

⁵¹¹⁷ 2022 Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5200>

⁵¹¹⁸ 2022 Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5200>

⁵¹¹⁹ 2022 Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5200>

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 11 December 2020, President López Obrador signed the Presidential Declaration of the Pacific Alliance on Gender Equality at the Summit of the Pacific Alliance.⁵¹²⁰ The goal of this agreement is to eliminate barriers which prevent women from gaining access to capital and loans, provide aid to ensure gender equality in the workplace, promote women in decision making and increase the proportion of women with science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees.⁵¹²¹

On 28 January 2021, Interior Secretary Olga Sanchez Cordero highlighted in a press release highlighted her gender-focused policy goals.⁵¹²² These goals included reducing violence against women and promoting peacebuilding panels throughout the country to determine how women can get access to resources and opportunities.⁵¹²³

On 8 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy opened applications for the Financial Support Programs for Family Micro Enterprises or "Credit to the World."⁵¹²⁴ This program will grant 20,000 support grants of MXN25,000 each to female business owners.⁵¹²⁵ The goal of this commitment is to re-establish those micro-enterprises affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵¹²⁶

On 18 February 2021, the Institute of Mexicans Abroad held a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America."⁵¹²⁷ During this event, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Alicia Bárcena discussed a proposal for including domestic workers

⁵¹²⁰ President López Obrador participates in XV Summit of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/president-lopez-obrador-participates-in-xv-summit-of-the-pacific-alliance>

⁵¹²¹ President López Obrador participates in XV Summit of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/president-lopez-obrador-participates-in-xv-summit-of-the-pacific-alliance>

⁵¹²² In Mexico, there is a government of historic change and transformation: Olga Sánchez Cordero, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/in-mexico-there-is-a-government-of-historic-change-and-transformation-olga-sanchez-cordero>

⁵¹²³ In Mexico, there is a government of historic change and transformation: Olga Sánchez Cordero, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/in-mexico-there-is-a-government-of-historic-change-and-transformation-olga-sanchez-cordero>

⁵¹²⁴ Start receiving applications for the Financial Support Program for Family Microenterprises (Credit to the World) 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/inicia-recepcion-de-solicitudes-para-el-programa-de-apoyo-financiero-para-microempresas-familiares-credito-a-la-palabra-2021>

⁵¹²⁵ Start receiving applications for the Financial Support Program for Family Microenterprises (Credit to the World) 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/inicia-recepcion-de-solicitudes-para-el-programa-de-apoyo-financiero-para-microempresas-familiares-credito-a-la-palabra-2021>

⁵¹²⁶ Start receiving applications for the Financial Support Program for Family Microenterprises (Credit to the World) 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/inicia-recepcion-de-solicitudes-para-el-programa-de-apoyo-financiero-para-microempresas-familiares-credito-a-la-palabra-2021>

⁵¹²⁷ The Institute of Mexicans Abroad holds a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America," The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-institute-of-mexicans-abroad-holds-a-conversation-on-mexican-women-in-latin-america>

as a priority group for the COVID-19 vaccinations.⁵¹²⁸ She also proposed providing emergency income for women forced out of work because of the pandemic.⁵¹²⁹

On 2 March 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano ran the first meeting of the Gender Links Network.⁵¹³⁰ During the event, various high position government officials highlighted the need to advance gender-equality and allow women to “break the glass ceiling” and “unstuck themselves from the sticky floor.”⁵¹³¹ The aim of the Gender Links Network meeting is to promote international cooperation, women’s equality and empowerment.⁵¹³²

On 3 March 2021, Mexico, together with UN Women, France and civil societies announced that they will hold the Generation Equality Forum virtually in Mexico City on 29-31 March 2021.⁵¹³³ This forum will aim to highlight the need for international economic gender equality for women and girls by providing a platform for women and Action Coalitions.⁵¹³⁴ The forum will also lead to an announcement at the Paris event of commitment and announce investments into gender equality.⁵¹³⁵

On 29 to 31 March 2021, the Generation Equality Forum, organized by UN Women and co-hosted by Mexico and France, was held in Mexico City and will culminate in Paris 30 June to 2 July 2021.⁵¹³⁶ The Forum aims to enhance women’s leadership as countries recover from COVID-19.⁵¹³⁷ It included 100 official side-events, which all revolve around the urgency and accountability for gender equality in the public sphere.⁵¹³⁸

⁵¹²⁸ The Institute of Mexicans Abroad holds a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America," The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-institute-of-mexicans-abroad-holds-a-conversation-on-mexican-women-in-latin-america>

⁵¹²⁹ The Institute of Mexicans Abroad holds a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America," The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-institute-of-mexicans-abroad-holds-a-conversation-on-mexican-women-in-latin-america>

⁵¹³⁰ First Meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021>

⁵¹³¹ First Meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021>

⁵¹³² First Meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021>

⁵¹³³ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

⁵¹³⁴ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

⁵¹³⁵ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

⁵¹³⁶ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁵¹³⁷ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

⁵¹³⁸ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

On 28 April 2021, Mexico and the Inter-American Development Bank held a virtual meeting of businesswomen of the Pacific Alliance.⁵¹³⁹ The meeting consisted of discussions about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesswomen and recognize and overcome the barrier to the autonomy and empowerment of female businesses.⁵¹⁴⁰ Over 200 people including businesswomen and policy makers attended the panel-based discussion.⁵¹⁴¹

On 23 June 2021, Mexico reaffirmed its commitment to women's empowerment at a webinar on the local economic empowerment of women in the Pacific Alliance on Gender Equality.⁵¹⁴² The forum was held by the Foreign and Economy Ministries, the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES), and the Mexican Association of Economic Development Secretaries.⁵¹⁴³ During the event, the Foreign Ministry's director-general of Political Affairs Ximena Escodo said that "eliminating gender inequality by 2030 is the main challenge" and called to local governments to aid in reducing gender inequality.⁵¹⁴⁴

On 15 July 2021, Mexico adopted the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Ministerial Declaration.⁵¹⁴⁵ The amendments in the declaration include calls to a gender-focused response to COVID-19, such as "the leadership and full, effective and equal participation of women in decision-making."⁵¹⁴⁶

On 26 August 2021, INMUJERES held a meeting of "governors, federal and local deputies, municipal presidents and mayors elected in 2021" with the purpose of creating an agenda with concrete commitments to "close inequality gaps."⁵¹⁴⁷ The agenda included the promotion of "effective and equal" female participation in decision making across the political, social, community and private spheres; and the provision of tools to promote women's economic independence.⁵¹⁴⁸

⁵¹³⁹ Virtual Meeting of Business Women of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/es/articulos/encuentro-virtual-de-mujeres-empresarias-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-270841>

⁵¹⁴⁰ Virtual Meeting of Business Women of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/es/articulos/encuentro-virtual-de-mujeres-empresarias-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-270841>

⁵¹⁴¹ Virtual Meeting of Business Women of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/es/articulos/encuentro-virtual-de-mujeres-empresarias-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-270841>

⁵¹⁴² The Mexican government reaffirms its commitment to women's empowerment, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-mexican-government-reaffirms-its-commitment-to-women-s-empowerment?tab=>

⁵¹⁴³ The Mexican government reaffirms its commitment to women's empowerment, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-mexican-government-reaffirms-its-commitment-to-women-s-empowerment?tab=>

⁵¹⁴⁴ The Mexican government reaffirms its commitment to women's empowerment, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-mexican-government-reaffirms-its-commitment-to-women-s-empowerment?tab=>

⁵¹⁴⁵ 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration Adopted by Acclamation, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/2021-hlpf-ministerial-declaration-adopted-by-acclamation/>

⁵¹⁴⁶ 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration Adopted by Acclamation, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/2021-hlpf-ministerial-declaration-adopted-by-acclamation/>

⁵¹⁴⁷ Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

⁵¹⁴⁸ Commitments to the equality and wellbeing of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/compromisos-por-la-igualdad-y-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres?idiom=es>

On 7 September 2021, the Supreme Court struck down a law from the State of Coahuila which punished those who performed and received abortions with one to three years of prison.⁵¹⁴⁹ The ruling was unanimous and resulted in the declaration that the criminalization of abortion would be unconstitutional.⁵¹⁵⁰

On 13 September 2021, Mexico included the “gender perspective” in the income policy of the Economic Package 2022 and made an investment of more than MXN232 billion in Annex 13 “Expenditures for Equality between Women and Men.”⁵¹⁵¹ In total, the expenditures for equality include 12 priority programs of the Government of the Fourth Transformation and 21 strategic programs to promote gender equality and women's human rights.⁵¹⁵² These programs include initiatives to support for the well-being of the children of working mothers.⁵¹⁵³ The 2022 Economic Package also refers to the financial inclusion of women through financial programs, the promotion of women’s employment as a central and strategic element for the growth and productivity of the country.⁵¹⁵⁴

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as hosting international virtual conferences and providing financial support. Furthermore, Mexico supported women’s entrepreneurship through the Credit to the World program.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Samar Moghal

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

⁵¹⁴⁹ The Mexican Supreme Court Decriminalizes Abortion, Jacobin (New York) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://jacobinmag.com/2021/09/mexico-supreme-court-decriminalization-abortion-feminism-health-law>

⁵¹⁵⁰ The Mexican Supreme Court Decriminalizes Abortion, Jacobin (New York) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://jacobinmag.com/2021/09/mexico-supreme-court-decriminalization-abortion-feminism-health-law>

⁵¹⁵¹ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

⁵¹⁵² With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

⁵¹⁵³ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

⁵¹⁵⁴ With a budget increase and a gender perspective in the 2022 Economic Package, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/prensa/incremento-de-recursos-para-la-igualdad-de-genero-en-el-paquete-economico-2022-muestra-del-compromiso-del-gobierno-de-la-cuarta-transformacion?idiom=es>

On 1 January 2021, Russia implemented a policy that reduces the number of banned jobs for Russian women from 456 to 100.⁵¹⁵⁵ The policy aims to increase women's economic participation by increasing the number of jobs Russian women are allowed to pursue.⁵¹⁵⁶

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Russia attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵¹⁵⁷ The project coordinator of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum Angelica Khaperskaya presented the "Russian experience in achieving gender balance in science and technology during the meeting."⁵¹⁵⁸

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced new support measures to aid single-parent families and pregnant women during his annual address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow.⁵¹⁵⁹ In his speech, President Putin announced that parents who are forced to leave work to care for a sick child, which is often times the mother, will now be able to continue to receive 100 per cent of their salary, while caring for their child, up to seven years old.⁵¹⁶⁰ These new announcements will work towards financially supporting pregnant women and single-parent families in order to minimize the financial burden they might face, as well as encouraging the participation of women in the labour force.⁵¹⁶¹

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova hosted a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission on a draft governmental decree on a program for organizing vocational training and education for certain Russian citizens until 2024 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.⁵¹⁶² The eligible citizens would be those over age 50, those of pre-retirement age, and women on leave to care for young children.⁵¹⁶³ The plan is for at least 168,800 people to undergo vocational training and education in 2021 and at least 125,000 people annually from 2022 to 2024.⁵¹⁶⁴

⁵¹⁵⁵ Russian Women Are Ready to Reclaim Once-Forbidden Jobs, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/03/06/russian-women-are-ready-to-reclaim-once-forbidden-jobs-a69544>

⁵¹⁵⁶ Russian Women Are Ready to Reclaim Once-Forbidden Jobs, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/03/06/russian-women-are-ready-to-reclaim-once-forbidden-jobs-a69544>

⁵¹⁵⁷ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁵¹⁵⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁵¹⁵⁹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁵¹⁶⁰ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁵¹⁶¹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

⁵¹⁶² Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

⁵¹⁶³ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

⁵¹⁶⁴ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

On 8 July 2021, Russia announced that financial literacy will be embedded in the new federal state educational standards of primary and basic general education.⁵¹⁶⁵ The introduction of the foundations of financial literacy in educational school curricula is aimed at generating interest in finance among girls and women, help them gain necessary financial competences for their introduction to the labour market and “ensure their financial stability in the future.”⁵¹⁶⁶

On 20 July 2021, Chairwoman of the Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko virtually participated and delivered a video message at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among women, which discussed the impacts of the pandemic on education and economic status for women and girls.⁵¹⁶⁷ Chairwoman Matviyenko shared some of Russia’s on-going and future national-level projects designed to advance gender equality, through the development of women’s entrepreneurship and the involvement of women in the technological field.⁵¹⁶⁸

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as releasing previous restrictions on women’s employment. Furthermore, Russia promoted measures for women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Russia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Lougein Metwally

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Commerce and Investment Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi announced the launch of a new program to encourage Saudi women to join the accounting profession.⁵¹⁶⁹ Organized by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants, the program includes training, qualification, entrepreneurship and employment streams in order to empower women and increase female participation in the national economy.⁵¹⁷⁰

On 22 April 2021, the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund introduced a new initiative to boost female employment in the private sector by subsidizing transport costs in partnership with vehicle for hire company, Careem.⁵¹⁷¹ This initiative allows women to receive an 80 per cent discount on the cost of each journey, with the ceiling of support increased to SAR1,100 a month for those

⁵¹⁶⁵ Teaching financial literacy to become mandatory in primary and secondary schools, Bank of Russia (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/event/?id=11027>

⁵¹⁶⁶ New educational standards will help girls master the necessary financial competencies, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/novye-obrazovatelnye-standarty-pomogut-devushkam-osvoit-neobkhodimye-finansovye-kompetentsii>

⁵¹⁶⁷ V. Matviyenko addressed the participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among Women, Council of the Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://council.gov.ru/events/news/128766>

⁵¹⁶⁸ V. Matviyenko addressed the participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Education and Poverty Reduction among Women, Council of the Federation (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://council.gov.ru/events/news/128766>

⁵¹⁶⁹ Saudi Arabia launches women’s accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

⁵¹⁷⁰ Saudi Arabia launches women’s accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

⁵¹⁷¹ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

with a monthly wage of SAR6,000 or less, and SAR800 for those earning between SAR6,001 to SAR8,000 per month.⁵¹⁷² This initiative aims to reduce the burden of transport costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.⁵¹⁷³

On 15 September 2021, the Government of Saudi Arabia announced the launch of the Human Capability Development Program. It is a program that aims to ensure that citizens have the required capabilities to compete globally by instilling values and developing basic and future skills. The program focuses on preparing the youth for the future local and global labor market. It also focuses on upskilling citizens by providing lifelong learning opportunities, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship culture.⁵¹⁷⁴ One of the program's indirect strategic objectives is to increase women's participation in the labor market.⁵¹⁷⁵

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to support women's economic participation and entrepreneurship by announcing the launch of a new program and initiative to boost women's participation in the labour market. However, Saudi Arabia has not implemented concrete actions for this commitment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Warisa Rahman

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 19 November 2020, the Cabinet approved launching the "Women's Economic Justice towards a non-violent and non-sexist South Africa" theme for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, which aims to promote the economic empowerment of women.⁵¹⁷⁶

On 27 January 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande expressed concern for the underrepresentation of women in the construction sector and stated that the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was an opportunity to address these shortcomings.⁵¹⁷⁷

On 4 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Gender Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund 1, which raised ZAR128 million from the private sector organizations and businesses.⁵¹⁷⁸ The fund will support the National Strategic Plan, which aims to end gender-based inequalities through six pillars: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership, Prevention and

⁵¹⁷² Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

⁵¹⁷³ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

⁵¹⁷⁴ Crown Prince launches Human Capability Development Program to boost citizens' capabilities, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/610945>

⁵¹⁷⁵ Human Capability Development Program 2021-2025, Vision 2030 (Riyadh) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. https://www.vision2030.gov.sa/media/nfob33q5/hcdp_mv_en-1.pdf

⁵¹⁷⁶ Statement on virtual Cabinet Meeting of 18 November 2020, Government Communications (Pretoria) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-18-november-2020-19-nov-2020-0000>.

⁵¹⁷⁷ Minister Blade Nzimande: Construction Sector Education and Training Authority Infrastructure Summit, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/remarks-minister-27-jan-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁷⁸ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, The Presidency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

Rebuilding Social Cohesion, Justice, Safety and Protection, Response, Care, Support and Healing, Economic Power and Research and Information Management.⁵¹⁷⁹

On 25 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced the Manufacturing Scheme —a component of the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) Debt Relief Scheme Fund— which aims to help SMME drive economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that at least 40 per cent of funds must go to women-owned enterprises.⁵¹⁸⁰

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Lindiwe Sisulu welcomed a Memorandum of Understanding which aims to empower women to manage and lead accredited Social Housing Institutions.⁵¹⁸¹ Sisulu stated that “women need to step up and make an equal contribution in industrial production as well as in the corporate workforce.”⁵¹⁸²

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza spoke to the National Assembly on the importance of strategies which develop employment prospects for women following the COVID-19 pandemic and announced that the new Human Resource Development Strategy, which will respond particularly to the skills needs of women, is under review.⁵¹⁸³

On 1 July 2021, President Ramaphosa stated that the country must “dismantle the systemic barriers that marginalize women and girls and perpetuate inequality in the global economy.”⁵¹⁸⁴ He announced that the country will reserve 40 per cent of public procurement for women-owned businesses, will adopt a Protocol and Programme of Action on Women in Trade to promote the participation of women in the African Continental Free Trade Area, will work with Queen Maxima — the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advocate on Financial Inclusion — to establish the Advocacy Accelerator for Women’s Digital Financial Inclusion in Africa, which aims to increase digital finance products for women in Africa, and will launch the Charlotte Maxeke Women’s Initiative on Economic Justice and Rights to “increase opportunities for women and girls in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership and diplomacy.”⁵¹⁸⁵

On 30 July 2021, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane officially launched Women’s Month, stating that “women economic inclusion and access to the mainstream of the economy should be a priority,” calling on the government and private sector to

⁵¹⁷⁹ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, The Presidency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁸⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, The Presidency (Cape Town) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>.

⁵¹⁸¹ Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on commitment to women empowerment, Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-commitment-women-empowerment-8-mar-2021-0000>.

⁵¹⁸² Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on commitment to women empowerment, Department of Human Settlements. 8 March 2021. (Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-commitment-women-empowerment-8-mar-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁸³ Deputy President David Mabuza on youth empowerment post Coronavirus COVID-19 era, The Presidency (Cape Town) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>.

⁵¹⁸⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition Session, The Presidency (Pretoria) 1 July 2021. Date Accessed: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-session-1-jul-2021>

⁵¹⁸⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition Session, The Presidency (Pretoria) 1 July 2021. Date Accessed: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-session-1-jul-2021>

give 40 per cent of all business procurement to women so that the nation can reach economic equality “by 2030.”⁵¹⁸⁶

On 9 August 2021, President Ramaphosa delivered a speech on Women’s Day, where he stated that a Women’s Economic Assembly “will be launched later this month to identify the supply chain opportunities for women-owned businesses in key industries such as steel, automotive and energy sectors,”⁵¹⁸⁷ as well as that “Work is underway to develop a financial inclusion policy to address the barriers experienced by women-owned businesses and low-income earners to access credit, to also access grants and other financial transactions.”⁵¹⁸⁸ Further, he acknowledged the inequality between men and women’s economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, and stated that he is “working to ensure that women benefit from the most recent relief measures and from our Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.”⁵¹⁸⁹

On 26 August 2021, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure stated that its Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP) will aim to cater to the most vulnerable populations in the nation, including women.⁵¹⁹⁰ The program provides income support through the creation of job prospects for the poor.⁵¹⁹¹ According to Acting Deputy Director General of the EPWP Carmen-Joy Abrahams, EPWP is “committed to...strengthening women participation in the implementation of EPWP projects in order to promote social protection and improve livelihoods.”⁵¹⁹²

On 31 August 2021, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe launched the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy which is aimed at ensuring that women become active participants in the Energy Sector.⁵¹⁹³ The strategy has a 5 year plan, and aims to fulfill four strategic pillars: an enabling environment for translating government gender policy into reality, working towards achieving an equality of opportunities in the energy sector and beyond, ensuring that gender considerations are integrated effectively, and advocating for the promotion of new values and a culture of respect in the sector.⁵¹⁹⁴

⁵¹⁸⁶Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women’s Month, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁸⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Women’s Day 2021, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-womens-day-2021-9-aug-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁸⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Women’s Day 2021, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-womens-day-2021-9-aug-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁸⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Women’s Day 2021, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-womens-day-2021-9-aug-2021-0000>

⁵¹⁹⁰Public Works and Infrastructure on women empowerment through The Expanded Public Works Program, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (Pretoria) 26 August 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/public-works-and-infrastructure-women-empowerment-through-expanded-public-works-programme>

⁵¹⁹¹Public Works and Infrastructure on women empowerment through The Expanded Public Works Program, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (Pretoria) 26 August 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/public-works-and-infrastructure-women-empowerment-through-expanded-public-works-programme>

⁵¹⁹²Public Works and Infrastructure on women empowerment through The Expanded Public Works Program, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (Pretoria) 26 August 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/public-works-and-infrastructure-women-empowerment-through-expanded-public-works-programme>

⁵¹⁹³Minister Gwede Mantashe launches Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-launches-women-empowerment-and-gender-equality-strategy-2-sep-2021>

⁵¹⁹⁴Minister Gwede Mantashe launches Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Date Accessed: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-launches-women-empowerment-and-gender-equality-strategy-2-sep-2021>

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as the creation of funds and training programs to improve female employment, as well as measures to support women-owned businesses.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Debasmita Bhattacharya

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 21 December 2020, the Mothers at Work Project for women's employment launched by the Turkish Government Employment Agency began to expand its scope. The program initially focused on providing vocational training courses and programs for disadvantaged women who either cannot work as a result of having to stay home and care for their kids, those relying on social benefits or those exposed to domestic violence. However, the government hopes to raise the women's employment rate in Turkey further with new incentives such as financial support for women's cooperatives and interest rate free loans for female entrepreneurs.⁵¹⁹⁵ Maternity leave for working women has also been increased along with increased financial support for child-caring women.⁵¹⁹⁶

On 8 March 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, announced at his AKP Women Branch's General Convention that the government will be creating a new commission at the parliament to tackle the violence against women.⁵¹⁹⁷ Efforts will be launched in every legal and social field to empower women, raise awareness and mitigate any widening of gender inequalities.⁵¹⁹⁸

On 19 April 2021, Minister of National Education Ziya Selçuk announced a new initiative to help increase women employment by training 8,000 individuals.⁵¹⁹⁹ This initiative will train women on establishing cooperatives and provide training to women and men already involved in cooperatives.⁵²⁰⁰ This initiative will also establish a consultant pool and provide consultancy service training for 1,000 women.⁵²⁰¹

⁵¹⁹⁵ Project for women's employment in Turkey expands scope (Istanbul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/mothers-at-work-project-for-womens-employment-in-turkey-expands-scope/news>

⁵¹⁹⁶ Project for women's employment in Turkey expands scope (Istanbul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/mothers-at-work-project-for-womens-employment-in-turkey-expands-scope/news>

⁵¹⁹⁷ Turkey Marks International Women's Day (Ankara) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-marks-international-womens-day-162961>

⁵¹⁹⁸ Turkey Marks International Women's Day (Ankara) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-marks-international-womens-day-162961>

⁵¹⁹⁹ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁵²⁰⁰ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁵²⁰¹ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

On 26 August 2021, Minister of Family and Social Services Derya Yanik attended the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment in Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.⁵²⁰² At the conference, Minister Yanik participated in the session titled “Work and Economic Empowerment and Work-Life Balance” and emphasized the need for the international community to support the struggle of Diyarbakir mothers.⁵²⁰³

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy by effectively recognizing the gender gap in the labour market. Furthermore, Turkey took action to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizabeth Lerman

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 15 December 2020, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs published the 2020 gender pay gap report.⁵²⁰⁴ These reports are published in line with the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.⁵²⁰⁵ The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy used in these reports focuses on creating an inclusive, respectful and representative workplace that reflects the society it serves, where all colleagues can thrive and where equality, diversity and difference are valued.⁵²⁰⁶

On 17 December 2020, in a speech titled “The New Fight for Fairness,” Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss set out the UK’s new approach to tackling inequality in the UK.⁵²⁰⁷ The speech marked a new approach to the UK’s equality policy, with a commitment to individual dignity and opportunity at its heart.⁵²⁰⁸

On 17 December 2020, Minister Truss also launched the Equality Data Programme in the speech, the large-scale project will gather data in order to better understand the barriers that people from

⁵²⁰² Minister Yanik’s call to the international community for Diyarbakir Mothers, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-yaniktan-uluslararasi-topluma-diyarbakir-anneleri-cagrisi-604472.html>

⁵²⁰³ Minister Yanik’s call to the international community for Diyarbakir Mothers, TRT Haber (Istanbul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/gundem/bakan-yaniktan-uluslararasi-topluma-diyarbakir-anneleri-cagrisi-604472.html>

⁵²⁰⁴ HMRC and Valuation Office Agency: gender pay gap report and data 2020, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020>

⁵²⁰⁵ HMRC and Valuation Office Agency: gender pay gap report and data 2020, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020>

⁵²⁰⁶ HMRC and Valuation Office Agency: gender pay gap report and data 2020, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020>

⁵²⁰⁷ ‘Fight For Fairness’ speech to set out government’s new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

⁵²⁰⁸ ‘Fight For Fairness’ speech to set out government’s new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

every background are facing across the UK.⁵²⁰⁹ The Equality Data Programme is the UK's broadest and most comprehensive equality data project yet.⁵²¹⁰ The program will emphasize the disparities people are facing to ensure real inequalities are addressed, using more data than ever to ensure our policies work.⁵²¹¹ This is a significant change from the previous work of the Equality Hub, which often focused on people with a single protected characteristic and compared outcomes narrowly within those groups.⁵²¹²

On 5 January 2021, the Domestic Abuse Bill was debated in the House of Lords.⁵²¹³ It contains new measures to protect victim-survivors of domestic abuse and when the bill has progressed through Parliament, economic abuse will be recognized in law for the very first time.⁵²¹⁴ The inclusion of economic abuse in the legal definition of domestic abuse helps raise awareness of it.⁵²¹⁵ The Bill will help hold perpetrators of economic abuse to account so that victims can access justice and services such as the police, housing and social services will also need to consider how they respond to economic abuse.⁵²¹⁶ Though the Bill was introduced to Parliament in early 2020, it has faced a series of delays and is therefore expected to become law in 2021.⁵²¹⁷

On 10 February 2021, the UK government released a new guidance note in a series of guidance notes on the strategic outcomes of the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2018 to 2022) to support implementing policy and program interventions in each area.⁵²¹⁸ This note is meant to provide guidance to government staff and partners to implement strategic outcome 3 of the plan: commitments on preventing and responding to gender-based violence in conflict.⁵²¹⁹ Strategic Outcome 3 (preventing gender-based violence) the UK government commits to increasing the

⁵²⁰⁹ 'Fight For Fairness' speech to set out government's new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

⁵²¹⁰ New large-scale data project will get to the heart of disparities, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-large-scale-data-project-will-get-to-the-heart-of-disparities>

⁵²¹¹ New large-scale data project will get to the heart of disparities, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-large-scale-data-project-will-get-to-the-heart-of-disparities>

⁵²¹² 'Fight For Fairness' speech to set out government's new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

⁵²¹³ Domestic Abuse Bill, UK Parliament (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

⁵²¹⁴ Economic abuse and the Domestic Abuse Bill, Surviving Economic Abuse (London) n.d. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/economic-abuse-and-the-law/domestic-abuse-bill/>

⁵²¹⁵ Economic abuse and the Domestic Abuse Bill, Surviving Economic Abuse (London) n.d. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/economic-abuse-and-the-law/domestic-abuse-bill/>

⁵²¹⁶ Economic abuse and the Domestic Abuse Bill, Surviving Economic Abuse (London) n.d. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/economic-abuse-and-the-law/domestic-abuse-bill/>

⁵²¹⁷ Domestic Abuse Bill, UK Parliament (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2709>

⁵²¹⁸ UK national action plan on women, peace and security 2018 to 2022 guidance note: preventing gender-based violence, UK Government (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022-guidance-note-preventing-gender-based-violence>

⁵²¹⁹ UK national action plan on women, peace and security 2018 to 2022 guidance note: preventing gender-based violence, UK Government (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022-guidance-note-preventing-gender-based-violence>

number and scale of interventions that integrate effective measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in conflict, with a focus on addressing violence against women and girls.⁵²²⁰

On 21 February 2021, representatives from the UK attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Argentina, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵²²¹

On 23 February 2021, the Hampton-Alexander Review report revealed that more than a third (34.3 per cent) of Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 350 board positions are now held by women, with the number of women on boards increasing by 50 per cent over the last 5 years.⁵²²² The data has been published in the final report from the government-backed Hampton-Alexander Review, which was launched in 2016 to encourage UK-listed companies to appoint more women to their boards and into senior leadership positions.⁵²²³ The figures also show an increase in women in wider senior leadership roles.⁵²²⁴ FTSE 100, 250 and 350 all reached the target of women making up 33 per cent of boards by the end of 2020, highlighting the success of the government's voluntary, business-led approach.⁵²²⁵

On 8 March 2021, UK announced the creation of a new advisory council to lead the UK's gender equality work at the G7.⁵²²⁶ The Gender Equality Advisory Council will produce recommendations to drive women's empowerment across the world to ensure women are at the heart of the build back better agenda as we recover from COVID-19.⁵²²⁷ Building on the foundations laid by the Canadian and French G7 presidencies, the GEAC will champion the core principles of freedom, opportunity, individual humanity and dignity for women and girls around the world.⁵²²⁸ The Council will produce an independent report and set out recommendations as to how the G7 should work together so that women across the globe drive and benefit from the pandemic recovery.⁵²²⁹ Chair of the Gender

⁵²²⁰ UK national action plan on women, peace and security 2018 to 2022 guidance note: preventing gender-based violence, UK Government (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022-guidance-note-preventing-gender-based-violence>

⁵²²¹ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁵²²² The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

⁵²²³ The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

⁵²²⁴ The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

⁵²²⁵ The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

⁵²²⁶ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

⁵²²⁷ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

⁵²²⁸ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

⁵²²⁹ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

Equality Advisory Council Sarah Sands, said: “The G7 is an opportunity to tear down the hurdles that hold women back.”⁵²³⁰

On 8 March 2021, Science Minister Amanda Solloway announced the 2021 Women in Innovation Award winners.⁵²³¹ Women in Innovation a diversity and inclusion campaign and funding program, which aims to get more women to innovate in business.⁵²³² The campaign first launched in 2016 with research to understand the challenges of being a female entrepreneur and a women-only competition with awards offering innovation grant funding and a tailored program of mentoring and business support.⁵²³³ The support helped the award holders grow their businesses while creating new role models for the next generation.⁵²³⁴ Three of Scotland’s leading female entrepreneurs have received UK backing to drive forward their novel innovations and business ideas to help the UK build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵²³⁵ Each winner received GBP50,000 funding to establish and bring to market their disruptive business ideas, many of which have been born out in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵²³⁶ Emily Nott, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Innovate UK said: “With 2020 proving to be an incredibly difficult year for everyone and particularly women, continuing to support female entrepreneurs in 2021 has been a real priority for Innovate UK.”⁵²³⁷

On 19 April 2021, the first ever Investing in Women Code (IWC) annual progress report was published.⁵²³⁸ In 2018, Her Majesty’s Treasury commissioned CEO of NatWest Group Alison Rose to lead an independent review into the female entrepreneurial journey and highlight the barriers faced by women when starting and growing their businesses, leading to the publication of the Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship in March 2019.⁵²³⁹ A key finding of the Rose Review was that access to finance is a significant barrier to female entrepreneurship.⁵²⁴⁰ As the first recommendation of the Rose Review, the IWC was launched in 2019 to develop a better picture of the funding of female entrepreneurs across the financial services and encourage signatories to adopt and share best practices to support female entrepreneurs.⁵²⁴¹ The IWC is a commitment to support the advancement of female entrepreneurship in the United Kingdom by improving female entrepreneurs’ access to tools, resources and finance.⁵²⁴² The first annual IWC report analyzed data from signatory

⁵²³⁰ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

⁵²³¹ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

⁵²³² Innovate UK: diversity and inclusion, UK Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion#women-in-innovation:-campaign>

⁵²³³ Innovate UK: diversity and inclusion, UK Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion#women-in-innovation:-campaign>

⁵²³⁴ Innovate UK: diversity and inclusion, UK Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion#women-in-innovation:-campaign>

⁵²³⁵ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

⁵²³⁶ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

⁵²³⁷ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

⁵²³⁸ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

⁵²³⁹ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

⁵²⁴⁰ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

⁵²⁴¹ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

⁵²⁴² The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

members of the Code.⁵²⁴³ It used a set of agreed guidelines and metrics to analyze funding for female entrepreneurs and explores how all signatories can better enable female entrepreneurs to successfully access the tools, resources and investment they need to build and grow their businesses.⁵²⁴⁴

On 29 April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Bill passed both Houses of Parliament and been signed into law.⁵²⁴⁵ The Domestic Abuse Act will provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.⁵²⁴⁶ The bill introduces a wide-ranging legal definition of domestic abuse which incorporates a range of abuses beyond physical violence, including emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour and economic abuse.⁵²⁴⁷

On 17 June 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy launched a new online tool to help expectant parents access and understand the Shared Parental Leave and Pay scheme.⁵²⁴⁸ This scheme helps working women exercise greater choice about when to return to work and encourages men or partners to take greater roles in child care if desired.⁵²⁴⁹ This online tool allows parents to check their eligibility for the scheme, calculate what pay they would be entitled to, and notify their employer through the tool.⁵²⁵⁰

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as reaffirming female representation in managerial roles. It has also promoted women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities with analyses about domestic status quo, which provided guidance for policymaking.

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

Analyst: Warisa Rahman

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 27 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Fiscal Year 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Act providing USD50 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-

⁵²⁴³ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

⁵²⁴⁴ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

⁵²⁴⁵ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, UK Parliament (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

⁵²⁴⁶ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, UK Parliament (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

⁵²⁴⁷ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, UK Parliament (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

⁵²⁴⁸ New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

⁵²⁴⁹ New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

⁵²⁵⁰ New online tool to help working families make the most of shared parental leave, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-online-tool-to-help-working-families-make-the-most-of-shared-parental-leave>

fi).⁵²⁵¹ We-fi seeks to empower women-owned and led small and mid-size enterprises in 39 countries.^{5252, 5253} This organization accomplishes this empowerment through increasing women's access to finance, markets, training and networks and easing the legal and regulatory biases that impede women business owners in running their businesses.⁵²⁵⁴

On 27 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Fiscal Year 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Act providing USD200 million to the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (WGDP).⁵²⁵⁵ This initiative aims to improve women's access to education and skills training, increase women's access to market, networks and capital and to reduce the legal, cultural and regulatory barriers to women's full participation in the economy.⁵²⁵⁶

On 11 February 2021, the US Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (USAID) together with Mastercard Foundation and Schneider Electric launch a USD1.4 million partnership to create 750 energy-sector jobs for women in Cote d'Ivoire.⁵²⁵⁷ USAID provided USD500,000 of this initiative from their WGDP budget allocation.⁵²⁵⁸ The aim of this project is to improve women's access to technical training opportunities to qualify for full-time employment as energy sales personnel.⁵²⁵⁹ This project also seeks to help participants overcome the prejudices of integrating into a male-dominated field.⁵²⁶⁰

On 19 February 2021, the US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina closed applications for their Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program.⁵²⁶¹ This program provides USD300,000 to non-government organizations to run projects to increase the participation of women in government or business.⁵²⁶² The aims of these grants is to promote projects regarding women's empowerment in

⁵²⁵¹ 2020 Annual Report, We-Fi Secretariat (Washington) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WeFi-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

⁵²⁵² Fy 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, National Conference of State Legislatures (Washington) January 4, 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. https://www.ncsl.org/documents/statefed/NCSL_Summary_FY2021_Omnibus_Appropriations_Bill.pdf

⁵²⁵³ 2020 Annual Report, We-Fi Secretariat (Washington) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WeFi-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

⁵²⁵⁴ 2020 Annual Report, We-Fi Secretariat (Washington) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WeFi-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

⁵²⁵⁵ Fy 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, National Conference of State Legislatures (Washington) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.ncsl.org/documents/statefed/NCSL_Summary_FY2021_Omnibus_Appropriations_Bill.pdf

⁵²⁵⁶ Women's Global Development and Prosperity initiative Annual Report, Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (Washington) n.d. Access Date: March 13 2021. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/W-GDP-Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁵⁷ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

⁵²⁵⁸ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

⁵²⁵⁹ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

⁵²⁶⁰ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

⁵²⁶¹ Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program, U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/womens-empowerment-small-grants-program/>

⁵²⁶² Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program, U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/womens-empowerment-small-grants-program/>

economics, government and their communities and schools as well as to prevent gender-based violence and promote awareness of women's health issues.⁵²⁶³

On 21 February 2021, representatives from the US attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Argentina, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵²⁶⁴

On 22 February 2021, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke at the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council announcing that the US will seek election to the Human Rights Council for the 2022 to 2024 term.⁵²⁶⁵ During this session he says that the US is “committed to advancing gender equality and uplifting the rights of women and girls” and “will pursue policy to end violence and discrimination of all kinds.”⁵²⁶⁶

On 26 February 2021, the US Embassy in Uganda released an opportunity for funding for the new Ugandan cohort of the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs.⁵²⁶⁷ This opportunity provides USD30,0000 for a training program for 100 female entrepreneurs between the ages of 25 to 40.⁵²⁶⁸ The aim of this project is to provide skills for funding and scaling up their businesses and developing networks of collaborators for the entrepreneurs.⁵²⁶⁹

On 6 March 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the COVID Relief Bill.⁵²⁷⁰ This bill provides an expansion of child tax credit for parents as well as USD15 billion for child-development block grants, USD1 billion for the Head Start early education program and USD24 billion stabilization fund for childcare providers.⁵²⁷¹ This project will ease the burden on women of choosing between work and supervising their children using the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵²⁷²

⁵²⁶³ Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program, U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/womens-empowerment-small-grants-program/>

⁵²⁶⁴ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvelicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike-/>

⁵²⁶⁵ Remarks to the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-to-the-46th-session-of-the-human-rights-council/>

⁵²⁶⁶ Remarks to the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-to-the-46th-session-of-the-human-rights-council/>

⁵²⁶⁷ NOFO – Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, 2021, U.S. Embassy (Kampala) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://ug.usembassy.gov/nofo-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-2021-afkam-pas-fy21-2-closing-monday-april-12-2021/>

⁵²⁶⁸ NOFO – Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, 2021, U.S. Embassy (Kampala) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://ug.usembassy.gov/nofo-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-2021-afkam-pas-fy21-2-closing-monday-april-12-2021/>

⁵²⁶⁹ NOFO – Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, 2021, U.S. Embassy (Kampala) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

⁵²⁷⁰ Biden's newly signed rescue plan will help get parents back to work — by supporting child care, NBC Universal (New York) 11 March 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/stimulus-bill-contains-billions-shore-daycare-centers-parents-child-care-n1260697>

⁵²⁷¹ Biden's newly signed rescue plan will help get parents back to work — by supporting child care, NBC Universal (New York) 11 March 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/stimulus-bill-contains-billions-shore-daycare-centers-parents-child-care-n1260697>

⁵²⁷² Biden's newly signed rescue plan will help get parents back to work — by supporting child care, NBC Universal (New York) 11 March 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/stimulus-bill-contains-billions-shore-daycare-centers-parents-child-care-n1260697>

On 8 March 2021, President Biden issued an executive order establishing The White House Gender Policy Council.⁵²⁷³ The aim of this council is to “increase women’s economic security and opportunity by addressing structural barriers to women’s participation” and by “decreasing wage and wealth gaps” between men and women.⁵²⁷⁴ For example, it promises to provide support for childcare, combat gender stereotypes, as well as to promote participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields and leadership positions.⁵²⁷⁵

On 8 March 2021, USAID released a technical brief which provides considerations, recommendations and resources to support a gender-based response for the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵²⁷⁶ This document recommends engaging women’s leadership for COVID-19 response, training and supporting men to assume family duties, decrease the gender digital divide and support women’s unions and female-dominated fields to curtail the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵²⁷⁷

On 10 April 2021, the United States Department of State along with the Providing Opportunities for Women’s Economic Rise and Embassy Abu Dhabi closed its applications for the Women Tech Founders Program.⁵²⁷⁸ This program seeks to provide women tech entrepreneurs from the Middle East and North Africa with the skill required for them to use technology to expand their businesses. The workshops will span four days and include sections on design thinking, machine learning, product development and objective-key-results.⁵²⁷⁹

On 26 April 2021, President Biden issued an executive order establishing the Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment.⁵²⁸⁰ This task force aims to support “worker power, worker organizing and collective bargaining” including identifying policies, practices and programs which may promote hostile labour environments for marginalized workers including women.⁵²⁸¹

On 29 April 2021, President Biden announced the American Families Plan.⁵²⁸² This plan aims to lift over ten million people out of poverty in 2022.⁵²⁸³ To accomplish this, the plan sets the goal of creating

⁵²⁷³ Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council, The White House (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>

⁵²⁷⁴ Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council, The White House (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>

⁵²⁷⁵ Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council, The White House (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>

⁵²⁷⁶ USAID’S Gender and COVID-19 Guidance, USAID (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/gender-and-covid-19-brief>

⁵²⁷⁷ USAID’S Gender and COVID-19 Guidance, USAID (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/gender-and-covid-19-brief>

⁵²⁷⁸ Women Tech founders Program, U.S. Department of State (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.state.gov/women-tech-founders-program/>

⁵²⁷⁹ Women Tech founders Program, U.S. Department of State (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.state.gov/women-tech-founders-program/>

⁵²⁸⁰ Executive Order on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, The White House (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/26/executive-order-on-worker-organizing-and-empowerment/>

⁵²⁸¹ Executive Order on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, The White House (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/26/executive-order-on-worker-organizing-and-empowerment/>

⁵²⁸² FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Advances Equity and Racial Justice, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-advances-equity-and-racial-justice/>

a right to paid family and medical leave “to ensure working parents and caregivers, including workers of color and low-wage workers, can equitably access the time off they need to support their families.”⁵²⁸⁴

On 10 May 2021, the United States Department of Health and Human Services announced the prohibition on gender discrimination includes the prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.⁵²⁸⁵ The announcement ensures that the Office of Civil rights will interpret prohibitions against sex-based discrimination to include sexual orientation and identity in the field of healthcare.⁵²⁸⁶

On 15 June 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD1.5 million funding opportunity “to develop partnerships with community-based organizations and other non-profits to conduct outreach to women workers to help them understand and exercise their rights and benefits in the workplace.”⁵²⁸⁷ The grants are designed to help low-income women workers with less access to labor rights information.⁵²⁸⁸

On 23 July 2021, the Domestic Policy Advisory Susan Rice and Co-Chair of the Gender Policy Council Julissa Reynoso held a roundtable at the White House with transgender women of colour advocates.⁵²⁸⁹ This event was one of the first in a series of sessions involving the inclusion and safety of transgender women.⁵²⁹⁰ At the session, participants discussions violence, discrimination, poverty, economic inclusion, immigration and other systemic barriers against transgender women and girls of colour.⁵²⁹¹ Participants also shared their policy recommendations.⁵²⁹² Advisor Rice and Co-Chair

⁵²⁸³ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Advances Advances Equity and Racial Justice, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-advances-equity-and-racial-justice/>

⁵²⁸⁴ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Advances Advances Equity and Racial Justice, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-advances-equity-and-racial-justice/>

⁵²⁸⁵ HHS Announces Prohibition on Sex Discrimination Includes Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/10/hhs-announces-prohibition-sex-discrimination-includes-discrimination-basis-sexual-orientation-gender-identity.html>

⁵²⁸⁶ HHS Announces Prohibition on Sex Discrimination Includes Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/10/hhs-announces-prohibition-sex-discrimination-includes-discrimination-basis-sexual-orientation-gender-identity.html>

⁵²⁸⁷ US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability of \$1.5M in Grants to Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

⁵²⁸⁸ US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability of \$1.5M in Grants to Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

⁵²⁸⁹ Readout of White House Roundtable with Transgender Women of Colour Advocates, The White House (Washington) 23 July 2021. Access Date: September 11 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/23/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-with-transgender-women-of-color-advocates/>

⁵²⁹⁰ Readout of White House Roundtable with Transgender Women of Colour Advocates, The White House (Washington) 23 July 2021. Access Date: September 11 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/23/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-with-transgender-women-of-color-advocates/>

⁵²⁹¹ Readout of White House Roundtable with Transgender Women of Colour Advocates, The White House (Washington) 23 July 2021. Access Date: September 11 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/23/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-with-transgender-women-of-color-advocates/>

⁵²⁹² Readout of White House Roundtable with Transgender Women of Colour Advocates, The White House (Washington) 23 July 2021. Access Date: September 11 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/23/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-with-transgender-women-of-color-advocates/>

Reynoso states that the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing justice and safety for transgender women of colour.⁵²⁹³

On 9 September 2021, Secretary of Labour Marty Walsh announced USD3.3 million in grants “to expand job opportunities for women in apprenticeships [and] nontraditional occupations.”⁵²⁹⁴ The grants will be administered by the Department of Labour’s Women’s Bureau and Employment Training Administration.⁵²⁹⁵ This funding will “support women’s participation in a range of fields in which women have traditionally been underrepresented” by providing “supportive services such as child care, transportation, tuition costs and work-related equipment.”⁵²⁹⁶

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as creating family-friendly welfare programs and empowering female workers with training workshops. It has also promoted women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities via financial initiatives designed for female entrepreneurs.

Thus, United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Samar Moghal

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy released an updated version of the European Union’s Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Action for 2021–2025 (GAP III).⁵²⁹⁷ GAP III strives to reduce barriers to women’s economic participation and promote women to leadership positions in the workplace, primarily through five pillars of action.⁵²⁹⁸ It called on the European Union to “lead by example” and adopted new methods to measure results.⁵²⁹⁹ These pillars also included introducing “stringent rules” to apply and monitor “gender mainstreaming” across all sectors, developing a shared vision and approach and facilitating close cooperation to promote

⁵²⁹³ Readout of White House Roundtable with Transgender Women of Colour Advocates, The White House (Washington) 23 July 2021. Access Date: September 11 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/23/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-with-transgender-women-of-color-advocates/>

⁵²⁹⁴ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

⁵²⁹⁵ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

⁵²⁹⁶ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

⁵²⁹⁷ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls’ rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

⁵²⁹⁸ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls’ rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

⁵²⁹⁹ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls’ rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

gender equity and accelerating the progress in “fighting against gender-based violence and promoting the economic, social and political empowerment of women and girls.”⁵³⁰⁰

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission stated that it is committed to accomplish a “Union of equality” and made reference to President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen’s past actions of creating “a dedicated equality portfolio and the Task force on Equality.”⁵³⁰¹ The Commission identified that it will take further action through its “proposal for binding pay transparency measures,” enacting GAP III and create a “legislative proposal” in 2021 concerning violence towards women.⁵³⁰²

On 21 January 2021, the European Parliament adopted the European Commission’s Gender Equality Strategy for 2020 to 2025.⁵³⁰³ The report has six main aims: to address violence against women as well as stereotypes against women, decrease women’s gaps in the labour force, in pay and at-home care, increase women’s participation in leadership positions in “executive boards and managerial positions,” consider gender in the creation of policies and programmes; increase funding for actions that aid gender equality and promote gender equality around the world.⁵³⁰⁴ Members of the European Parliament urge for more “binding measures to define and prohibit violence and harassment at work,” as well as more “binding measures on pay transparency.”⁵³⁰⁵ Members also emphasized that more observance surrounding member states’ compliance on women’s rights is needed, especially in states that showed heightened resistance to women’s rights.⁵³⁰⁶

On 25 January 2021, the European Parliament held a public hearing entitled “Gender aspects of precarious work.”⁵³⁰⁷ The hearing discussed the gap between men and women with regard to “precarious work, poverty,” pay and minimum wages.⁵³⁰⁸ The hearing acknowledged that these are

⁵³⁰⁰ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

⁵³⁰¹ Union of equality: The First Year of Actions and Achievements, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/dalli/announcements/union-equality-first-year-actions-and-achievements_en

⁵³⁰² Union of equality: The First Year of Actions and Achievements, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/dalli/announcements/union-equality-first-year-actions-and-achievements_en

⁵³⁰³ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: Parliament’s Reaction and Input, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95617/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025-parliament-s-reaction-and-input>

⁵³⁰⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A Union of Gender Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95617/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025-parliament-s-reaction-and-input>

⁵³⁰⁵ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: Parliament’s Reaction and Input, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>

⁵³⁰⁶ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: Parliament’s Reaction and Input, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>

⁵³⁰⁷ Public Hearing on “Gender aspects of precarious work,” European Parliament (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-gender-aspects-of-prec/product-details/20210115CHE08101>

⁵³⁰⁸ Public Hearing on “Gender aspects of precarious work,” European Parliament (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-gender-aspects-of-prec/product-details/20210115CHE08101>

barriers that women face in economic participation and serves as a stepping point for the European “Commission’s proposal for a Directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union.”⁵³⁰⁹

On 11 February 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution related “to assess the progress made in women’s rights over the last 25 years.”⁵³¹⁰ The Members of Parliament called on the European Commission to take on more actions to address the barriers that women face, which includes addressing women’s participation and decreasing the gender pay gap.⁵³¹¹

On 21 February 2021, representatives from the European Commission attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.⁵³¹²

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission put forward a proposal to increase pay transparency to address the gender pay gap.⁵³¹³ This proposal includes “measures to ensure pay transparency for workers and employers” and “better access to justice for victims of pay discrimination.”⁵³¹⁴ The measures in the proposal include increasing transparency for jobseekers and employees. The proposal also requires employers with over 250 employees to “publish information on the pay gap between female and male workers in their organization” and conduct a “pay assessment” if their pay gap is over 5 per cent.⁵³¹⁵ The proposal also seeks “better access” to “compensation for workers,” increased “burden of proof on employer” to disprove pay discrimination, “sanctions to include fines” and action by “equality bodies and workers’ representatives” in “legal or administrative proceedings on behalf of workers as well as lead on collective claims on equal pay.”⁵³¹⁶

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission published the 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU.⁵³¹⁷ This report emphasizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has “exacerbated existing inequalities between women and men in almost all areas of life.”⁵³¹⁸ It highlights that the major struggles to achieving gender equality during the pandemic was “a surge in domestic violence,” increased “workload, health risk and challenges to work-life balance” as frontline workers are mostly female

⁵³⁰⁹ Public Hearing on “Gender aspects of precarious work,” European Parliament (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-gender-aspects-of-prec/product-details/20210115CHE08101>

⁵³¹⁰ The Parliament’s Fight for Gender Equality in the EU, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/social/20190712STO56961/the-parliament-s-fight-for-gender-equality-in-the-eu>

⁵³¹¹ European Parliament Resolution of 11 February 2021 on Challenges Ahead for Women’s Rights in Europe: More than 25 Years After the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, European Parliament (Brussels) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0058_EN.html#def_1_2

⁵³¹² Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

⁵³¹³ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

⁵³¹⁴ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

⁵³¹⁵ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

⁵³¹⁶ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

⁵³¹⁷ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

⁵³¹⁸ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

and a disproportionate loss of jobs to women as they were “overrepresented in sectors that are worst affected by the crisis.”⁵³¹⁹ Furthermore, the report also brings to light that women have had a decrease in work-life balance due to an increase in duties such as childrearing and housework as well as face a lack of representation in “COVID-19 decision-making bodies.”⁵³²⁰ In response to the findings in the report, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and the European Institute for Gender Equality created the Gender Equality Strategy Monitoring Portal which tracks Member States’ actions to promote gender equality.⁵³²¹

On 8 March 2021, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) hosted a virtual conference to discuss actions that leaders can take to increase women’s participation in politics.⁵³²² Attendees of the conference were the “President and the Members of the CoR, Members of the European Parliament and participants in the CoR’s Young Elected Politicians Programme.”⁵³²³ In the conference, it was highlighted that women made up less than a third of roughly one million local and regional politicians.⁵³²⁴ Attendees of the conference emphasized the need to increase women’s participation in politics and urged members all governmental levels to take action to decrease women’s participation gap, respond to violent attacks made against women in politics and speak out against sexism against women.⁵³²⁵ Furthermore, the European Commission announced that they will be supporting women in “deep tech” as part of their “Women TechEU” initiative.⁵³²⁶ The initiative seeks to encourage female participation in “deep tech start-ups in Europe and help grow their companies” by offering “coaching and mentoring to female CEOs and founders, as well as targeted funding.”⁵³²⁷ Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel called for mentors for this initiative. It will take place on 23 to 24 June 2021 and support “up to 50 deep tech start-ups from EU Member States and Associated Countries.”⁵³²⁸

⁵³¹⁹ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

⁵³²⁰ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

⁵³²¹ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

⁵³²² CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

⁵³²³ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

⁵³²⁴ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

⁵³²⁵ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

⁵³²⁶ EU to Launch New Support Scheme for Women in Deep Tech and Call for Mentors, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-launch-new-support-scheme-women-deep-tech-and-call-mentors-2021-mar-08_en

⁵³²⁷ EU to Launch New Support Scheme for Women in Deep Tech and Call for Mentors, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-launch-new-support-scheme-women-deep-tech-and-call-mentors-2021-mar-08_en

⁵³²⁸ EU to Launch New Support Scheme for Women in Deep Tech and Call for Mentors, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-launch-new-support-scheme-women-deep-tech-and-call-mentors-2021-mar-08_en

On 15 March 2021, the European Commission adopted Horizon Europe's Strategic Plan.⁵³²⁹ Horizon Europe seeks to promote research and innovation and is set to cost EUR95.5 billion.⁵³³⁰ It seeks to address “eight horizontal topics,” of which “gender equality and inclusiveness” is one.⁵³³¹ This includes women empowerment in entrepreneurship, for instance through its plan to include at least 40 per cent of companies led by women to put forward their proposals.⁵³³²

On 13 April 2021, the Council of Europe Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention held a meeting. In this meeting, it adopted a framework to oversee the recommendations undertaken by different states.⁵³³³ In this meeting, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić expressed regret that Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention on 22 March 2021 and affirmed the European Union's commitment to the convention.⁵³³⁴ This meeting serves as a step towards the removal of women's barriers to economic participation an entrepreneurship as it seeks to defend women from gender-based violence and domestic violence.

On 19 April 2021, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality held a public hearing entitled “Empowering EU supports for women entrepreneurs and investors, including through [Multiannual Financial Framework] 2021-2027.”⁵³³⁵ The hearing emphasized that encouraging women to pursue entrepreneurship is key for European economic recovery.⁵³³⁶ The hearing also discussed about using the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 to support woman-led companies.⁵³³⁷

On 14 to 15 April 2021, the Gender Equality Commission held a meeting to discuss the draft of the 2020 annual report for the Gender Equality Strategy.⁵³³⁸ In this meeting, the Gender Equality

⁵³²⁹ Horizon Europe's First Strategic Plan 2021-2024: Commission Sets for Research and Innovation Priorities for a Sustainable Future, European Commission (Brussels) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1122

⁵³³⁰ Horizon Europe's First Strategic Plan 2021-2024: Commission Sets for Research and Innovation Priorities for a Sustainable Future, European Commission (Brussels) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1122

⁵³³¹ Horizon Europe the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/c5f77da0-8c52-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1>

⁵³³² Horizon Europe Gender Equality: A Strengthened Commitment in Horizon Europe, Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/c0b30b4b-6ce2-11eb-aeb5-01aa75ed71a1>

⁵³³³ The Committee of the Parties Adopts a Framework for the Supervision of its Recommendations Addressed to States Parties, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/anlnZ5mw6yX/content/the-committee-of-the-parties-adopts-a-framework-for-the-supervision-of-its-recommendations-addressed-to-states-parties

⁵³³⁴ 10th Meeting of the Committee of the Parties Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/secretary-general/-/10th-meeting-of-the-committee-of-the-parties-council-of-europe-convention-on-preventing-and-combating-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence-ist>

⁵³³⁵ 19-04-2021 14:00 Public Hearing – Empowering Women Entrepreneurs and Investors, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-empowering-women-entrepre/product-details/20210406CHE08624>

⁵³³⁶ 19-04-2021 14:00 Public Hearing – Empowering Women Entrepreneurs and Investors, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-empowering-women-entrepre/product-details/20210406CHE08624>

⁵³³⁷ The European Investment Bank Funding Women Entrepreneurs Through MFF 2021-2027, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/232466/S.Dustdar.%20Funding%20Women%20Entrepreneurs%20Through%20MFF%202021-2027.pdf>

⁵³³⁸ Gender Equality Commission Held its 19th Meeting on 14-15 April 2021, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/the-gender-equality-commission-held-its-19th-meeting-on-14-15-april-2021>

Commission spoke about progress made under its six objectives to achieve gender equality.⁵³³⁹ These objectives are to “Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism,” “Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence,” “Ensure the equal access of women to justice,” “Protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls” and “Achieve gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures,” which include measures to achieve gender equality in economic participation.⁵³⁴⁰

On 22 April 2021, the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality held a meeting to vote on the draft report for “Promoting gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.”⁵³⁴¹ The draft discusses the lack of female participation in the STEM field and calls on the “removal of all barriers.”⁵³⁴² The vote resulted in the adoption of the draft report, which is a step towards removing barriers for women’s economic participation in STEM.⁵³⁴³ Furthermore, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality held a joint hearing to discuss the European Commission’s proposal for pay transparency.⁵³⁴⁴ The hearing is a step towards the removal of barriers to women’s economic participation, as lack of pay transparency is a main barrier that women face.⁵³⁴⁵ Moreover, the Gender Mainstreaming Network held a meeting to discuss gender mainstreaming practices by committees and delegations in the European Parliament, which is a form of women’s economic empowerment.⁵³⁴⁶

On 23 April 2021, the European Institute for Gender Equality signed a partnership agreement with the European University Institute.⁵³⁴⁷ Under this partnership, they will work together on “research initiatives, events and training activities” concerning “women’s rights, gender equality and balanced participation by women and men in society,” which includes women’s economic participation.⁵³⁴⁸

⁵³³⁹ Gender Equality Commission Held its 19th Meeting on 14-15 April 2021, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/the-gender-equality-commission-held-its-19th-meeting-on-14-15-april-2021>

⁵³⁴⁰ Gender Equality Commission (GEC) 19th Meeting 14-15 April 2021 Via Videoconference Abridged Report, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/the-gender-equality-commission-held-its-19th-meeting-on-14-15-april-2021>

⁵³⁴¹ Promoting Gender Equality in STEM – Vote – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/promoting-gender-equality-in-stem-vote-2/product-details/20210415CAN60548>

⁵³⁴² Promoting Gender Equality in STEM – Vote – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/promoting-gender-equality-in-stem-vote-2/product-details/20210415CAN60548>

⁵³⁴³ Promoting Gender Equality in STEM – Vote – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/promoting-gender-equality-in-stem-vote-2/product-details/20210415CAN60548>

⁵³⁴⁴ Proposal for a Directive on Pay Transparency Public Hearing – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/proposal-for-a-directive-on-pay-transpar/product-details/20210415CAN60545>

⁵³⁴⁵ Proposal for a Directive on Pay Transparency Public Hearing – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/proposal-for-a-directive-on-pay-transpar/product-details/20210415CAN60545>

⁵³⁴⁶ Gender Mainstreaming Network Meeting – Exchange of Views – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/gender-mainstreaming-network-meeting-exc/product-details/20210421CAN60625>

⁵³⁴⁷ The EUI Partners with the European Institute for Gender Equality, European University Institute (San Domenico) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.eui.eu/news-hub?id=the-eui-partners-with-the-european-institute-for-gender-equality-eige>

⁵³⁴⁸ The EUI Partners with the European Institute for Gender Equality, European University Institute (San Domenico) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.eui.eu/news-hub?id=the-eui-partners-with-the-european-institute-for-gender-equality-eige>

On 26 April, the Council of Europe announced that the Gender Equality Division and the Violence against Women Division will be hosting an online public conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention on 11 May 2021.⁵³⁴⁹ The conference will “reaffirm the political will of states parties to fully implement the Convention.”⁵³⁵⁰ The Council of Europe will also present its plan to stop sexism through its campaign entitled “Sexism: See it. Name it. Stop it!”⁵³⁵¹ This conference is an attempt to reduce barriers to women’s economic participation by verbally confirming the European Union’s commitment to preventing violence against women and sexism.⁵³⁵²

On 28 April 2021, the European Parliament announced that the Committee on Women’s Rights and Equality will hold a meeting on 10 May 2021.⁵³⁵³ This meeting seeks to address different views on the “draft opinion to the Proposal for a directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union.”⁵³⁵⁴ The draft opinion discusses how minimum wage can be used to reduce pay gaps for women and men and hence can be used as a form of women empowerment in economic participation.⁵³⁵⁵

On 11 May 2021, the Council of Europe held an online conference marking the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention. During the online conference, member states affirmed their continuing commitment to the Istanbul Convention which seeks to protect women from gender-based and domestic violence.⁵³⁵⁶ The conference also discussed the implementation of the Council of Europe’s new campaign entitled “Sexism: See it. Name it. Stop it!”⁵³⁵⁷ This meeting is an advancement to the European Union’s commitment to women’s economic participation as it seeks to stop violence and sexism, which are two barriers to women’s economic participation.⁵³⁵⁸

⁵³⁴⁹ Launch of a Website Dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/-/launch-of-a-website-dedicated-to-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-istanbul-convention>

⁵³⁵⁰ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: a Decade of Action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

⁵³⁵¹ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: a Decade of Action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

⁵³⁵² Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: a Decade of Action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

⁵³⁵³ Adequate Minimum Wages – Presentation of Draft Opinion 10.05.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/adequate-minimum-wages-presentation-of-d/product-details/20210428CAN60724>

⁵³⁵⁴ Adequate Minimum Wages – Presentation of Draft Opinion 10.05.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/adequate-minimum-wages-presentation-of-d/product-details/20210428CAN60724>

⁵³⁵⁵ Adequate Minimum Wages – Presentation of Draft Opinion 10.05.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/adequate-minimum-wages-presentation-of-d/product-details/20210428CAN60724>

⁵³⁵⁶ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: A Decade of Action” (Berlin) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

⁵³⁵⁷ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: A Decade of Action” (Berlin) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

⁵³⁵⁸ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: A Decade of Action” (Berlin) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

On 10 September 2021, the EU pledged to invest USD8.5 million until December 2022 to the Spotlight Initiative, which aims to end violence against women and girls.⁵³⁵⁹ The investment will be used by the Government of Mozambique to fund interventions addressing violence against women and girls in Gaza, Manica and Nampula Provinces of Mozambique.⁵³⁶⁰ These interventions will include investment in longer-term recovery services and economic opportunities for women and girls experiencing violence.⁵³⁶¹

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as designing policies to address gender pay gap and reaffirm political wills to sexist languages. It has also promoted women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities by coaching and mentoring female entrepreneurs and providing them with financial support.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Veronique Nuqui

⁵³⁵⁹ Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

⁵³⁶⁰ Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

⁵³⁶¹ Mozambique, EU and UN renew commitment to end violence against women and girls with US\$8.5 million, Spotlight Initiative (Brussels) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://spotlightinitiative.org/news/mozambique-eu-and-un-renew-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-us85-million>

12. Development: Debt Relief

“We are committed to implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.”

G20 Riyadh 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 | | 0 | |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 0 | |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.65 | 830%) |

Background

In April 2020, the G20 approved the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) to provide economic relief to low-income countries during the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The DSSI offers “a temporary suspension of...government-to-government debt payments to 73 countries.”⁵³⁶² On 21 November 2020, at the Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders granted an extension to the DSSI until June 2021. Governments receiving DSSI relief are obligated to redirect funds previously allocated to debt repayment toward their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵³⁶³

Although the DSSI is a new initiative, G20 leaders have long been concerned with high debt levels. At the 2009 London Summit, G20 leaders committed to meet Millennium Development Goals related to debt relief, and “to review the flexibility of the Debt Sustainability Framework.”⁵³⁶⁴ At the

⁵³⁶² Factbox: How the G20’s Debt Service Suspension Initiative works, Reuters (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-emerging-debtrelief-fac-idUSKBN27021V>

⁵³⁶³ G20 to extend debt relief to mid-2021, pushes private sector to help, Reuters (Dubai/Washington) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-saudi-debt/g20-to-extend-debt-relief-to-mid-2021-pushes-private-sector-to-help-idINKBN2820NJ>

⁵³⁶⁴ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform: Statement Issued by the G20 Leaders, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed these commitments.⁵³⁶⁵ G20 leaders also called for Finance Ministers to assess whether their patterns of debt are conducive to economic growth.⁵³⁶⁶

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders pledged to “halve deficits by 2013 and stabilize or reduce government debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] ratios by 2016.”⁵³⁶⁷ G20 leaders expressed support for the cancellation of all Haitian debt following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and concern over rising debt levels following the 2007-2008 global financial crisis. G20 leaders also committed to implement fiscal stimulus and consolidation plans in response to rising debt levels.⁵³⁶⁸ At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders expressed support for the response of European leaders to the Greek government-debt crisis.⁵³⁶⁹

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders emphasized the need to put “debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.”⁵³⁷⁰ Every G20 summit from 2013 onwards has included this commitment. At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders also expressed support for the review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank’s “Guidelines for Public Debt Management” and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) interim report on public debt management, and for the IMF-World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework for low-income countries.⁵³⁷¹ They emphasized the need for continued consultation with low-income countries regarding debt management.⁵³⁷²

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 leaders expressed support for progress made towards sovereign debt restructuring, including “international work on strengthened collective action and *pari passu* clauses.”⁵³⁷³ At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders expressed support for the Paris Forum Initiative to promote further cooperation between debtor and creditor governments.⁵³⁷⁴ At the 2016 Hangzhou summit, G20 leaders expressed support for the incorporation of “enhanced contractual clauses into sovereign bonds.”⁵³⁷⁵ At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit and 2019 Osaka Summit, G20

⁵³⁶⁵ The Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, including the Annex: Core Values for Sustainable Economic Activity and the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqued0925.html>

⁵³⁶⁶ The Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, including the Annex: Core Values for Sustainable Economic Activity and the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqued0925.html>

⁵³⁶⁷ G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqued.html>

⁵³⁶⁸ G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqued.html>

⁵³⁶⁹ Communiqué: G20 Leaders’ Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-communiqued-111104-en.html>

⁵³⁷⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵³⁷¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵³⁷² G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵³⁷³ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqued.html>

⁵³⁷⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqued.html>

⁵³⁷⁵ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqued.html>

leaders called on the World Bank and IMF to increase transparency regarding debt obligations.⁵³⁷⁶ At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders also called for further “analysis of collateralized financing practices.”⁵³⁷⁷

Commitment Features

In the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration adopted on 21 November 2020, G20 leaders committed to “implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.”⁵³⁷⁸ This declaration was made to address forthcoming economic depression as a result of COVID-19, with an estimated additional 100 million people facing extreme poverty.⁵³⁷⁹

This commitment features a politically binding statement as the G20 members use the word “commit.”⁵³⁸⁰ This refers to a binding obligation to change “member behaviour” specifically on allowing bilateral debt suspension as outlined in the DSSI through until June 2021.⁵³⁸¹ “Implement” refers to “taking steps forward. While the commitment may be a part of a longer-term initiative and actions on it may continue into the prolonged future, steps need to be taken in the near future to be considered implementation. This should not, therefore, be interpreted to mean only prolonged or delayed action.”⁵³⁸²

“Debt Service Suspension Initiative” refers to the G20 program pushed by the World Bank and IMF to assist developing countries on mobilizing their resources towards fighting COVID-19, safeguarding their population.⁵³⁸³ Currently, 73 countries are eligible for a debt suspension payment.⁵³⁸⁴ Since 13 November 2020, over USD5.7 billion has been delivered to 46 eligible countries.⁵³⁸⁵

⁵³⁷⁶ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>; G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵³⁷⁷ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵³⁷⁸ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵³⁷⁹ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

⁵³⁸⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵³⁸¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵³⁸² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵³⁸³ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

⁵³⁸⁴ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

⁵³⁸⁵ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

“Bilateral” refers to lending by sovereign governments and public institutions in which the government holds a 50 per cent share.⁵³⁸⁶ This extends to “general government, central government; state and local government; central bank; and public enterprise.”⁵³⁸⁷

The G20 Leaders’ Declaration and World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) and International Debt Statistics definitions and classifications emphasized several factors needed for successful DSSI policy. First, they state the need for “disclosure” and “transparency” of public sector financial commitments and in efforts made by borrowers, creditors, both official and private.⁵³⁸⁸ G20 leaders urged participation from private creditors to engage with eligible countries’ requests.⁵³⁸⁹ G20 leaders also called on multilateral development banks to continue in their collective efforts in supporting DSSI by supporting eligible countries with debt suspensions and potential extension periods.⁵³⁹⁰ G20 finance ministers and central bank governors pledged to revisit the debt suspension question in May 2021 to see if another six months of the program is necessary.⁵³⁹¹ Beyond the Leaders’ Declaration, the World Bank emphasized the need to specifically use newfound resources to “increase social, health, and economic spending” in response to the COVID-19 crisis.⁵³⁹² Finally, the World Bank committed that countries taking part in DSSI should take steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing.⁵³⁹³

The two pillars of the initiative as outlined in DSSI “COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative” are: 1) “commit to disclose all public sector financial commitments” and 2) “commit to limit non-concessional borrowing to levels agreed under IMF programs and the World Bank’s non-concessional borrowing policies.”⁵³⁹⁴

Actions counting towards compliance include actions which meet the standards for either of the two pillars. For the first pillar, this includes a disclosing of all public sector financial commitments. Hence, the G20, World Bank Group, and IMF should gain access to any actions taken by G20 members towards DSSI. Examples include publishing government reports of who, when, and what took place with any specific DSSI eligible claim. For the second pillar, this includes limiting non-concessional borrowing. As outlined by the OECD, concessional borrowing or loans refers to “loans that are

⁵³⁸⁶ World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) and International Debt Statistics definitions and classifications, World Bank (Washington D.C.) October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/Debt%20Service%20Payments%20Projections-%20What%20do%20we%20measure.pdf>

⁵³⁸⁷ World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) and International Debt Statistics definitions and classifications, World Bank (Washington D.C.) October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/Debt%20Service%20Payments%20Projections-%20What%20do%20we%20measure.pdf>

⁵³⁸⁸ Implementation and Extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries) (Washington D.C.) 16 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.devcommittee.org/sites/dc/files/download/Documents/2020-10/Final%20DC2020-0007%20DSSI.pdf>

⁵³⁸⁹ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵³⁹⁰ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵³⁹¹ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵³⁹² COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

⁵³⁹³ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

⁵³⁹⁴ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

extended on terms substantially more generous than market loans. The concessionality is achieved either through interest rates below those available on the market or by grace periods, or a combination of these. Concessional loans typically have long grace periods.”⁵³⁹⁵ Examples of G20 members acting within the framework of “limiting non-concessional loans” refers to pursuing loans at rates under the general market or allowing borrowers grace periods for repayment. Therefore, G20 members who actively loan out funds at a rate non discernible towards COVID-19 relief do not meet this commitment.

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member must take strong actions to implement the DSSI as outlined by the two pillars of the COVID-19 DSSI: “commit to disclose all public sector financial commitments” and “commit to limit non-concessional borrowing to levels agreed under IMF programs and the World Bank’s non-concessional borrowing policies.” Furthermore, a G20 member may only receive a score of +1 if they are committed to implementing the DSSI through June 2021. If a G20 member does not continue its commitment on implementing the DSSI past June 2021 or does not take steps to do so, for example through making statements urging World Bank members to extend past June 2021, it would be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member takes partial action on both pillars of the DSSI but takes steps to ensure its extension or implementation past June 2021, it would still be considered full compliance.

If a G20 member takes strong action on one of the two pillars they will be awarded partial compliance and score of 0. If a G20 member takes partial action on only one pillar but takes steps to ensure its extension or implementation past June 2021, it would be considered partial compliance. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be given to G20 members who fail to demonstrate their commitment to implement the DSSI, meeting none of the two pillars outlined in the initiative, or taking some action on only one.

Less than strong, or some actions, include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment, making statements on future actions, attending a meeting on the DSSI with no evidence of the members’ individual position. For strong action, members can disclose public sector financial commitments, such as publishing reports, and limiting non-concessional borrowing through policy changes, etc. Furthermore, the first pillar of this commitment requires the G20 member to take individual actions on their own public sector financial commitments. However, the second pillar on limiting non-concessional borrowing could be undertaken either individually or by working with other countries, private sector creditors or international organizations.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member has NOT taken any steps towards disclosing public sector financial commitments under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) OR taken steps to limit non-concessional borrowing. |
| 0 | G20 member has either taken steps to disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI OR has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing through June 2021. |
| +1 | G20 member has BOTH taken steps towards disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI AND has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing through June 2021. |

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Lead Analyst: Quinn Teague-Colfer*

⁵³⁹⁵ Glossary of Statistical Term: “Concessional Loans,” Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 27 August 2003. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=5901>

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Argentina joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵³⁹⁶ In addition, G20 officials called on the IMF to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵³⁹⁷ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵³⁹⁸

On 7 April 2021, Argentina and Mexico issued a joint statement calling for international debt relief for middle-income countries.⁵³⁹⁹ Argentina and Mexico proposed the creation of an international fund to facilitate a more orderly debt restructuring process for middle-income countries.⁵⁴⁰⁰

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán argued for proportional “reallocation of new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)...to all developing countries, including middle-income countries” at the 2nd Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting.⁵⁴⁰¹ Minister Guzmán also called for a review of the IMF’s access limits and interest rate surcharge policies.⁵⁴⁰²

On 9 April 2021, Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán met virtually with the International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and finance ministers from Latin America, the US and Canada, and reiterated his calls for the reallocation of SDRs to middle-income and low-income countries.⁵⁴⁰³

⁵³⁹⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵³⁹⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵³⁹⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵³⁹⁹ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

⁵⁴⁰⁰ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

⁵⁴⁰¹ Martín Guzmán asked the G20 for mechanisms to reallocate the new SDRs to developing and low- and middle-income countries, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/martin-guzman-solicito-ante-el-g20-mecanismos-para-reasignar-los-nuevos-deg-los-paises-en>

⁵⁴⁰² Martín Guzmán asked the G20 for mechanisms to reallocate the new SDRs to developing and low- and middle-income countries, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/martin-guzman-solicito-ante-el-g20-mecanismos-para-reasignar-los-nuevos-deg-los-paises-en>

⁵⁴⁰³ Martín Guzmán once again asked the IMF for mechanisms to reallocate the new SDRs and the review of surcharges, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/martin-guzman-volvio-solicitar-ante-el-fmi-mecanismos-para-reasignar-los-nuevos-deg-y-la>

On 4 May 2021, the Social Economic Council of Argentina expressed its support to extend the DSSI.⁵⁴⁰⁴ The Council also encouraged the government to express its support for the implementation of a new Common Framework for Debt Treatment at the G20 to address debt relief.⁵⁴⁰⁵

On 29 June 2021, Argentina joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁴⁰⁶

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Argentina joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁴⁰⁷ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁴⁰⁸

Argentina has taken partial action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through its calls for extension of debt suspension periods and for reform of the debt restructuring process and reallocation of SDRs to middle-income and low-income countries. However, Argentina has not taken action to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Santiago Ardisson

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 22 November 2020, Australia granted Papua New Guinea a 15-year, AUD140 million loan. In addition, the agreement included refinancing an existing USD300 million loan associated with deferred interest repayments of USD5.29 million.⁵⁴⁰⁹

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁴¹⁰ As a permanent

⁵⁴⁰⁴ CES support for ambitious global initiatives to respond to the current crisis and lay the foundations for a sustainable International Financial Architecture, Social Economic Council (Buenos Aires) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/apoyo-del-ces-iniciativas-globales-ambiciosas-para-dar-respuesta-la-crisis-actual-y-sentar>

⁵⁴⁰⁵ CES support for ambitious global initiatives to respond to the current crisis and lay the foundations for a sustainable International Financial Architecture, Social Economic Council (Buenos Aires) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/apoyo-del-ces-iniciativas-globales-ambiciosas-para-dar-respuesta-la-crisis-actual-y-sentar>

⁵⁴⁰⁶ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁴⁰⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁰⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁰⁹ National Interest Statement: Loan Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Australian Government Department of Treasury (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2020-136751>

creditor of the Paris Club, Australia is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁴¹¹

On 7 April 2021, Australia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁴¹² In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁴¹³ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴¹⁴

On 13 April 2021, Australia, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by six months to the end of December 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴¹⁵

On 10 June 2021, Australia, as a member of the Group of Creditors of Cuba which also includes Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the UK, agreed to defer “debt repayments due under the 2015 Arrangement” in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴¹⁶ This initiative aims to improve Cuba’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 June 2021, Australia joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁴¹⁷

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Australia joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond

⁵⁴¹⁰ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴¹¹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴¹² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴¹³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴¹⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴¹⁵ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁴¹⁶ Agreement on the debt between Cuba and the Group of Creditors of Cuba, Club de Paris (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/agreement-on-the-debt-between-cuba-and-the-group-of-creditors-of-cuba-0>

⁵⁴¹⁷ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

the DSSI.⁵⁴¹⁸ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁴¹⁹

Australia has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through extension of debt suspension periods and bilateral refinancing of loans on Papua New Guinea and Cuba. Australia has disclosed public sector financial commitments under DSSI, and stated its commitment to extending the DSSI past June 2021.

Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Yuchen Bai

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through December 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁴²⁰ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Brazil is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁴²¹

On 4 January 2021, Brazil, through cooperation with the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of the Congo is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴²² Brazil, France, Russia and Turkey are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Republic of the Congo's debt.⁵⁴²³ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of the Congo's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 1 April 2021, Brazil, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Senegal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴²⁴ Brazil, Belgium, France, Japan, Korea and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the

⁵⁴¹⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴¹⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴²⁰ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴²¹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴²² The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

⁵⁴²³ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

⁵⁴²⁴ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

reorganization of Senegal's debt.⁵⁴²⁵ This initiative aims to improve Senegal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, Brazil joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁴²⁶ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁴²⁷ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴²⁸

On 29 June 2021, Brazil joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁴²⁹

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Brazil joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁴³⁰ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁴³¹

On 19 August 2021, Brazil's government published the "Financial Cooperation" report, in which the government reiterated its support for the DSSI and claimed its continuous commitment to debt rescheduling.⁵⁴³²

On 24 August 2021, Brazil, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of Congo is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31

⁵⁴²⁵ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

⁵⁴²⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴²⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴²⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴²⁹ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde-international_relations-reactions_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communicue-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁴³⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴³¹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴³² Financial Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (Brasilia) August 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/subjects/economic-and-commercial-foreign-policy/financial-agenda/financial-cooperation>

December 2021.⁵⁴³³ Brazil, Belgium France and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Republic of Congo's debt.⁵⁴³⁴ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of Congo's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, Brazil, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mozambique is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁴³⁵ Brazil, Belgium, France, Japan, Korea, Russia and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mozambique's debt.⁵⁴³⁶ This initiative aims to improve Mozambique's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brazil has reaffirmed its commitment to the DSSI through its extension of debt suspension periods and disclosure of public sector financial commitments.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Shunjie Tony Zhao

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁴³⁷ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Canada is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁴³⁸

On 22 December 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau affirmed Canada's commitment to implementing the DSSI, allowing eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service

⁵⁴³³ The Republic of Congo benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-congo-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁴³⁴ The Republic of Congo benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-congo-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁴³⁵ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁴³⁶ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁴³⁷ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴³⁸ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

payments.⁵⁴³⁹ As part of this commitment, Canada offered Pakistan USD23 million worth of temporary relief with a 5+1-year grace period for repayment.⁵⁴⁴⁰

On 11 January 2021, Canada, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁴¹ Canada, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁴⁴² This initiative aims to help Kenya improve debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 March 2021, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, Prime Minister Trudeau and Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness convened a meeting of world leaders to highlight the urgency for more clear plans to provide liquidity and address debt vulnerability in developing countries.⁵⁴⁴³ At this meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau reiterated the importance of a coordinated global response to ensure all countries have the resources to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁴⁴

On 7 April 2021, Canada joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁴⁴⁵ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁴⁴⁶ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁴⁷

⁵⁴³⁹ Pakistan secures \$1.7 billion debt relief deal, Business Recorder (Pakistan) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40043521>

⁵⁴⁴⁰ Pakistan secures \$1.7 billion debt relief deal, Business Recorder (Pakistan) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40043521>

⁵⁴⁴¹ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁴⁴² Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁴⁴³ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

⁵⁴⁴⁴ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

⁵⁴⁴⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁴⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁴⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

On 13 April 2021, Canada, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by 6 months to the end of December 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁴⁸

On 19 April 2021, Canada released its federal budget, which committed to increasing international humanitarian assistance.⁵⁴⁴⁹ Specifically, Canada pledged to allocate an additional CAD165 million from 2021 to 2022 to Global Affairs Canada to provide international humanitarian assistance to developing countries.⁵⁴⁵⁰ The budget highlights Canada's provision of more than CAD70 million to the DSSI and ability to provide up to an additional CAD33 million in relief.⁵⁴⁵¹

On 10 June 2021, Canada, as a member of the Group of Creditors of Cuba which also includes Australia, France, Italy, Japan and the UK, agreed to defer “debt repayments due under the 2015 Arrangement” in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁵² This initiative aims to improve Cuba's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health-related, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 June 2021, Canada joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁴⁵³

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Canada joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁴⁵⁴ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁴⁵⁵

On 15 July 2021, Canada and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over 16 years period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts”.⁵⁴⁵⁶ Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK, and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan's debt.⁵⁴⁵⁷ The deferment also

⁵⁴⁴⁸ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁴⁴⁹ The Government of Canada Federal Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

⁵⁴⁵⁰ The Government of Canada Federal Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

⁵⁴⁵¹ The Government of Canada Federal Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

⁵⁴⁵² Agreement on the debt between Cuba and the Group of Creditors of Cuba, Club de Paris (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/agreement-on-the-debt-between-cuba-and-the-group-of-creditors-of-cuba-0>

⁵⁴⁵³ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁴⁵⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁵⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁵⁶ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁴⁵⁷ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

includes “the maturities falling due during the consolidation period under the post cut-off date debts as well as all moratorium interest due during the consolidation period on the rescheduled and deferred amounts”.⁵⁴⁵⁸

On 27 July 2021, Canada, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁴⁵⁹ Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Korea, Spain, the UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola’s debt.⁵⁴⁶⁰ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 7 September 2021, Canada, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁴⁶¹ Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya’s debt.⁵⁴⁶² This initiative aims to improve Kenya’s debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Canada, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁴⁶³ Canada, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁴⁶⁴ This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada has reaffirmed its commitment to the DSSI by extending debt suspension periods and disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Azana Hyder

⁵⁴⁵⁸ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁴⁵⁹ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁴⁶⁰ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁴⁶¹ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁴⁶² The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁴⁶³ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁴⁶⁴ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 20 January 2021, China agreed a debt moratorium with DSSI-eligible Kenya saving a repayment of USD245 million by June 2021.⁵⁴⁶⁵

On 22 February 2021, China forgave USD6 million in Rwandan debt and provided grants of USD60 million to Rwanda, intending to aid Rwanda in its fight against COVID-19.⁵⁴⁶⁶

On 7 April 2021, China joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁴⁶⁷ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁴⁶⁸ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁶⁹

On 19 April 2021, Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming reaffirmed China’s commitment to “push forward debt sustainability in developing countries” through its Belt and Road Initiative.⁵⁴⁷⁰

On 15 April 2021, China met with France, India, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a coordinated response to Chad’s request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁴⁷¹

On 10 June 2021, China met with the creditor committee for Chad formed by China, France, India, and Saudi Arabia, along with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to review Chad’s formal request for debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt

⁵⁴⁶⁵ Kenya to save 27 billion shilling from China debt service suspension deal, Reuters (London) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-kenya-debt-china-idUSKBN29P1A3>

⁵⁴⁶⁶ China Provides Modest Debt Relief and New Grant to Rwanda, The China Africa Project (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://chinaafricaproject.com/2021/02/22/china-provides-modest-debt-relief-and-new-grant-to-rwanda/>

⁵⁴⁶⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁶⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁶⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁷⁰ China to promote debt sustainability in developing nations – vice commerce minister, Reuters (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-promote-debt-sustainability-developing-nations-vice-commerce-minister-2021-04-19/>

⁵⁴⁷¹ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁴⁷² Members of the creditor committee are committed to negotiating terms for debt restructuring with Chad, to be laid out in a memorandum of understanding.⁵⁴⁷³ In addition, the creditor committee supports Chad's proposed IMF upper credit tranche program and urges its adoption by the IMF Executive Board, as well as encouraging maximum support for Chad from Multilateral Development Banks to address its long-term financial needs.⁵⁴⁷⁴

On 29 June 2021, China joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁴⁷⁵

On 7 July 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Wang Wenbin reaffirmed China's commitment to "support the G20 consensus on extending the DSSI to the end of this year" and to "take part in multilateral debt management appropriately on a case-by-case basis."⁵⁴⁷⁶

On 9 and 10 July 2021, China joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁴⁷⁷ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁴⁷⁸

China has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through extension of debt suspension periods and bilateral refinancing of loans, and vocal support for the extension of the DSSI past June 2021, along with some disclosure public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jad El Ghali

⁵⁴⁷² Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁴⁷³ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁴⁷⁴ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁴⁷⁵ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-reunions_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-developpement.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁴⁷⁶ Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin's Regular Press Conference on July 7, 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1890399.shtml

⁵⁴⁷⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁴⁷⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁴⁷⁹ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, France is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁴⁸⁰

On 9 December 2020, France announced that Agence France Trésor (AFT) will adjust its debt issuance program to meet demand and guarantee a liquid market for its securities.⁵⁴⁸¹ The program stipulates bonds linked to French and European inflation indices will account for approximately 10 per cent of net medium- and long-term debt issuance.⁵⁴⁸² The press release also noted that AFT may buy back debt in 2021 depending on market conditions.⁵⁴⁸³

On 31 December 2020, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Eric Lavertu signed the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative with the Maldives. France's contribution will support the implementation of domestic recovery and resilience policies in the Maldives.⁵⁴⁸⁴ It aims to improve debt transparency and debt management amidst the present economic challenges.⁵⁴⁸⁵

On 4 January 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁸⁶ France, Germany, Japan and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.⁵⁴⁸⁷ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 4 January 2021, France, through cooperation with the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of the Congo is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1

⁵⁴⁷⁹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴⁸⁰ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁴⁸¹ Indicative State Financing Programme for 2021, Agence France Trésor (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.aft.gouv.fr/en/publications/communiqués-presse/20201209-State-financing-programme-2021>

⁵⁴⁸² Indicative State Financing Programme for 2021, Agence France Trésor (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.aft.gouv.fr/en/publications/communiqués-presse/20201209-State-financing-programme-2021>

⁵⁴⁸³ Indicative State Financing Programme for 2021, Agence France Trésor (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.aft.gouv.fr/en/publications/communiqués-presse/20201209-State-financing-programme-2021>

⁵⁴⁸⁴ France and Maldives sign G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative agreement, French Embassy in Colombo (Colombo) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://lk.ambafrance.org/France-and-Maldives-sign-G-20-Debt-Service-Suspension-Initiative-agreement>

⁵⁴⁸⁵ Maldives and France signs agreement on the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Colombo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.mv/en/news-and-communications/maldives-and-france-signs-agreement-on-the-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi>

⁵⁴⁸⁶ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁴⁸⁷ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁸⁸ France, Brazil, Russia and Turkey are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Republic of the Congo's debt.⁵⁴⁸⁹ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of the Congo's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 11 January 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁹⁰ France, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁴⁹¹ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 28 January 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Uganda is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁹² France, Korea, Japan and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Uganda's debt.⁵⁴⁹³ This initiative aims to improve Uganda's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 18 March 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁹⁴ France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.⁵⁴⁹⁵ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁹⁶

⁵⁴⁸⁸ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

⁵⁴⁸⁹ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

⁵⁴⁹⁰ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁴⁹¹ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁴⁹² Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁴⁹³ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁴⁹⁴ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁴⁹⁵ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁴⁹⁶ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

On 1 April 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Senegal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁴⁹⁷ France, Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Korea and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Senegal's debt.⁵⁴⁹⁸ This initiative aims to improve Senegal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, France joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁴⁹⁹ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁵⁰⁰ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵⁰¹

On 9 April 2021, Minister of State for Tourism, French Nationals Abroad and Francophonie Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne highlighted France's satisfaction following the World Bank and the IMF's decision to extend the debt service suspension until the end of the year.⁵⁵⁰² Minister Lemoyne then called on all creditors to implement the same commitments made by the G20 and the Paris Club in November 2020, in order to respond in a more structural manner to the debt vulnerability of poor countries.⁵⁵⁰³

On 13 April 2021, France, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by 6 months through the end of 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵⁰⁴

On 13 April 2021, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published preliminary data on global official development assistance for

⁵⁴⁹⁷ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

⁵⁴⁹⁸ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

⁵⁴⁹⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁰⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁰¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁰² World Bank/ IMF – Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the Development Committee meeting, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-development>

⁵⁵⁰³ World Bank/ IMF – Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the Development Committee meeting, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-development>

⁵⁵⁰⁴ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

2020.⁵⁵⁰⁵ In 2020, France allocated EUR1.9 billion to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries.⁵⁵⁰⁶ The Agence Française de Développement also established a Health in Common Initiative worth EUR1.2 billion.⁵⁵⁰⁷ The Health in Common Initiative which improved care for patients and strengthened the capabilities of the Pasteur Institute's reference laboratories in several sub-Saharan African countries.⁵⁵⁰⁸

On 13 April 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Guinea is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵⁰⁹ France and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Guinea's debt.⁵⁵¹⁰ This initiative aims to improve Guinea's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 April 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Djibouti is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵¹¹ France, Belgium, Spain, and Italy are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Djibouti's debt.⁵⁵¹² This initiative aims to improve Djibouti's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 April 2021, France met with China, India, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a coordinated response to Chad's request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁵¹³

On 4 May 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Saint Lucia is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June

⁵⁵⁰⁵ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

⁵⁵⁰⁶ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

⁵⁵⁰⁷ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

⁵⁵⁰⁸ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

⁵⁵⁰⁹ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁵¹⁰ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁵¹¹ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

⁵⁵¹² The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

⁵⁵¹³ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

2021.⁵⁵¹⁴ This initiative aims to improve Saint Lucia's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 17 May 2021, President Emmanuel Macron stated that Sudan's debt of EUR5 billion to France would be cancelled as part of an effort to kick-start the debt relief for Sudan.⁵⁵¹⁵ This act is to support the country's transition in leadership, to aid economic recovery, and to bring Sudan out of international isolation.⁵⁵¹⁶

On 17 May 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire pledged EUR1.5 billion to Sudan to alleviate its debts to the International Monetary Fund.⁵⁵¹⁷ This act aims to encourage broader economic reform in the country and to enable a successful transition of a new Sudanese government.⁵⁵¹⁸

On 18 May 2021, President Macron held the Summit on the Financing of African Economies, where the French government pushed for wealthy nations to reallocate SDR100 billion in International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights to African countries to respond to the health and economic crisis that the pandemic has caused in Africa.⁵⁵¹⁹ The aim of this initiative is to put in place financial resources capable of reviving the economy of African countries, many of whom are expecting COVID-19-induced recessions in 2021.⁵⁵²⁰

On 1 June 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Nepal is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵²¹ France, Japan and South Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Nepal's debt.⁵⁵²² This initiative aims to improve Nepal's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 June 2021, France met with the creditor committee for Chad formed by France, India, China and Saudi Arabia, along with representatives of the IMF and World Bank to review Chad's formal request for debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the

⁵⁵¹⁴ Saint Lucia benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/saint-lucia-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-05-2021>

⁵⁵¹⁵ Sudan clears final hurdle for debt relief at Paris conference, Reuters (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 17 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudan-seeks-debt-relief-pledges-investment-paris-conference-2021-05-16/>

⁵⁵¹⁶ Sudan clears final hurdle for debt relief at Paris conference, Reuters (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 17 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudan-seeks-debt-relief-pledges-investment-paris-conference-2021-05-16/>

⁵⁵¹⁷ Chair's Statement – International Conference on Sudan, Élysée (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/05/17/chairs-statement-international-conference-on-sudan.en>

⁵⁵¹⁸ France to provide Sudan with \$1.5 bln bridge loan to clear arrears, Reuters (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/france-provide-sudan-with-15-bln-bridge-loan-clear-arrears-2021-05-17/>

⁵⁵¹⁹ France, African leaders push to redirect \$100 bln in IMF SDR reserves by October, Reuters (Paris) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 15 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/macron-hosts-summit-financing-africas-post-pandemic-recovery-2021-05-18/>

⁵⁵²⁰ Summit on the Financing of African Economies, Élysée (Paris) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2021/05/18/summit-on-the-financing-of-african-economies-1>

⁵⁵²¹ Nepal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-06-2021>

⁵⁵²² Nepal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 14 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-06-2021>

DSSI.⁵⁵²³ Members of the creditor committee are committed to negotiating terms for debt restructuring with Chad, to be laid out in a memorandum of understanding.⁵⁵²⁴

On 10 June 2021, France, as a member of the Group of Creditors of Cuba which also includes Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan and the UK, agreed to defer “debt repayments due under the 2015 Arrangement” in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵²⁵ This initiative aims to improve Cuba’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health-related, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 June 2021, France joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁵²⁶

On 9 July 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that the Maldives is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵²⁷ France, Japan, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Maldives’ debt.⁵⁵²⁸ This initiative aims to improve the Maldives’ debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 9 July 2021 and 10 July 2021, France joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁵²⁹ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁵³⁰

On 15 July 2021, France and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over a 16-year period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-

⁵⁵²³ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁵²⁴ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁵²⁵ Agreement on the debt between Cuba and the Group of Creditors of Cuba, Club de Paris (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/agreement-on-the-debt-between-cuba-and-the-group-of-creditors-of-cuba-0>

⁵⁵²⁶ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁵²⁷ The Republic of the Maldives benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-maldives-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵²⁸ The Republic of the Maldives benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-maldives-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵²⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵³⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

off date debts.”⁵⁵³¹ France, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan’s debt.⁵⁵³²

On 27 July 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵³³ France, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Korea, Spain, the UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola’s debt.⁵⁵³⁴ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 28 July 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Dominica is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵³⁵ France and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Dominica’s debt.⁵⁵³⁶ This initiative aims to improve Dominica’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 18 August 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Djibouti is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵³⁷ France, Belgium, Italy and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Djibouti’s debt.⁵⁵³⁸ This initiative aims to improve Djibouti’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 August 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of Congo is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵³⁹ France, Belgium, Brazil, and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Republic of Congo's debt.⁵⁵⁴⁰ This initiative aims to improve the Republic

⁵⁵³¹ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁵³² Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁵³³ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁵³⁴ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁵³⁵ Dominica benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 17 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/dominica-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-28-07-2021>

⁵⁵³⁶ Dominica benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 17 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/dominica-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-28-07-2021>

⁵⁵³⁷ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵³⁸ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵³⁹ The Republic of Congo benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-congo-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁵⁴⁰ The Republic of Congo benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-congo-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

of Congo's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 August 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mali is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁴¹ France, Belgium, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mali's debt.⁵⁵⁴² This initiative aims to improve Mali's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 2 September, Paris Club creditors met to “provide financing assurances in order to support the approval by the IMF Executive Board of the envisaged Extended Fund Facility arrangement for Suriname”, where they committed to launching negotiations to restructure Suriname's debt in accordance with its IMF-supported reform program.⁵⁵⁴³ France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Suriname's debt.⁵⁵⁴⁴

On 7 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁴⁵ France, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁵⁴⁶ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mauritania is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁴⁷ France and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mauritania's debt.⁵⁵⁴⁸ This initiative aims to improve Mauritania's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mozambique is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31

⁵⁵⁴¹ The Republic of Mali benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mali-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁵⁴² The Republic of Mali benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mali-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁵⁴³ Suriname-Financing assurances to support the approval of an IMF program, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/suriname-financing-assurances-to-support-the-approval-of-an-imf-program>

⁵⁵⁴⁴ Suriname-Financing assurances to support the approval of an IMF program, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/suriname-financing-assurances-to-support-the-approval-of-an-imf-program>

⁵⁵⁴⁵ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁵⁴⁶ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁵⁴⁷ The Islamic Republic of Mauritania benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-mauritania-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁵⁴⁸ The Islamic Republic of Mauritania benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-mauritania-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

December 2021.⁵⁵⁴⁹ France, Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Russia and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mozambique's debt.⁵⁵⁵⁰ This initiative aims to improve Mozambique's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Zambia is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁵¹ France, Belgium, Japan and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Zambia's debt.⁵⁵⁵² This initiative aims to improve Zambia's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kyrgyzstan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁵³ France, Denmark, Germany, Japan and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kyrgyzstan's debt.⁵⁵⁵⁴ This initiative aims to improve Kyrgyzstan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Nepal is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁵⁵ France, Belgium, Japan, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Nepal's debt.⁵⁵⁵⁶ This initiative aims to improve the Nepal's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 17 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Burkina Faso is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁵⁷ France, Belgium, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the

⁵⁵⁴⁹ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁵⁵⁰ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁵⁵¹ The Republic of Zambia benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-zambia-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁵⁵² The Republic of Zambia benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-zambia-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁵⁵³ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁵⁵⁴ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁵⁵⁵ Nepal benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-14-09-2021>

⁵⁵⁵⁶ Nepal benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-14-09-2021>

⁵⁵⁵⁷ Burkina Faso benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/burkina-faso-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

reorganization of Burkina Faso's debt.⁵⁵⁵⁸ This initiative aims to improve the Burkina Faso's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cabo Verde is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁵⁹ France, Belgium, Japan, Russia, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cabo Verde's debt.⁵⁵⁶⁰ This initiative aims to improve Cabo Verde's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Tanzania is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵⁶¹ France, Japan, Korea, and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Tanzania's debt.⁵⁵⁶² This initiative aims to improve the Tanzania's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁶³ France, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁵⁶⁴ This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

France took strong actions to support DSSI eligible countries by working collaboratively to establish debt management initiatives and by extending service payments. France also worked to support domestic measures to ease financial stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and to disclose the financial commitments of the public sector.

⁵⁵⁵⁸ Burkina Faso benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/burkina-faso-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵⁵⁹ The Republic of Cabo Verde benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cabo-verde-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁵⁶⁰ The Republic of Cabo Verde benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cabo-verde-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁵⁶¹ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵⁶² The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵⁶³ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁵⁶⁴ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Olivia Klasios and Keerthi Chintapalli

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 1 December 2020, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller and Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Bourita concluded negotiations in which Germany committed EUR1.39 billion in aid to Morocco.⁵⁵⁶⁵ These funds are earmarked for bank loans to local entrepreneurs, financial reforms, investment in renewable energies, and a COVID-19 relief fund.⁵⁵⁶⁶

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁵⁶⁷ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Germany is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁵⁶⁸

On 22 December 2020, the Federal Foreign Office announced an allocation of EUR3.49 billion to safeguard peace and stability (including support provided to the United Nations).⁵⁵⁶⁹ The largest item in this part of the budget is humanitarian aid at EUR2.11 billion; crisis prevention and stabilization at EUR434 million; and the Stability Pact for Afghanistan at EUR170 million.⁵⁵⁷⁰ Humanitarian assistance now accounts for a third of the Federal Foreign Office's budget as part of Germany's response to various regional crises abroad and the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵⁷¹

On 4 January 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵⁷² Germany, France, Japan and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.⁵⁵⁷³ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁵⁶⁵ Morocco and Germany consolidate their cooperation, Kingdom of Morocco Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rabat) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.ma/fr/entretien-t%C3%A9l%C3%A9phonique-entre-m-bourita-et-son-homologue-allemand>

⁵⁵⁶⁶ Behind Moroccan-German diplomatic crisis, a list of grudges, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/behind-moroccan-german-diplomatic-crisis-a-list-of-grudges/a-56750013>

⁵⁵⁶⁷ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵⁶⁸ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁵⁶⁹ Germany's foreign policy budget, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aamt/haushalt/229742>

⁵⁵⁷⁰ Germany's foreign policy budget, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aamt/haushalt/229742>

⁵⁵⁷¹ Germany's foreign policy budget, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aamt/haushalt/229742>

⁵⁵⁷² Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁵⁷³ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

On 11 January 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵⁷⁴ Germany, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁵⁷⁵ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 21 January 2021, the European Commission approved Germany's umbrella scheme to support the economy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵⁷⁶ The EUR12 billion scheme enables Germany to compensate businesses of all sectors for the damages suffered because of restrictive measures taken to contain the coronavirus outbreak. It complements the already approved schemes, enabling support of up to EUR4 million per company as part of the Novemberhilfe package.⁵⁵⁷⁷

On 19 February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance announced that the federal budget recorded a deficit of EUR37.1 billion in January 2021.⁵⁵⁷⁸ It also published borrowing trends for Germany in the same month and committed to a monthly publication schedule, in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus.⁵⁵⁷⁹

On 18 March 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁵⁸⁰ Germany, France, Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.⁵⁵⁸¹ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵⁸²

⁵⁵⁷⁴ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁵⁷⁵ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁵⁷⁶ State aid: Commission approves €12 billion German umbrella scheme to compensate companies for damages suffered due to coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_185

⁵⁵⁷⁷ State aid: Commission approves €12 billion German umbrella scheme to compensate companies for damages suffered due to coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_185

⁵⁵⁷⁸ Overview of federal budgetary and financial data up to and including January 2021, Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Monthly_Report/Key_Figures/2021-02-federal-budget.html

⁵⁵⁷⁹ Overview of federal budgetary and financial data up to and including January 2021, Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Monthly_Report/Key_Figures/2021-02-federal-budget.html

⁵⁵⁸⁰ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁵⁸¹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁵⁸² The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

On 7 April 2021, Germany joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁵⁸³ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁵⁸⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁵⁸⁵

On 13 April 2021, Germany, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by 6 months through the end of 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 crisis.⁵⁵⁸⁶

On 29 June 2021, Germany joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁵⁸⁷

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Germany joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁵⁸⁸ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁵⁸⁹

On 15 July 2021, Germany and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over a 16-year period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts.”⁵⁵⁹⁰ Germany, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan’s debt.⁵⁵⁹¹

⁵⁵⁸³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁸⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁸⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁸⁶ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁵⁸⁷ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁵⁸⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁸⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁵⁹⁰ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁵⁹¹ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

On 7 September 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁹² Germany, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁵⁹³ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 September 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kyrgyzstan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁹⁴ Germany, Denmark, France, Japan and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kyrgyzstan's debt.⁵⁵⁹⁵ This initiative aims to improve Kyrgyzstan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 September 2021, Germany, the UK, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs hosted a joint event in support of funding preventative measures in the case of tackling humanitarian crises.⁵⁵⁹⁶ The UK pledged GBP3.1 million in aid to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters; GBP1.8 million to Bangladesh and Nepal, to help national as well as international non governmental organizations recognize and respond to natural disasters; and, GBP1.3 million to Start Network for civil society projects in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan and the Philippines to develop disaster risk finance systems in these countries.⁵⁵⁹⁷

On 24 September 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁵⁹⁸ Germany, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁵⁹⁹ This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁵⁹² The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁵⁹³ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁵⁹⁴ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁵⁹⁵ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁵⁹⁶ UK commits £3.1 million in aid to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (London) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-31m-in-aid-to-minimise-the-humanitarian-impact-of-disasters>

⁵⁵⁹⁷ UK commits £3.1 million in aid to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (London) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-31m-in-aid-to-minimise-the-humanitarian-impact-of-disasters>

⁵⁵⁹⁸ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁵⁹⁹ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

Germany took strong actions to support DSSI eligible countries by working collaboratively to establish debt management initiatives, extending service payments, and providing financial support to eligible countries and international organizations. Germany also worked to support domestic measures to alleviate financial stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and to disclose the financial commitments of the public sector.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Olivia Klasios and Keerthi Chintapalli

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁶⁰⁰ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, India is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁶⁰¹

On 7 April 2021, India joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁶⁰² In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁶⁰³ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁰⁴

On 7 April 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman voiced support for the extension of DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021, supporting vulnerable economies impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁰⁵

⁵⁶⁰⁰ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶⁰¹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶⁰² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁰³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁰⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁰⁵ Nirmala Sitharaman backs 6-month extension for Debt Service Suspension initiative, The Hindu Business Line (New Delhi) 7 April 2021. Access Date 28 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/nirmala-sitharaman-backs-6-month-extension-for-debt-service-suspension-initiative/article34266076.ece>

On 15 April 2021, India met with China, France, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a coordinated response to Chad's request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁶⁰⁶

On 10 June 2021, India met with the creditor committee for Chad formed by India, France, China, and Saudi Arabia, along with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to review Chad's formal request for debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁶⁰⁷ Members of the creditor committee are committed to negotiating terms for debt restructuring with Chad, to be laid out in a memorandum of understanding.⁵⁶⁰⁸ In addition, the creditor committee supports Chad's proposed IMF upper credit tranche program and urges its adoption by the IMF Executive Board, as well as encouraging maximum support for Chad from Multilateral Development Banks to address its long-term financial needs.⁵⁶⁰⁹

On 29 June 2021, India joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁶¹⁰

On 9 and 10 July 2021, India joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁶¹¹ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁶¹²

India has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through its extension of debt suspension periods. However, India has not taken action to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Yasmine Atassi

⁵⁶⁰⁶ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

⁵⁶⁰⁷ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁶⁰⁸ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁶⁰⁹ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁶¹⁰ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁶¹¹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶¹² Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCSBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Indonesia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁶¹³ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁶¹⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶¹⁵

On 29 June 2021, Indonesia joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁶¹⁶

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Indonesia joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁶¹⁷ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁶¹⁸

Indonesia has taken steps to limit non-concessional borrowing but has not taken any steps towards disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

⁵⁶¹³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁶ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁶¹⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶¹⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

On 17 November 2020, Governor of the Bank of Italy Ignazio Visco at The Global Foundation Rome Roundtable stated Italy's commitment to the G20 and debt relief.⁵⁶¹⁹ Moreover, Visco signalled Italy's desire to suspend debt-service to 46 countries by October 2021, further to the endorsement of a Common Framework on debt treatment of DSSI-eligible nation states.⁵⁶²⁰ Governor Visco indicated "[t]hese initiatives will remain under the lens of the Italian Presidency, as part of a broader effort to deal with debt-related issues, enhance global financial safety nets, and improve mechanisms for financing development."⁵⁶²¹

On 21 November 2020, Italy's Treasury Director General for International Financial Relations Gelsomina Vigliotti reaffirmed Italy's commitment to debt relief at the Virtual G20 meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia.⁴ Director General Vigliotti indicating "[d]ebt will certainly be a very important theme of the Italian presidency."⁵⁶²² In addition, Vigliotti stated that Italy will urge the G20 to back the issuance of USD500 billion of Special Drawing Rights to "grant fiscal space to low income countries in greatest difficulty."⁵⁶²³

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁶²⁴ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Italy is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁶²⁵

On 11 January 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶²⁶ Italy, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁶²⁷ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general

⁵⁶¹⁹ Ignazio Visco: The G20 under Italy's leadership in 2021, Bank of Italy (Rome) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.bis.org/review/r201119a.pdf>

⁵⁶²⁰ Ignazio Visco: The G20 under Italy's leadership in 2021, Bank of Italy (Rome) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.bis.org/review/r201119a.pdf>

⁵⁶²¹ Ignazio Visco: The G20 under Italy's leadership in 2021, Bank of Italy (Rome) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.bis.org/review/r201119a.pdf>

⁵⁶²² Exclusive: Italy G20 presidency to push for debt relief, new IMF drawing rights, Reuters (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-italy-exclusive-dUSKBN29Y1UN>

⁵⁶²³ Exclusive: Italy G20 presidency to push for debt relief, new IMF drawing rights, Reuters (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-italy-exclusive-dUSKBN29Y1UN>

⁵⁶²⁴ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶²⁵ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶²⁶ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁶²⁷ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

allocation of USD 650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁶²⁸ To this end, Italy supported extending the DSSI and the freezing of bilateral debt-service payments until the end of December 2021 for 46 countries, which has deferred USD12.5 billion in repayments,⁵⁶²⁹ alongside new SDR issuance,⁵⁶³⁰ due to hardships related to COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶³¹

On 14 April 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Djibouti is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶³² Italy, Belgium, France, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Djibouti’s debt. ⁵⁶³³ This initiative aims to improve Djibouti’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶³⁴

On 16 April 2021, under Italy’s G20 Presidency, a key milestone was reached towards implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI with the first meeting held for a debt treatment for Chad.⁵⁶³⁵ Italian officials of the Italian G20 Presidency indicated: “As Presidency of the G20, Italy welcomes this important development, which offers concrete evidence of the G20’s commitment to implement the Common Framework as part of its support towards the most vulnerable countries.”⁵⁶³⁶

On 10 June 2021, Italy, as a member of the Group of Creditors of Cuba which also includes Australia, Canada, France, Japan and the UK, agreed to defer “debt repayments due under the 2015 Arrangement” in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶³⁷ This initiative aims to improve Cuba’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁶²⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶²⁹ G20 extends debt relief for low-income countries until end of this year, The Financial Times (London) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/4d85a08a-2bcc-4cea-9cbd-55faa87efa3f>

⁵⁶³⁰ IIF Weekly Insight Beyond the DSSI, Institute of International Finance (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.iif.com/Portals/0/Files/content/2_210304Weekly%20Insight_v2.pdf

⁵⁶³¹ IIF Weekly Insight Beyond the DSSI, Institute of International Finance (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.iif.com/Portals/0/Files/content/2_210304Weekly%20Insight_v2.pdf

⁵⁶³² The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

⁵⁶³³ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

⁵⁶³⁴ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

⁵⁶³⁵ The Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/the-italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad.html>

⁵⁶³⁶ The Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/the-italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad.html>

⁵⁶³⁷ Agreement on the debt between Cuba and the Group of Creditors of Cuba, Club de Paris (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/agreement-on-the-debt-between-cuba-and-the-group-of-creditors-of-cuba-0>

On 29 June 2021, Italy joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁶³⁸

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Italy joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁶³⁹ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁶⁴⁰

On 15 July 2021, Italy and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over 16 years period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts”.⁵⁶⁴¹ Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, the UK, and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan’s debt.⁵⁶⁴² The deferment also includes “the maturities falling due during the consolidation period under the post cut-off date debts as well as all moratorium interest due during the consolidation period on the rescheduled and deferred amounts.”⁵⁶⁴³

On 27 July 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁶⁴⁴ Italy, Canada, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Korea, Spain, the UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola’s debt.⁵⁶⁴⁵ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 18 August 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Djibouti is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁶⁴⁶ Italy, Belgium, France, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Djibouti’s debt.⁵⁶⁴⁷ This initiative aims to improve Djibouti’s debt transparency and

⁵⁶³⁸ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁶³⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁴⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁴¹ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁶⁴² Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁶⁴³ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁶⁴⁴ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁶⁴⁵ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁶⁴⁶ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶⁴⁷ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 2 September, Paris Club creditors met to “provide financing assurances in order to support the approval by the IMF Executive Board of the envisaged Extended Fund Facility arrangement for Suriname”, where they committed to launching negotiations to restructure Suriname's debt in accordance with its IMF-supported reform program.⁵⁶⁴⁸ Italy, France, Israel, the Netherlands, and Sweden are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Suriname's debt.⁵⁶⁴⁹

On 7 September 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁶⁵⁰ Italy, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁶⁵¹ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁶⁵² Italy, Austria Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁶⁵³ This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holding the Presidency of the G20, Italy has continuously affirmed its commitment to the DSSI and debt relief. Moreover, Italy emphasized the possibility of extending the initiative to middle-income countries, alongside stronger collaboration between public institutions and private creditors.⁵⁶⁵⁴ In its Presidency, Italy seeks to instil new approaches to access sustainable international financing,⁵⁶⁵⁵ having sighted the reduction of costs of sending remittances as a critical tool alongside debt relief and

⁵⁶⁴⁸ Suriname-Financing assurances to support the approval of an IMF program, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/suriname-financing-assurances-to-support-the-approval-of-an-imf-program>

⁵⁶⁴⁹ Suriname-Financing assurances to support the approval of an IMF program, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/suriname-financing-assurances-to-support-the-approval-of-an-imf-program>

⁵⁶⁵⁰ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁶⁵¹ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁶⁵² The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁶⁵³ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁶⁵⁴ A Partnership with Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2021/01/a_partnership_with_africa_en.pdf

⁵⁶⁵⁵ A Partnership with Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2021/01/a_partnership_with_africa_en.pdf

SDRs.⁵⁶⁵⁶ Italy has provided some public sector financial commitments self-disclosure, and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Signe Kossmann

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁶⁵⁷ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Japan is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁶⁵⁸

On 28 December 2020, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes with Maldives on the G20 DSSI, offering the Maldives fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁵⁹

On 4 January 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶⁶⁰ Japan, France, Germany and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.⁵⁶⁶¹ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁶²

On 11 January 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶⁶³ Japan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁶⁶⁴ This

⁵⁶⁵⁶ Italy at the helm of the G20: Steps for a global and inclusive economic response, ONE (Washington) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.one.org/international/blog/italy-g20-global-economic-response/>

⁵⁶⁵⁷ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶⁵⁸ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶⁵⁹ Maldives and Japan Signs Exchange of Notes on the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malé) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://www.gov.mv/en/news-and-communications/maldives-and-japan-signs-exchange-of-notes-on-the-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi>

⁵⁶⁶⁰ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁶⁶¹ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁶⁶² Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁶⁶³ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁶⁶⁴ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁶⁵

On 28 January 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Uganda is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶⁶⁶ Japan, France, Korea, and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Uganda's debt.⁵⁶⁶⁷ This initiative aims to improve Uganda's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁶⁸

On 26 February 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Nepal.⁵⁶⁶⁹ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY689 million, offering Nepal fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁷⁰

On 2 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with Papua New Guinea, a DSSI-eligible country under high risk of debt distress.⁵⁶⁷¹ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY714 million, offering Papua New Guinea fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁷²

On 3 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Samoa.⁵⁶⁷³ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY174 million, offering Samoa fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁷⁴

On 3 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Cameroon.⁵⁶⁷⁵ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY91 million, offering Cameroon fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁷⁶

On 11 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Cabo Verde.⁵⁶⁷⁷ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY78 million, offering Cabo Verde fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁷⁸

⁵⁶⁶⁵ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁶⁶⁶ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁶⁶⁷ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁶⁶⁸ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁶⁶⁹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷⁰ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷¹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷² Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷³ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷⁴ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷⁵ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷⁶ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

On 18 March 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶⁷⁹ Japan, France, Germany, Korea, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.⁵⁶⁸⁰ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁸¹

On 5 April 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with Mozambique, a DSSI-eligible country.⁵⁶⁸² Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY150 million, offering Mozambique fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁸³

On 7 April 2021, Japan joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁶⁸⁴ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁶⁸⁵ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁸⁶

On 8 April 2021, Japan participated in the 43rd Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.⁵⁶⁸⁷ Deputy Prime Minister Aso Taro verbally affirmed Japan's commitment to the final

⁵⁶⁷⁷ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷⁸ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁷⁹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁶⁸⁰ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁶⁸¹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁶⁸² Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁸³ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

⁵⁶⁸⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁸⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁸⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁸⁷ Statement by the Honorable ASO Taro Deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Governor of the IMF for Japan at the Forty-third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/imf/imfc/imfc_210408st.pdf

extension of the DSSI.⁵⁶⁸⁸ Deputy Prime Minister Taro emphasized the final extension's significance in developing countries' search for structural solutions to their debt issues. Japan urged DSSI-creditors to participate in debt treatment in a full and transparent manner and called for the IMF and the World Bank to improve debt transparency through debt data reconciliation to resolve debt issues effectively and sustainably.³⁹

On 27 April 2021, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes with Pakistan, a DSSI-eligible country, providing approximately JPY40 billion in debt relief.⁵⁶⁸⁹

On 4 May 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Nepal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁶⁹⁰ Japan, France, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Nepal's debt.⁵⁶⁹¹ This initiative aims to improve Nepal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 20 May 2021, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes with Senegal, a DSSI-eligible country, granting it a providing approximately JPY19 million in debt relief.⁵⁶⁹²

On 10 June 2021, Japan, as a member of the Group of Creditors of Cuba which also includes Australia, Canada, France, Italy and the UK, agreed to defer "debt repayments due under the 2015 Arrangement" in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁶⁹³ This initiative aims to improve Cuba's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 June 2021, Japan joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁶⁹⁴

On 9 July 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that the Maldives is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁶⁹⁵ Japan, France, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Maldives' debt.⁵⁶⁹⁶ This initiative aims to improve the Maldives' debt transparency and debt

⁵⁶⁸⁸ Statement by the Honorable ASO Taro Deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Governor of the IMF for Japan at the Forty-third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/imf/imfc/imfc_210408st.pdf

⁵⁶⁸⁹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2021 Loan Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) April 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100176335.pdf>

⁵⁶⁹⁰ Nepal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-06-2021>

⁵⁶⁹¹ Nepal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-06-2021>

⁵⁶⁹² Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2021 Loan Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) April 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100176335.pdf>

⁵⁶⁹³ Agreement on the debt between Cuba and the Group of Creditors of Cuba, Club de Paris (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/agreement-on-the-debt-between-cuba-and-the-group-of-creditors-of-cuba-0>

⁵⁶⁹⁴ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁶⁹⁵ The Republic of the Maldives benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-maldives-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁶⁹⁶ The Republic of the Maldives benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-maldives-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 9 July 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Samoa is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁶⁹⁷ This initiative aims to improve Samoa's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 9 July 2021 and 10 July 2021, Japan joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁶⁹⁸ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁶⁹⁹

On 15 July 2021, Japan and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over 16 years period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts”.⁵⁷⁰⁰ Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the UK, and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan's debt.⁵⁷⁰¹ The deferment also includes “the maturities falling due during the consolidation period under the post cut-off date debts as well as all moratorium interest due during the consolidation period on the rescheduled and deferred amounts.”⁵⁷⁰²

On 27 July 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁰³ Japan, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Korea, Spain, the UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola's debt.⁵⁷⁰⁴ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 27 July 2021, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes with Ethiopia, a DSSI-eligible country, granting Ethiopia debt relief of approximately JPY0.27 million.⁵⁷⁰⁵ This initiative aims to offer Ethiopia's government with more fiscal space to cope with development under COVID-19.

⁵⁶⁹⁷ Samoa benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/samoa-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-09-07-2021>

⁵⁶⁹⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁶⁹⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁰⁰ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁰¹ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁰² Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁰³ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁷⁰⁴ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁷⁰⁵ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2021 Loan Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, (Tokyo) April 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100176335.pdf>

On 30 July 2021, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes with Zambia, a DSSI-eligible country, granting Zambia debt relief of approximately JPY90 million.⁵⁷⁰⁶ This initiative aims to offer Zambia's government with more fiscal space to cope with development under COVID-19.

On 7 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁰⁷ Japan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁷⁰⁸ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mozambique is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁰⁹ Japan, Belgium, Brazil, France, Korea, Russia and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mozambique's debt.⁵⁷¹⁰ This initiative aims to improve Mozambique's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Zambia is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷¹¹ Japan, Belgium, France, and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Zambia's debt.⁵⁷¹² This initiative aims to improve Zambia's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kyrgyzstan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷¹³ Japan, Denmark, France, Germany, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kyrgyzstan's debt.⁵⁷¹⁴ This initiative aims to improve

⁵⁷⁰⁶ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2021 Loan Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, (Tokyo) April 2021. Access Date: 19 September 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/100176335.pdf>

⁵⁷⁰⁷ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁷⁰⁸ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁷⁰⁹ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷¹⁰ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷¹¹ The Republic of Zambia benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-zambia-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁷¹² The Republic of Zambia benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-zambia-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁷¹³ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁷¹⁴ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

Kyrgyzstan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Nepal is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷¹⁵ Japan, Belgium, France, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Nepal's debt.⁵⁷¹⁶ This initiative aims to improve the Nepal's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cabo Verde is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷¹⁷ Japan, Belgium, France, Russia, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cabo Verde's debt.⁵⁷¹⁸ This initiative aims to improve Cabo Verde's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Tanzania is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷¹⁹ Japan, France, Korea, and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Tanzania's debt.⁵⁷²⁰ This initiative aims to improve the Tanzania's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷²¹ Japan, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁷²² This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁷¹⁵ Nepal benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-14-09-2021>

⁵⁷¹⁶ Nepal benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-14-09-2021>

⁵⁷¹⁷ The Republic of Cabo Verde benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cabo-verde-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷¹⁸ The Republic of Cabo Verde benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cabo-verde-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷¹⁹ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷²⁰ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷²¹ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁷²² The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment by offering concrete debt relief to the DSSI-eligible developing countries since the last summit and actively encouraging other countries' commitment to DSSI and transparency.⁵⁷²³ Japan has disclosed some public sector financial commitments and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Shunjie Tony Zhao

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁷²⁴ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Korea is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁷²⁵

On 8 December 2020, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning of Tanzania Doto James signed an agreement of US\$300 million with Korean Ambassador to Tanzania Cho Tae-Ick.⁵⁷²⁶ Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund will handle this concessional loan for development projects.⁵⁷²⁷

On 11 January 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷²⁸ Korea, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁷²⁹ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 28 January 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Uganda is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June

⁵⁷²³ Statement by the Honorable ASO Taro Deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Governor of the IMF for Japan at the Forty-third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/imf/imfc/imfc_210408st.pdf

⁵⁷²⁴ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷²⁵ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷²⁶ Tanzania secures \$300mln South Korean support for development projects, Ecofin Agency (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/0912-42150-tanzania-secures-300mln-south-korean-support-for-development-projects>

⁵⁷²⁷ Tanzania secures \$300mln South Korean support for development projects, Ecofin Agency (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/0912-42150-tanzania-secures-300mln-south-korean-support-for-development-projects>

⁵⁷²⁸ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁷²⁹ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

2021.⁵⁷³⁰ Korea, France, Japan, and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Uganda's debt.⁵⁷³¹ This initiative aims to improve Uganda's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷³²

On 26 February 2021, at the 1st G20 Financial Minister Meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki suggested G20 members should work on extending the implementation of Debt Service Suspension Initiative for 6 months through the end of 2021.⁵⁷³³ Deputy Prime Minister Hong suggested creditors should prepare for implementing debt restructuring procedures.⁵⁷³⁴

On 15 March 2021, Korea extended US700 million in concessional loans to Bangladesh under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund.⁵⁷³⁵ The loan will provide funding for infrastructure projects in Bangladesh and will cover the period of 2021-2025.⁵⁷³⁶

On 18 March 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷³⁷ Korea, France, Germany, Japan, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.⁵⁷³⁸ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷³⁹

On 1 April 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Senegal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷⁴⁰ Korea, Belgium, Brazil, France, Japan and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization

⁵⁷³⁰ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁷³¹ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁷³² Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁷³³ DPM HONG attends G20 Finance Ministers Meeting to discuss ways to improve financial stability, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5082>

⁵⁷³⁴ DPM HONG attends G20 Finance Ministers Meeting to discuss ways to improve financial stability, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5082>

⁵⁷³⁵ South Korea offers \$700m credit to Bangladesh, The Financial Express (Dhaka) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/south-korea-offers-700m-credit-to-bangladesh-1615693874>

⁵⁷³⁶ South Korea offers \$700m credit to Bangladesh, The Financial Express (Dhaka) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/south-korea-offers-700m-credit-to-bangladesh-1615693874>

⁵⁷³⁷ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁷³⁸ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁷³⁹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

⁵⁷⁴⁰ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

of Senegal's debt.⁵⁷⁴¹ This initiative aims to improve Senegal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁴²

On 7 April 2021, Korea joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁷⁴³ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁷⁴⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁴⁵

On 4 May 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Nepal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷⁴⁶ Korea, France, and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Nepal's debt.⁵⁷⁴⁷ This initiative aims to improve Nepal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 31 May 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong-Nam Ki delivered opening remarks at the 2021 OECD Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level stating that it is "necessary to address the uneven recovery between countries by supporting vulnerable economies with programs like DSSI and Common Framework for debt restructuring and placing a higher priority on inclusive official development assistance."⁵⁷⁴⁸

On 29 June 2021, Korea joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁷⁴⁹

⁵⁷⁴¹ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

⁵⁷⁴² The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

⁵⁷⁴³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁴⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁴⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁴⁶ Nepal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-06-2021>

⁵⁷⁴⁷ Nepal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-06-2021>

⁵⁷⁴⁸ DPM Hong Attends First Part of 2021 OECD Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, Minister of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5144>

⁵⁷⁴⁹ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Korea joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁷⁵⁰ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁷⁵¹

On 27 July 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁵² Korea, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola's debt.⁵⁷⁵³ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 24 August 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mali is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁵⁴ Korea, Belgium, and France are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mali's debt.⁵⁷⁵⁵ This initiative aims to improve Mali's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁵⁶ Korea, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁷⁵⁷ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mozambique is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁵⁸ Korea, Belgium, Brazil, France, Japan, Russia and Spain are the Paris Club

⁵⁷⁵⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵¹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵² The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁷⁵³ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁷⁵⁴ The Republic of Mali benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mali-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁷⁵⁵ The Republic of Mali benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mali-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁷⁵⁶ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁷⁵⁷ The Republic of Kenya benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-kenya-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁷⁵⁸ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

creditors participating in the reorganization of Mozambique's debt.⁵⁷⁵⁹ This initiative aims to improve Mozambique's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 September 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kyrgyzstan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁶⁰ Korea, Denmark, France, Germany, and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kyrgyzstan's debt.⁵⁷⁶¹ This initiative aims to improve Kyrgyzstan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 September 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Nepal is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁶² Korea, Belgium, France, and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Nepal's debt.⁵⁷⁶³ This initiative aims to improve the Nepal's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Tanzania is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷⁶⁴ Korea, France, Japan, and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Tanzania's debt.⁵⁷⁶⁵ This initiative aims to improve the Tanzania's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁶⁶ Korea, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors

⁵⁷⁵⁹ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷⁶⁰ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁷⁶¹ The Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-kyrgyz-republic-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-10-09>

⁵⁷⁶² Nepal benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-14-09-2021>

⁵⁷⁶³ Nepal benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/nepal-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-14-09-2021>

⁵⁷⁶⁴ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷⁶⁵ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷⁶⁶ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁷⁶⁷ This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Korea has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment, disclosed some public sector financial commitments under DSSI, and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021.

Thus, Korea received a score of +1.

Analyst: Santiago Ardisson

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Mexico and Argentina issued a joint statement calling for international debt relief for middle-income countries.⁵⁷⁶⁸ Mexico and Argentina proposed the creation of an international fund to facilitate a more orderly debt restructuring process for middle-income countries.⁵⁷⁶⁹

On 7 April 2021, Mexico joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁷⁷⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁷⁷¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁷²

⁵⁷⁶⁷ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁷⁶⁸ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

⁵⁷⁶⁹ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

⁵⁷⁷⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁷¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁷² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

On 29 June 2021, Mexico joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁷⁷³

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Mexico joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁷⁷⁴ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁷⁷⁵

Mexico has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing, supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021, and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jad El Ghali

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁷⁷⁶ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Russia is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁷⁷⁷

On 4 January 2021, Russia, through cooperation with the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of the Congo is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷⁷⁸ Russia, Brazil, France, and Turkey are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Republic of the Congo's debt.⁵⁷⁷⁹ This initiative aims to

⁵⁷⁷³ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁷⁷⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁷⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁷⁶ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷⁷⁷ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷⁷⁸ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

⁵⁷⁷⁹ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

improve the Republic of the Congo's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, Russia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁷⁸⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁷⁸¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁸²

On 13 April 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Guinea is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷⁸³ Russia and France are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Guinea's debt.⁵⁷⁸⁴ This initiative aims to improve Guinea's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁸⁵

On 26 April 2021, Russia participated in the extension time bound suspension of the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau's debt service from 1 January to 30 June 2021, under the condition that both countries reorganise their debt and use the created fiscal space to increase social, health or economic spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁸⁶

On 29 June 2021, Russia joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁷⁸⁷

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Russia joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond

⁵⁷⁸⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁸¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁸² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁸³ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁷⁸⁴ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁷⁸⁵ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁷⁸⁶ Guinea-Bissau Debt treatment, Paris Club (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/guinea-bissau-26-04-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁸⁷ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

the DSSI.⁵⁷⁸⁸ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁷⁸⁹

On 15 July 2021, Russia and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over 16 years period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts.”⁵⁷⁹⁰ Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan’s debt.⁵⁷⁹¹ The deferment also includes “the maturities falling due during the consolidation period under the post cut-off date debts as well as all moratorium interest due during the consolidation period on the rescheduled and deferred amounts.”⁵⁷⁹²

On 24 August 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of Congo is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁹³ Russia, Belgium, Brazil, and France are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Republic of Congo's debt.⁵⁷⁹⁴ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of Congo's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Mozambique is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁹⁵ Russia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Japan, Korea, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Mozambique’s debt.⁵⁷⁹⁶ This initiative aims to improve Mozambique’s debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Tanzania is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁷⁹⁷ Russia, France, Japan, and Korea are the Paris Club creditors participating in the

⁵⁷⁸⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁸⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁷⁹⁰ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁹¹ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁹² Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁷⁹³ The Republic of Congo benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-congo-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁷⁹⁴ The Republic of Congo benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-congo-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-24>

⁵⁷⁹⁵ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷⁹⁶ The Republic of Mozambique benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-mozambique-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁷⁹⁷ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

reorganization of Tanzania's debt.⁵⁷⁹⁸ This initiative aims to improve the Tanzania's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 September 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cabo Verde is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁷⁹⁹ Russia, Belgium, France, Japan, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cabo Verde's debt.⁵⁸⁰⁰ This initiative aims to improve Cabo Verde's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 September 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁰¹ Russia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁸⁰² This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Russia has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment, disclosed some public sector financial commitments under DSSI, and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021.

Thus, Russia received a score of +1.

Analyst: Ishita Nagar

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Saudi Arabia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁸⁰³ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare

⁵⁷⁹⁸ The United Republic of Tanzania benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-united-republic-of-tanzania-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁷⁹⁹ The Republic of Cabo Verde benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cabo-verde-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁸⁰⁰ The Republic of Cabo Verde benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cabo-verde-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the>

⁵⁸⁰¹ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁰² The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁰³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁸⁰⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸⁰⁵

On 15 April 2021, Saudi Arabia met with China, France, and India to discuss a coordinated response to Chad’s request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸⁰⁶

On 10 June 2021, Saudi Arabia met with the creditor committee for Chad formed by Saudi Arabia, France, China, and India, along with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to review Chad’s formal request for debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸⁰⁷ Members of the creditor committee are committed to negotiating terms for debt restructuring with Chad, to be laid out in a memorandum of understanding.⁵⁸⁰⁸ In addition, the creditor committee supports Chad’s proposed IMF upper credit tranche program and urges its adoption by the IMF Executive Board, as well as encouraging maximum support for Chad from Multilateral Development Banks to address its long-term financial needs.⁵⁸⁰⁹

On 29 June 2021, Saudi Arabia joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁸¹⁰

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Saudi Arabia joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment

⁵⁸⁰⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁰⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁰⁶ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

⁵⁸⁰⁷ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁸⁰⁸ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁸⁰⁹ Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 4th meeting of the creditor committee for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-4th-meeting-of-the-creditor-committee-for-chad-under-the-common-framework-for-debt-treatments-beyond-the-dssi.html>

⁵⁸¹⁰ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸¹¹ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁸¹²

Saudi Arabia has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021 but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 23 November 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa lobbied G20 member states to suspend debt repayments to support developing countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸¹³ President Ramaphosa advocated for further debt relief, calling for greater financial support “to both stave off a deep humanitarian crisis and stimulate economic rebirth.”⁵⁸¹⁴

On 7 April 2021, South Africa joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁸¹⁵ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁸¹⁶ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸¹⁷

On 29 June 2021, South Africa joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries

⁵⁸¹¹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸¹² Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸¹³ Ramaphosa lobbies for debt repayment suspension, Independent Online (Johannesburg) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/ramaphosa-lobbies-for-debt-repayment-suspension-fb87c794-dfbf-41cc-9152-5997d933b7f7>

⁵⁸¹⁴ Ramaphosa lobbies for debt repayment suspension, Independent Online (Johannesburg) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/ramaphosa-lobbies-for-debt-repayment-suspension-fb87c794-dfbf-41cc-9152-5997d933b7f7>

⁵⁸¹⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸¹⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸¹⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

through the DSSI.⁵⁸¹⁸ Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Dr. Naledi Pandor expressed broad agreement with the priorities of the Italian presidency of the G20.⁵⁸¹⁹ Minister Pandor stated: “Ensuring sustainable development in the current global environment will require concerted engagement in the UN system and other multilateral structures such as the G20 in promoting access to vaccines, post-COVID recovery, debt sustainability and liquidity, economic growth and the improvement of the social well-being and infrastructure through increased trade and investment as well as the fair and equitable movement of goods and services.”⁵⁸²⁰

On 9 and 10 July 2021, South Africa joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸²¹ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁸²²

South Africa has reaffirmed its commitment to the DSSI by extending debt suspension periods. However, it is unclear whether South Africa has followed through on concrete actions to disclose public sector financial commitments.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Azana Hyder

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through December 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments and restructure their debts.

On 5 November 2020, Turkey contributed approximately USD2.4 million in the Special Drawing Rights to support Somalia’s debt relief efforts, which will reduce Somalian debt from USD5.2 billion to USD3.7 billion in net present value.⁵⁸²³

On 4 January 2021, Turkey, through cooperation with the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of the Congo is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸²⁴ Turkey, Brazil, France, and Russia are among the Paris Club creditors

⁵⁸¹⁸ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁸¹⁹ Minister Pandor travels to Italy to represent South Africa in the G20 Ministers’ Meetings, International Relations and Cooperation Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/g-20_0627.htm

⁵⁸²⁰ South Africa reiterates its support for multilateral efforts aimed at tackling global challenges, International Relations and Cooperation Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/g-20_0629.htm

⁵⁸²¹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸²² Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸²³ Turkey helping pay down Somalia’s IMF debt, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 6 November 2020, Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/turkey-helping-pay-down-somalias-imf-debt/2034992>

⁵⁸²⁴ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

participating in the reorganization of the Republic of the Congo's debt.⁵⁸²⁵ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of the Congo's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, Turkey joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁸²⁶ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁸²⁷ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸²⁸

On 13 April 2021, Turkey, through cooperation with the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of the Congo is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸²⁹ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of the Congo's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸³⁰

On 29 June 2021, Turkey joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁸³¹

On 9 and 10 July 2021, Turkey joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond

⁵⁸²⁵ The Republic of the Congo benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access date: 23 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-the-congo-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01>

⁵⁸²⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸²⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸²⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸²⁹ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁸³⁰ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

⁵⁸³¹ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

the DSSI.⁵⁸³² The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁸³³

Turkey has taken some steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing through cooperation with the Paris Club on the DSSI extension and participation in Congo and Somalia's debt restructuring. Turkey has disclosed some public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Turkey has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Yuchen Bai

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁸³⁴ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, the UK is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁸³⁵

On 1 December 2020, the UK announced GBP7 million to provide essential services and food assistance to almost 750,000 people, who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic across Southern Africa.⁵⁸³⁶ The UK has committed GBP548 million to COVAX to ensure global access to vaccines to date.⁵⁸³⁷

On 28 January 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Uganda is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸³⁸ The UK, France, Korea, and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Uganda's debt.⁵⁸³⁹ This initiative aims to improve Uganda's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁸³² Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸³³ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸³⁴ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁸³⁵ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁸³⁶ UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, British Embassy Antananarivo (Antananarivo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

⁵⁸³⁷ With UK aid support, people in Côte d'Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary's statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

⁵⁸³⁸ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁸³⁹ Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

On 28 January 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸⁴⁰ The UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt.⁵⁸⁴¹ This initiative aims to improve Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸⁴²

On 7 April 2021, the UK joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁸⁴³ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁸⁴⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸⁴⁵

On 10 June 2021, the UK, as a member of the Group of Creditors of Cuba which also includes Australia, Canada, France, Italy and Japan, agreed to defer "debt repayments due under the 2015 Arrangement" in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸⁴⁶ This initiative aims to improve Cuba's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 22 June 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁴⁷ The UK and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt.⁵⁸⁴⁸ This initiative aims to improve Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁵⁸⁴⁰ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-18-03-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁴¹ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-18-03-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁴² Uganda Debt Treatment, Paris de Club (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/uganda-28-01-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁴³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁴⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁴⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁴⁶ Agreement on the debt between Cuba and the Group of Creditors of Cuba, Club de Paris (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/agreement-on-the-debt-between-cuba-and-the-group-of-creditors-of-cuba-0>

⁵⁸⁴⁷ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁴⁸ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

On 29 June 2021, the UK joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁸⁴⁹

On 9 and 10 July 2021, the UK joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸⁵⁰ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁸⁵¹

On 15 July 2021, the UK and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over 16 years period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts.”⁵⁸⁵² The UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the US are among the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan’s debt.⁵⁸⁵³ The deferment also includes “the maturities falling due during the consolidation period under the post cut-off date debts as well as all moratorium interest due during the consolidation period on the rescheduled and deferred amounts.”⁵⁸⁵⁴

On 27 July 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁵⁵ The UK, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Korea, Spain, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola’s debt.⁵⁸⁵⁶ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 28 July 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Dominica is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁵⁷ The UK and France are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Dominica’s debt.⁵⁸⁵⁸ This initiative aims to improve Dominica’s debt transparency

⁵⁸⁴⁹ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁸⁵⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁵¹ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMCBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁵² Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁵³ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁵⁴ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁵⁵ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁸⁵⁶ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁸⁵⁷ Dominica benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 17 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/dominica-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-28-07-2021>

⁵⁸⁵⁸ Dominica benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 17 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/dominica-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-28-07-2021>

and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 September 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Zambia is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁵⁹ The UK, Belgium, France, and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Zambia's debt.⁵⁸⁶⁰ This initiative aims to improve Zambia's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 10 September 2021, the UK, Germany and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs hosted a joint event in support of funding preventative measures in the case of tackling humanitarian crises.⁵⁸⁶¹ The UK pledged GBP3.1 million in aid to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters; GBP1.8 million to Bangladesh and Nepal, to help national as well as international NGOs recognise and respond to natural disasters; and, GBP1.3 million to Start Network for civil society projects in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan and the Philippines to develop disaster risk finance systems in these countries.⁵⁸⁶²

On 24 September 2021, the UK, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁶³ The UK, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁸⁶⁴ This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United Kingdom has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment, disclosed some public sector financial commitments under DSSI, and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021.

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

Analyst: Ishita Nagar

⁵⁸⁵⁹ The Republic of Zambia benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-zambia-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁸⁶⁰ The Republic of Zambia benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-zambia-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-07>

⁵⁸⁶¹ UK commits £3.1 million in aid to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (London) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-31m-in-aid-to-minimise-the-humanitarian-impact-of-disasters>

⁵⁸⁶² UK commits £3.1 million in aid to minimise the humanitarian impact of disasters, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (London) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 15 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-31m-in-aid-to-minimise-the-humanitarian-impact-of-disasters>

⁵⁸⁶³ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁶⁴ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.⁵⁸⁶⁵ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, the US is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.⁵⁸⁶⁶

On 30 December 2020, the US signed an agreement with the Maldives to temporarily suspend debt-relief payments, to help the Maldives in their economic recovery efforts amid COVID-19.⁵⁸⁶⁷

On 4 January 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸⁶⁸ The US, France, Germany and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.⁵⁸⁶⁹ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸⁷⁰

On 11 January 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸⁷¹ The US, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.⁵⁸⁷² This initiative aiming to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

On 28 January 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.⁵⁸⁷³ The US and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the

⁵⁸⁶⁵ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁸⁶⁶ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁸⁶⁷ Maldives and the United States of America signs agreement on the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malé) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.mv/en/news-and-communications/maldives-and-the-united-states-of-america-signs-agreement-on-the-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi>

⁵⁸⁶⁸ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁸⁶⁹ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁸⁷⁰ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

⁵⁸⁷¹ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁸⁷² Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

⁵⁸⁷³ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-18-03-2021/en>

reorganization of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt.⁵⁸⁷⁴ This initiative aims to improve Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 22 March 2021, the United States launched the Small and Less Populous Island Economies Initiative to help the islands of the Pacific, Caribbean and North Atlantic region mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and climate change through financial aid and restructuring of financial systems.⁵⁸⁷⁵

On 7 April 2021, the US joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁸⁷⁶ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."⁵⁸⁷⁷ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁸⁷⁸

On 22 June 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁷⁹ The US and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt.⁵⁸⁸⁰ This initiative aims to improve Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 June 2021, the US joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁸⁸¹

On 9 July 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that the Maldives is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December

⁵⁸⁷⁴ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-18-03-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁷⁵ FACT SHEET: Small and Less Populous Island Economies (SALPIE) Initiative, White House (Washington, D.C) 22 March 2021. Access Date 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/22/fact-sheet-small-and-less-populous-island-economies-salpie-initiative/>

⁵⁸⁷⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁷⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁷⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁷⁹ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁸⁰ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁸¹ G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

2021.⁵⁸⁸² The US, Japan, and France are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of the Maldives' debt.⁵⁸⁸³ This initiative aims to improve the Maldives' debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 9 and 10 July 2021, the US joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸⁸⁴ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁸⁸⁵

On 15 July 2021, the US and other members of the Paris Club agreed to “defer over 16 years period from 1 December 2024 the repayment of arrears accumulated by Sudan on short term and post cut-off date debts.”⁵⁸⁸⁶ The US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Sudan's debt.⁵⁸⁸⁷ The deferment also includes “the maturities falling due during the consolidation period under the post cut-off date debts as well as all moratorium interest due during the consolidation period on the rescheduled and deferred amounts.”⁵⁸⁸⁸

On 27 July 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Angola is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁸⁹ The US, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Korea, Spain, and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Angola's debt.⁵⁸⁹⁰ This initiative extension will contribute to help Angola to improve debt transparency and debt management.

On 24 September 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Pakistan is eligible to receive an extension to the time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 July to 31 December 2021.⁵⁸⁹¹ The US, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Korea, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK are the Paris Club creditors participating

⁵⁸⁸² The Republic of the Maldives benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-maldives-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁸⁸³ The Republic of the Maldives benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-maldives-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi>

⁵⁸⁸⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁸⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁸⁸⁶ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁸⁷ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁸⁸ Sudan Debt Treatment, Club de Paris (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/sudan-15-07-2021/en>

⁵⁸⁸⁹ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁸⁹⁰ The Republic of Angola benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-angola-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of-the-dssi-27>

⁵⁸⁹¹ The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

in the reorganization of Pakistan's debt.⁵⁸⁹² This initiative aims to improve Pakistan's debt transparency and debt management while aiding them in the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United States has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment, disclosed some public sector financial commitments under DSSI, and supported the extension of the DSSI past June 2021.

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

Analyst: Yasmeeen Atassi

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to maintain a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) in line with the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), public sector financial commitments self-disclosure and the limiting of non-concessional borrowing.

As of 23 November 2020, the European Union has committed to contributing EUR183 million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) for debt relief in 29 lower-income countries.⁵⁸⁹³ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed the European Union's commitment in the proposal of a Global Recovery Initiative, which President von der Leyen pledged will "link investments and debt relief to the Sustainable Development Goals" in further endorsement of a Common Framework on Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.⁵⁸⁹⁴

On 5 April 2021, the European Union contributed EUR170 million to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF'S) CCRT as the first instalment of its EUR183 initial commitment,⁵⁸⁹⁵ which was approved by the IMF's Executive Board.⁵⁸⁹⁶ European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen indicated: "Through this contribution to the CCRT, Team Europe continues to stand in solidarity with its most vulnerable partners. In this difficult period, the resources freed up can provide social services for the most vulnerable people, such as access to essential healthcare and education for young people, including girls."⁵⁸⁹⁷ European Commissioner for Economy Paolo

⁵⁸⁹² The Islamic Republic of Pakistan benefits from the final extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-benefits-from-the-final-extension-of>

⁵⁸⁹³ EU contributes €183 million to debt relief for 29 of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2183

⁵⁸⁹⁴ Speech by President von der Leyen at the High-level meeting on the international debt architecture and liquidity, European Commission (Brussels) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1505

⁵⁸⁹⁵ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

⁵⁸⁹⁶ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

⁵⁸⁹⁷ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

Gentiloni affirmed the EU's support for the DSSI and new Common Framework on Debt Treatment.⁵⁸⁹⁸

On 7 April 2021, the European Union joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.⁵⁸⁹⁹ In addition, G20 officials called on the IMF to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”⁵⁹⁰⁰ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁹⁰¹

On 29 June 2021, the European Union joined the G20 Development Ministers Meeting to reaffirm its commitment to immediate liquidity needs and tackling debt vulnerabilities in developing countries through the DSSI.⁵⁹⁰²

On 9 and 10 July 2021, the European Union joined the third meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, where attending countries welcomed the progress achieved under the DSSI and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI.⁵⁹⁰³ The attending countries also welcomed the establishment of the creditor committee for Chad and called to address the debt treatment of Ethiopia.⁵⁹⁰⁴

Through its active championing of the DSSI with public sector financial commitments self-disclosure and the limiting of non-concessional borrowing, the European Union remains committed to the DSSI.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Signe Kossmann

⁵⁸⁹⁸ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

⁵⁸⁹⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁹⁰⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁹⁰¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

⁵⁹⁰² G20 Development Ministers meeting, Government of Canada (Matera) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2021-06-29-communique-development.aspx?lang=eng

⁵⁹⁰³ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

⁵⁹⁰⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 9-10 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMDBG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

13. Development: COVID-19

“We remain determined to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.”

G20 Riyadh 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 | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.85 (93%) | |

Background

Health crises in developing and least developed countries and their social and economic effects became a concern for the G20 leaders in 2014 because of the Ebola outbreak. In Brisbane they issued a statement on Ebola.⁵⁹⁰⁵ G20 members committed to do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak and address its medium-term economic and humanitarian costs. They promised to work through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, and in partnership with non-governmental stakeholders and share experiences of successfully fighting Ebola with partners, including to promote safe conditions and training for health care and relief workers. G20 leaders committed to work to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds and other assistance, balancing between emergency and longer-term needs. They also committed to support others to implement the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations and to build capacity to prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases such as Ebola. We also commit to fight anti-microbial resistance.

In 2017 the first meeting of G20 health ministers took place. In the Berlin Declaration ministers acknowledged the need to strengthen health systems worldwide, and the role of the public and

⁵⁹⁰⁵ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 15 November 2014. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

private sectors and civil society, recognized the importance of sustainable financing for health systems and the need to build effective and efficient health financing models. The declaration emphasized that “enhanced support to developing countries in strengthening their own health systems would increase their capacity to provide health care, including vaccination, to all and without discrimination, to cope with public health crises and to reduce health inequities.”⁵⁹⁰⁶ In 2017 in Hamburg G20 leaders paid special attention to health issues and especially safeguarding against health crises and strengthening health systems. Leaders underlined that the G20 has a crucial role in advancing preparedness and responsiveness against global health challenges. G20 leaders acknowledged that mass movement of people can pose significant health challenges and encourage countries and International Organisations to strengthen cooperation on the topic. They also advocated for “sufficient and sustainable funding to strengthen global health capacities, including for rapid financing mechanisms and the WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme” and emphasized the need to foster research and development preparedness through globally coordinated models.⁵⁹⁰⁷

In 2019 the Japanese presidency paid special attention to health issues. At their meeting in June 2019 G20 health ministers issued the “G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC [Universal Health Coverage] Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.”⁵⁹⁰⁸ It presents a G20 shared understanding on the critical importance of strengthening health financing for moving towards UHC in developing countries. The health ministers’ Okayama declaration underlined the need for “more strategic use of external funding, aligned with countries’ priorities, which could support domestic resource mobilization in developing countries.”⁵⁹⁰⁹

In 2020 the finance and health ministers met and committed to the G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries to improve the resilience, prevention, detection, preparedness and response of health systems through protecting and investing in public health. They recalled their commitment to move towards achieving UHC and stressed the important role of countries’ following their own paths in line with national contexts and priorities to UHC.⁵⁹¹⁰ In Riyadh, G20 leaders committed to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.⁵⁹¹¹

Commitment Features

At Riyadh G20 leaders made a commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states. This commitment requires assisting developing and least developed states in two spheres: health and socio-economic.

⁵⁹⁰⁶ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEP (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

(Moscow). https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

⁵⁹⁰⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, Hamburg 7-8 July 2017, RANEP (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20percent20Hamburgpercent20leaders_percent20communiqupercent20percent20A9.pdf

⁵⁹⁰⁸ G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 6 June 2019. Access date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

⁵⁹⁰⁹ Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEP (Moscow) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

⁵⁹¹⁰ G20 Joint Finance & Health Ministers Meeting, RANEP (Moscow) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-health-0917.html>

⁵⁹¹¹ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 21 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

Health

All countries continue to fight the pandemic and take actions to save lives, provide vaccines to the population and improve health systems. Providing health-related assistance to developing countries is one of the key actions G20 members can do to help them during the pandemic. This assistance can be delivered in the form of direct supply of medical goods, equipment and medicines, personnel training or sending medical professionals to the country, vaccine support (either direct supply or joint research) and other actions.

Another important aspect is supporting UHC financing in developing countries. The 2019 G20 health ministers' G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries outlines several major challenges for developing states' health systems: rising cost pressures due to noncommunicable diseases, aging population, and technological progress; slow movement of workers from the informal to the formal economy; and health emergencies such as pandemics and Antimicrobial resistance.⁵⁹¹² Helping developing countries to address these issues will be counted as compliance with this aspect of the commitment.

Socio-economic

The pandemic has brought economic recession which hit developing countries hard. These states will face severe economic crisis and will need economic support to restore their economies. Providing official development assistance, conducting joint projects, investment in local projects, debt relief, cooperation in the field of energy and other actions can be counted and compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member did not provide any assistance to developing and least developed countries |
| 0 | G20 member provided only assistance only in socio-economic sphere OR provided only health-related support |
| +1 | G20 member provided assistance in socio-economic sphere AND provided specific health-related support |

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with a commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 27 December 2020, Argentina pledged to help Uruguay and Bolivia get contacts to acquire vaccines against the coronavirus, two days after Argentina began its own campaign against COVID-19.⁵⁹¹³

On 30 November 2020, the Embassy of Argentina in Panama, represented by Charge d'Affaires Vanesa Romani, delivered humanitarian aid to the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) as part of the bilateral relations with Paraguay. The aid that was received by the Minister of MIDES María

⁵⁹¹² G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

⁵⁹¹³ Argentina offers Uruguay and Bolivia neighbors help to get vaccines against COVID-19, SwissInfo (Buenos Aires) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/argentina-ofrece-a-vecinos-uruguay-y-bolivia-ayuda-para-conseguir-vacunas-contra-covid-19/46248404>

Inés Castillo de Sanmartín consisted of 180 kitchen kits and 500 thermal blankets, to be distributed nationally, for the benefit of the most vulnerable populations.⁵⁹¹⁴

On 6 February 2021, Argentina donated oxygen to Bolivia which faced shortage and was struggling to support COVID-19 patients. A cistern with 8,000 cubic meters of medicinal oxygen from Argentina arrived in the capital of the department of Tarija, in southern Bolivia.⁵⁹¹⁵

On 20 April 2021, Argentine Ambassador to Paraguay Domingo Peppo delivered an important batch of medicines, as donations, for the Encarnación Municipal Pediatric Hospital. The donation contained drugs, including antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and antiseptics.⁵⁹¹⁶

Argentina has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 12 March 2021, it was announced that Australia has contributed USD80 million to the COVAX Facility that has started rolling out the first round of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Australia's Pacific and Southeast Asian neighbors.⁵⁹¹⁷

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced that it has agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a support package which will include the supply of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines. The Australian Government will also make a formal request to AstraZeneca and the European Authorities for one million doses of Australia's contracted supplies to gift to Papua New Guinea. Australia will also provide new targeted support.⁵⁹¹⁸

On 10 April 2021, Australia announced that it will supply at least 10,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 doses per week to the neighbouring countries. Australia will also continue to support the

⁵⁹¹⁴ Embassy of Argentina delivers humanitarian aid to MIDES, Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay (Asuncion) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mides.gob.pa/2020/11/30/embajada-de-argentina-entrega-ayuda-humanitaria-al-mides/>

⁵⁹¹⁵ Argentina donates oxygen to Bolivia to attend Covid-19 cases, Telesur TV (Caracas) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.telesurtv.net/news/bolivia-argentina-tanques-oxigeno-tarija-20210206-0012.html>

⁵⁹¹⁶ Argentina donates medicines to Encarnacion, La Nacion (Buenos Aires) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.lanacion.com.py/politica/2021/04/20/argentina-dona-medicamentos-a-encarnacion/>

⁵⁹¹⁷ Australia's partnership with COVAX delivers vaccines to our neighbours, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-partnership-covax-delivers-vaccines-our-neighbours>

⁵⁹¹⁸ Supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 response, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

Government of Papua New Guinea in its immediate response to its outbreak, helping to vaccinate frontline healthcare and other essential workers.⁵⁹¹⁹

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that an Australian Medical Assistance Team, comprising a senior epidemiologist and health support officer arrived in Timor-Leste. The team will assist public health needs assessments and provide technical advice to the Government of Timor-Leste.⁵⁹²⁰

On 9 July 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the delivery of 10,000 Australian-manufactured AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to Samoa.⁵⁹²¹

On 22 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the delivery of 13,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Kiribati, as well as Australian assistance in distributing Japan's 56 thousand vaccine doses for the COVAX Advance Market Commitment.⁵⁹²²

On 2 September 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the delivery of 500,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Indonesia.⁵⁹²³

Australia has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 18 December 2020, Brazil made a donation, in the form of humanitarian assistance, to São Tomé and Príncipe for the purchase of medical and hospital supplies to reinforce the national contingency plan to fight against COVID-19.⁵⁹²⁴

On 4 February 2021, Brazil made a donation to the Republic of Congo for the purchase of medical and hospital supplies and materials that assisted country's efforts to confront COVID-19.⁵⁹²⁵

⁵⁹¹⁹ Sharing COVID-19 vaccines with our neighbors, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/sharing-covid-19-vaccines-our-neighbours>

⁵⁹²⁰ Emergency relief dispatched to Timor-Leste, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/emergency-relief-dispatched-timor-leste>

⁵⁹²¹ Australia partners with Samoa in COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-partners-samoa-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out>

⁵⁹²² Australia delivers more COVID-19 vaccines to support Pacific partners, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-delivers-more-covid-19-vaccines-support-pacific-partners>

⁵⁹²³ Australia delivers vaccine doses to Indonesia, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-delivers-vaccine-doses-indonesia>

⁵⁹²⁴ Brazil makes donation to São Tomé and Príncipe to fight COVID-19, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasília) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1655>

On 15-20 March 2021, a mission from Brazil made up of representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Embassy of Brazil in Port-au-Prince visited Haiti, to evaluate the actions carried out within the scope of the technical cooperation project “Strengthening Service Management and the Health System in Haiti,” in particular the works of the administrative blocks of the hospitals Dr. Zilda Arns and Dr. Raul Pierre. The team also learned about other measures being implemented in the health sector in that country, through international cooperation coordinated by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁵⁹²⁶

On 18 March 2021, Brazil donated reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test kits and oxygen concentrators to Lebanon to assist country’s efforts to confront COVID-19.⁵⁹²⁷

On 22 March 2021, Brazil donated personal protective equipment (protective masks, gloves, aprons and visors) that will assist to Haiti’s efforts to confront COVID-19.⁵⁹²⁸

On 25 March 2021, Brazil donated food and nutritional products to the Government of Equatorial Guinea.⁵⁹²⁹

On 25 March 2021, Brazil donated 60,000 latex gloves, 20,000 N95 masks, 900 individual protective clothing for health professionals, thermometers, goggles, among other items, to Mozambique in response to that country’s demand from Brazil in the fight against COVID-19.⁵⁹³⁰

On 3 May 2021, in response to a request from the Paraguayan Government processed by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and after consultation with the Ministry of Health, Anvisa’s Collegiate Directorate unanimously decided to authorize the export of 320,000 m3 of medicinal liquid oxygen for use by the Paraguayan Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.⁵⁹³¹

On 7 May 2021, the Ministry of Health donated vaccines to the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health to support the country’s immunization program: 82,000 doses of the Pentavalente vaccine, administered, in three doses, at two, four and six months of age, against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae B and hepatitis B; 56,000 doses of the Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, as reinforcement, at 15 months and four years of age, against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough; and 95,000 doses of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, administered, at 15 months and at four years of age, as protection against poliovirus type 1 and 3 of polio.⁵⁹³²

On 3 September 2021, Brazil and Dominican Republic signed Complementary Agreements to the Basic Agreement on Technical Cooperation Brazil-Dominican Republic, relating to three technical

⁵⁹²⁵ Brazil makes donation to the Republic of Congo, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1651>

⁵⁹²⁶ Ministry of Health representatives visit hospital works in Haiti, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1671>

⁵⁹²⁷ Brazil donates medical equipment and supplies to Lebanon, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1657>

⁵⁹²⁸ COVID-19: Brazil donates to Haiti, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1682>

⁵⁹²⁹ Brazil makes humanitarian donation to Equatorial Guinea, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1678>

⁵⁹³⁰ COVID-19: Brazil donates to Mozambique, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1668>

⁵⁹³¹ COVID-19: Brazil makes a donation to Paraguay, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1683>

⁵⁹³² Brazil donates vaccines to Ecuador, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1688>

cooperation projects between the two nations. The Complementary Adjustments refer to the projects: 1. Strengthening Technological Capabilities for Professional Education; 2. Transfer of Capabilities for Strengthening Family Farming; and 3. Strengthening Capacities in the Areas of Quality Infrastructure and Support for the Creation of the Dominican Center for Information on Technical Regulation, negotiated during the III Meeting of the Working Group on Technical Cooperation Brazil - Dominican Republic, in August 2018.⁵⁹³³

On 10 September 2021, Brazilian Cooperation Agency reported that agricultural equipment important for the continuity of the activities of the technical cooperation project Regional Project to Strengthen the Cotton Sector in the Lake Victoria Basin, or Cotton Victoria, was delivered in late August to Kenya and Tanzania. The acquisition of machinery and accessories is provided for in the initiative's Annual Work Plan 2020-2021, and will allow for the potentialization of agricultural production in participating countries.⁵⁹³⁴

On 20 September 2021, Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Government of Ethiopia launched the project Improving Cotton Production in the Awash River Valley Region - Cotton Ethiopia. The initiative will be developed in partnership with the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, the Federal University of Lavras and the Minas Gerais Cotton Producers Association.⁵⁹³⁵

During the compliance period Brazil assisted several developing countries in health issues and in socio-economic sphere.

This, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 24 March 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the multisectoral support for recovery after COVID-19 project in Senegal. The CAD19.982 million initiative is aimed at: 1) building staff capacity and strengthening health, education and child protection structures and facilities through training, the supply of equipment, and the procurement and distribution of essential nutritional inputs; 2) implementing special measures to respond to the specific challenges caused by the pandemic, such as financial support to address the risk of children dropping out of school, supporting children to return to school, and the civil registration of undeclared children; 3) strengthening the skills and resilience of women and girls to participate in and lead initiatives that focus on civic engagement, advocating for their rights, entrepreneurship and decision making within their communities; and 4) strengthening the intra- and inter-sectoral structures and mechanisms for evidence-based decision making at the central and decentralized levels, taking into account gender

⁵⁹³³ Brazil and Dominican Republic advance in technical cooperation projects, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by Google translate. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1795>

⁵⁹³⁴ Cotton Victoria Project: Kenya and Tanzania receive agricultural equipment, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 10 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by Google translate. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1799>

⁵⁹³⁵ Brazil and Ethiopia sign agreement to boost cotton production in the African country, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 20 September 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by Google translate. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1808>

dimensions in order to better respond to the challenges that have been exacerbated by the health crisis.⁵⁹³⁶

On 29 March 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the Empowerment through Skills Development project in Tanzania. The CAD25 million project is aimed at: 1) building the capacity of folk development colleges and community-based organizations to develop and deliver gender-responsive programs; 2) providing gender training to partner staff and volunteers and establishing a gender champions network; 3) revising program content and teaching methods to better integrate gender considerations and ensure appropriate support services and facilities for women and adolescent girl students, especially young mothers; and 4) engaging local communities in awareness-raising activities on the benefits of women's education and economic empowerment to encourage enrollment and create an enabling environment for women graduates.⁵⁹³⁷

On 31 March 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched a project on Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali. The CAD42.3 million project is scheduled to continue through 2027 and aims to: 1) support the financial autonomy of vulnerable and marginalized women and adolescent girls in order to reduce the economic and gender barriers to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services; 2) provide training to health care providers and administrators of health-care facilities on the provision of gender-responsive and adolescent-friendly SRH services; 3) provide technical and material assistance to women's and adolescent girls' rights organizations and defenders; and 4) provide equipment (including water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure) to health-care facilities.⁵⁹³⁸

On 16 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada in cooperation with the Alliance for International Medical Action launched the Emergency Assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Global Affairs Canada provides CAD2.6 million in financing over 2021-2023. The project's goals include: 1) providing at least 29,354 children with malnutrition consultations; 2) providing training to 130 community volunteers in severe acute malnutrition screening and referrals; 3) providing water, sanitation and hygiene kits to 2,393 households; 4) providing at least 62,978 beneficiaries with water, sanitation and hygiene awareness-raising sessions; and 5) providing 8,697 prenatal and postnatal consultations.⁵⁹³⁹

On 21 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the Integrated Humanitarian Response in Lac Province in Chad. The CAD1.3 million project aims to: 1) build 4 sources of water and 100 family latrines, which will benefit 36,000 people; 2) build 4 additional care rooms, including 2 that are geared toward consultations for women; 3) distributing 800 sanitary and female dignity kits; 4) distributing 1,000 child care and hygiene kits to malnourished mother and child pairs; 5) implementing a referral system that will reach 65 percent of male and female survivors of gender-based violence in order to

⁵⁹³⁶ Project profile — Multisectoral support for recovery after COVID-19 in Senegal, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P009464001>.

⁵⁹³⁷ Project profile — Empowerment through Skills Development, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006840001>.

⁵⁹³⁸ Project profile — Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali (PLURIELLES), Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P008380001>.

⁵⁹³⁹ Project profile — DRC – Emergency Assistance – The Alliance for International Medical Action 2021-2022, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P010283001>.

guide them to appropriate services; and 6) organizing 10 education sessions on health rights, particularly relating to sexual and reproductive health.⁵⁹⁴⁰

On 22 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the Multisectoral Humanitarian Assistance project in Cameroon. The CAD1.2 million project is aimed at: 1) building 15 sources of water benefitting 16,605 people; 2) providing free quality health services targeting 10,000 people; 3) treating severe acute malnutrition in 5,000 children under five; 4) delivering a cycle of cash-for-work activities during the annual lean season; 5) training 100 women leaders on the topic of women's rights, who will share this knowledge with 10,000 vulnerable women and girls with the support of local leaders and the project team; and 6) facilitating community workshops on identifying protection risks and implementing community strategies to protect vulnerable people.⁵⁹⁴¹

On 12 August 2021, Minister of International Development Karina Gould and Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand, announced the donation of up to 10 million doses of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine to other countries through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility.⁵⁹⁴²

On 13 August 2021, Minister Gould announced a CAD155 million transfer to World Food Programme, UNICEF, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Country-Based Pooled Funds, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for emergency humanitarian and development assistance to help avert famine in COVID-19-affected countries by addressing deteriorating food security and nutrition needs.⁵⁹⁴³

Canada has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

⁵⁹⁴⁰ Project profile — Chad — Integrated Humanitarian Response in Lac Province — Oxfam-Québec 2021, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P010278001>.

⁵⁹⁴¹ Project profile — Cameroon — Multisectoral Humanitarian Assistance — L'Œuvre-Léger 2021, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P010276001>.

⁵⁹⁴² Canada announces new contribution to global vaccination efforts, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/08/canada-announces-new-contribution-to-global-vaccination-efforts.html>

⁵⁹⁴³ Canada announces emergency support to respond to global food crises, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/08/canada-announces-emergency-support-to-respond-to-global-food-crises.html>

On 23 December 2020, China proclaimed that in 2021 it will continue to implement preferential tax rates for the 43 least developed countries that have established diplomatic relations with China. The scope of the preferential tax rates and the tax rates will remain unchanged.⁵⁹⁴⁴

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. China has provided 50,000 doses of vaccine to Iraq. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.⁵⁹⁴⁵

On 11 April 2021, the Chinese government delivered the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Iraq. Iraq noted that it is willing to keep deepening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of national defense and health and work together with China to win the battle against the epidemic as soon as possible.⁵⁹⁴⁶

On 22 May 2021, Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu announced that China had distributed vaccines to developing countries to ease their immediate difficulties. In total, while advancing its own vaccination, China had provided vaccine assistance to more than 80 countries.⁵⁹⁴⁷

China has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states only in socio-economic sphere.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 3 December 2020, it was reported Agence Française de Développement (AFD) would mobilize additional EUR1 billion under the French President's Choose Africa initiative, with the objective to help African micro, small, and medium enterprises, which have been weakened by the huge fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic; this decision added on to the initial emergency measures (such as deferred repayments and technical assistance), while the amount of money allocated for Choose Africa totaled EUR3.5 billion instead of EUR2.5 billion initially planned for 2018-2022.⁵⁹⁴⁸

On 15 December 2020, it was reported AFD provided additional financing (EUR2 million) for Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network to help 12 Pacific island countries and territories monitor and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic; the project will involve setting up robust public health

⁵⁹⁴⁴ In order to support the establishment of a new development paradigm, China will adjust import tariffs on some commodities from January 1, 2021, Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/23/content_5572513.htm

⁵⁹⁴⁵ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq), Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

⁵⁹⁴⁶ Ambassador Zhang Tao attends the handover ceremony of the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines supplied by the Chinese government, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1868175.htm>

⁵⁹⁴⁷ Working Together to Boost International Cooperation Against COVID-19 and Build a Global Community of Health for All, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1877916.shtml

⁵⁹⁴⁸ Covid-19: EUR1 billion more for small African businesses, AFD (Paris) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-eu1-billion-more-small-african-businesses>

surveillance mechanisms and a coherent range of services, accessible to all, to monitor emerging diseases.⁵⁹⁴⁹

On 19 December 2020, AFD announced call for innovative proposals by researchers specializing in data analysis to address the challenges associated with COVID-19 in Africa; the objective is to develop innovative projects to facilitate the production of data that can be used collaboratively, with the objective to better understand and respond to the vast range of issues resulting from the Covid crisis in Africa.⁵⁹⁵⁰

On 28 December 2020, it was reported that France committed to increase the share of its gross domestic product devoted to overseas aid from 0.44 per cent to 0.55 per cent starting in 2022, and to consolidate a fund dedicated to project innovation; the aid will be focused on the most vulnerable countries and on priority sectors: health, environment and climate, gender equality, education, food security, water management, addressing crises and improving respect for human rights.⁵⁹⁵¹

On 5 March 2021, it was reported that Niger's authorities with support from international partners including AFD had launched a plan to support and restore the education system hit by the COVID-19 pandemic; the short-term goal of the plan worth more than USD140 million is minimize permanent school dropouts of vulnerable students, while the ultimate goal is to ensure education continuity.⁵⁹⁵²

On 1 April 2021, it was reported France intended to donate approximately EUR6 million to finance World Trade Organization technical assistance programs for developing countries and least-developed countries from 2021 to 2023 aimed at improving participants' understanding of global trade rules and standards, as part of efforts to support a post-COVID-19 economic recovery.⁵⁹⁵³

On 28 May 2021, President Emmanuel Macron stated that France would invest in boosting the production of Covid-19 vaccines in Africa, to help close a gap in the availability of the shots between African and Western nations. France plans to deliver 30 million Covid-19 vaccine doses to Africa by year-end, part of a total of more than 100 million doses that the European Union plans to deliver to Africa this year.⁵⁹⁵⁴

On 16 July 2021, France and 13 African countries announced the joint AFROSCREEN project. This project meets an urgent need for surveillance of the development of SARS-CoV-2 variants and other emerging pathogens by bolstering laboratory genomic sequencing capacity. The EUR10 million program has two main objectives: 1) to bolster the sequencing capacity of laboratories in 13 African

⁵⁹⁴⁹ Emergency support to Pacific island countries to contain COVID-19 and emerging diseases, AFD (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>

⁵⁹⁵⁰ #DATA4COVID19: The Challenge for Africa, AFD (Paris) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/data4covid19-challenge-africa>

⁵⁹⁵¹ France commits to a major boost in overseas aid, AFD (Paris) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-commits-major-boost-overseas-aid?origin=/en/actualites>

⁵⁹⁵² Niger: restoring an education system hit hard by COVID, AFD (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/niger-restoring-education-system-hit-hard-covid>

⁵⁹⁵³ France contributes approximately EUR6 million to help developing countries deepen trade expertise, WTO (Washington, DC) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr877_e.htm

⁵⁹⁵⁴ France to help Africa boost Covid-19 vaccine production, Macron says, France 24 (Pretoria) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210528-france-to-help-africa-boost-covid-19-vaccine-production-macron-says>

countries 2) to monitor patterns of spread by combining this effort with the implementation of preventive measures to control and limit the circulation of variants.⁵⁹⁵⁵

On 26 July 2021, French lawmakers have passed a bill pledging to allocate 0.7 per cent of the country's gross national income to official development assistance (ODA) by 2025. The increase comes with specific allocation requirements. At least 65 per cent will be given bilaterally and 25 per cent must go to 19 priority countries, almost all of which are located in sub-Saharan Africa. The new bill also centralizes French ODA around three objectives, including the fight against poverty, malnutrition, and global inequality; the promotion of human rights; and the protection of public goods.⁵⁹⁵⁶

On 27 July 2021, AFD granted a EUR 300 million contingency loan to the Mauritian government as part of the response to the COVID-19 crisis. This is the first time in its history that AFD allocated a contingency loan to the Republic of Mauritius. A contingency loan is first and foremost a public policy loan with a dual benefit: to provide short-term foreign currency liquidity and, in the longer term, to support Mauritius in a programming and technical cooperation framework for a sustainable, resilient and low-carbon economic recovery.⁵⁹⁵⁷

On 30 August 2021, it was announced that France would send 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa over the next three months. The vaccines will be allocated and distributed through the African Union's Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) and Covax. AVAT is a means of enabling group purchases of vaccines by the African Union's members to help them meet at least 50 percent of their needs.⁵⁹⁵⁸

France has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 10 December 2020, the EU and Germany announced their plans to provide a EUR113 million joint grant to safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable workers in the garment and leather export-

⁵⁹⁵⁵ AFROSCREEN: a COVID-19 response program to boost variant surveillance in 13 African countries, The Research Institute for Development (Marseille) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://en.ird.fr/afroscreen-covid-19-response-program-boost-variant-surveillance-13-african-countries>

⁵⁹⁵⁶ France approves massive increase of ODA budget, Devex International Platform (Washington DC) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.devex.com/news/france-approves-massive-increase-of-oda-budget-100467>

⁵⁹⁵⁷ A loan symbolising France's commitment to Mauritius, AFD (Paris) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. [https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/loan-symbolizing-frances-commitment-mauritius?origin=/en/rechercher?query=covid-19&size=20&from=0&sort=publication_date%2Cdesc&filter\[0\]=source_k=afd&facetOptions\[0\]=country_k,size,200&facetOptions\[1\]=thematic_k,size,999&facetOptions\[2\]=publication_date_month,size,999](https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/loan-symbolizing-frances-commitment-mauritius?origin=/en/rechercher?query=covid-19&size=20&from=0&sort=publication_date%2Cdesc&filter[0]=source_k=afd&facetOptions[0]=country_k,size,200&facetOptions[1]=thematic_k,size,999&facetOptions[2]=publication_date_month,size,999)

⁵⁹⁵⁸ France to donate 10 million vaccines to Africa over three month, AfricaNews (Lyon) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/08/30/france-to-donate-10-million-vaccines-to-africa-over-three-months/>

oriented industries of Bangladesh. Due to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, these workers are at heightened risk of being pushed into poverty.⁵⁹⁵⁹

As of 10 May 2021, the Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) implemented 37 regional projects in the areas of general health, basic health and non-communicable diseases, worth more than EUR386 million, including projects in Africa and small island developing states (SIDS).⁵⁹⁶⁰

As of 10 May 2021, GIZ implemented 49 projects in the area of social infrastructure and services, worth about EUR647 million, including projects in Africa and SIDS.⁵⁹⁶¹

As of 27 September 2021, GIZ implemented 31 regional projects in the areas of general health, basic health and non-communicable diseases, worth more than EUR171 million, including projects in Africa and SIDS.⁵⁹⁶² As well, GIZ implemented 35 projects in the area of social infrastructure and services, worth about EUR520 million, including projects in Africa and SIDS.⁵⁹⁶³

Germany has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 21 January 2021, India sent 1.5 million doses of free COVISHIELD vaccines to Myanmar. The gift was made in line with the Indian “Neighbourhood First” policy. To India, Myanmar is considered to be one of the closest and most important neighbours.⁵⁹⁶⁴

On 7 February 2021, India gifted 500,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Afghanistan. The goodwill gesture described by Afghanistan as “a strong sign of generosity and sincere cooperation.”⁵⁹⁶⁵

⁵⁹⁵⁹ Team Europe: EU and Germany join forces with the Government of Bangladesh to safeguard the livelihoods of workers in export-oriented industries, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-eu-and-germany-join-forces-government-bangladesh-safeguard-livelihoods-workers_en

⁵⁹⁶⁰ Project data, GIZ (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB.

⁵⁹⁶¹ Project data, GIZ (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB.

⁵⁹⁶² Project data, GIZ (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB

⁵⁹⁶³ Project data, GIZ (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.giz.de/projektdaten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB

⁵⁹⁶⁴ India's gift of 1.5 million vaccine doses to reach Myanmar on Friday, The Economic Times (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indias-gift-of-1-5-million-vaccine-doses-to-reach-myanmar-on-friday/articleshow/80390609.cms>

⁵⁹⁶⁵ First batch of Covid-19 vaccine from India arrives in Afghanistan, Livemint (New Delhi) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/first-batch-of-covid-19-vaccine-from-india-arrives-in-afghanistan-11612755483065.html>

On 19 February 2021, India gifted 100,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Maldives. The gift was made during Indian External Affairs Minister's two-day tour of Maldives.⁵⁹⁶⁶

On 21 February 2021, India granted 150,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Mongolia. India was the first country to provide the vaccine to its "spiritual neighbour" and partner Mongolia.⁵⁹⁶⁷

On 26 February 2021, India gifted 200,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Guatemala. India was called "the pharmacy of the world" by Guatemala.⁵⁹⁶⁸

On 27 March 2021, India gifted Bangladesh 1.2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine. The offering was made by the Prime Minister Modi to celebrate its 50th independence anniversary.⁵⁹⁶⁹

On 29 March 2021, it was announced that India gifted 100,000 doses of the vaccine to the Nepal Army. The offering was made as a mark of friendship and strong ties between the two countries.⁵⁹⁷⁰

On 30 March 2021, India gifted Fiji 100,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The gift was made by the Indian government under its Vaccine Friendship initiative.⁵⁹⁷¹

On 26 August 2021, India signed the agreement to implement the largest-ever infrastructure project in the Maldives. The 6.74 km long bridge and causeway link will connect Maldives' capital Male with adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi. The project was funded under Indian grant of USD100 million.⁵⁹⁷²

During the compliance period India assisted several developing countries in socio-economic issues and provided help in health sphere.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Irina Popova

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

⁵⁹⁶⁶ India gifts 1 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Maldives, The Daily Star (Dhaka) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 14. May 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/coronavirus-deadly-new-threat/news/india-gifts-1-lakh-doses-covid-19-vaccine-maldives-2048221>

⁵⁹⁶⁷ Mongolia receives first COVID vaccine from India, Montsam (Ulaanbaatar) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.montsame.mn/en/read/254452>

⁵⁹⁶⁸ Pharmacy of the World! India gifts to a Central American Nation Guatemala, Canada receives vaccines too, Financial Express (Uttar Pradesh) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/pharmacy-of-the-world-india-gifts-to-a-central-american-nation-guatemala-canada-receives-vaccines-too/2203257/>

⁵⁹⁶⁹ India's Modi gifts Bangladesh 1.2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, Reuters (Bangladesh) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 14.05.2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-bangladesh-idUSKBN2BJ0KC>

⁵⁹⁷⁰ India gifts Nepal Army one lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine, Livemint (New Delhi) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 14. May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-gifts-nepal-army-one-lakh-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine-11616982078572.html>

⁵⁹⁷¹ India gifts Fiji 100,000 COVID-19 vaccines, ABC (New York) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/india-gifts-fiji-covid-19-vaccines/13281612>

⁵⁹⁷² India links with Maldives with uber connectivity project, Hindustan Times (Male) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-links-with-maldives-with-uber-connectivity-project-101629948921864.html>

Within the monitoring period, no actions taken by Indonesia to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19 have been detected.

This might be explained through the fact Indonesia itself became one of the major COVID-19 related international recipient of aid to cover the needs of its big population.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1 .⁵⁹⁷³

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 21 January 2021, Italy announced its intention to provide Ethiopia with EUR500 thousand to increase food security, health care and protection with a focus on the Tigray region suffering from a humanitarian crisis.⁵⁹⁷⁴

On 21 May 2021, on the margins of the Global Health Summit Italy has pledged EUR300 million to provide equitable access to vaccines in developing countries via COVAX AMC initiative.⁵⁹⁷⁵

Italy has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Italy receives a score of $+1$.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 2 December 2020, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of Morocco to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to USD200 million for the COVID-19 response plan, including to promote strengthening of the health

⁵⁹⁷³ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Portal Informasi Indonesia, <https://indonesia.go.id/>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en>; Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, <https://www.kemkes.go.id/index.php?lg=LN02>; Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, <https://www.kemendag.go.id/en>.

⁵⁹⁷⁴ Etiopia. Contributo della Cooperazione italiana in risposta alla crisi umanitaria nel paese, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 22 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/etiopia-contributo-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alla-crisi-umanitaria-nel-paese.html

⁵⁹⁷⁵ L'intervento di apertura del Presidente Draghi al Global Health Summit, Governo Italiano Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <https://www.governo.it/node/16920>

care system, expansion of the social security system, and financial support for micro, small, and medium sized enterprises.⁵⁹⁷⁶

On 8 January 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY30 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to extend budget support for the poor and vulnerable communities and development of policy reforms for social protection.⁵⁹⁷⁷

On 16 February 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the African Development Fund to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY73,601 billion for the purposes of Fund replenishment to support growth and contribute to poverty alleviation.⁵⁹⁷⁸

On 24 February 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Mauritius to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY30 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to strengthen the health care system and social security, and provide financial support for economic activities in Mauritius, in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁹⁷⁹

On 2 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Fiji to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY10 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to contribute to social and economic stability in Fiji that COVID-19 has negatively affected, by providing financial support to implement economic and fiscal countermeasures.⁵⁹⁸⁰

On 3 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Solomon Islands to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY2.5 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to help carry out infection control, protection and relief of vulnerable groups, and economic stimulus measures, through concessional financing to the government of the Solomon Islands by co-financing with the Asian Development Bank.⁵⁹⁸¹

On 4 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Papua New Guinea to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY30 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to enhance public financial management, improve subnational health system management, and support the government's COVID-19 emergency response.⁵⁹⁸²

⁵⁹⁷⁶ Signing of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Morocco: Contributing to COVID-19 crisis response in Morocco through providing budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 03 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201204_41_en.html.

⁵⁹⁷⁷ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with India: Budgetary support to contribute to COVID-19 Crisis Response in India by supporting the livelihood of poor and vulnerable communities, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210112_30.html

⁵⁹⁷⁸ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the African Development Fund: Contributing to economic growth and poverty alleviation in the least developed countries in Africa, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210218_42_en.html

⁵⁹⁷⁹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Mauritius: Supporting COVID-19 crisis response through budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210225_41_en.html

⁵⁹⁸⁰ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Fiji: Contributing to the COVID-19 crisis response in Fiji through provision of budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210303_11_en.html

⁵⁹⁸¹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Solomon Islands: Contributing to the COVID-19 crisis response in Solomon Islands through provision of budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210303_10_en.html

⁵⁹⁸² Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Papua New Guinea: Contributing to the COVID-19 crisis response in Papua New Guinea through provision of budget support, JICA (Tokyo) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210304_10_en.html

On 22 February 2021, it was reported by the World Trade Organization that Japan contributed USD81,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework in 2021 to help least-developed countries use trade to combat the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through taking advantage of the digitalization of the economy, further integrating into global value chains and developing strategies for economic diversification.⁵⁹⁸³

On 10 March 2021, it was reported that Japan would provide USD41 million worth aid to 25 Asian and Pacific Islands nations to help them build a cold-chain distributions network for COVID-19 vaccines.⁵⁹⁸⁴ Further, on 13 March 2021, it was reported that Japan (along with the United States, Australia and India) pledged to provide up to 1 billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁵⁹⁸⁵

On 5 April 2021, Japan provided funds in the amount of USD2,336,554 to the United Nations Office for Project Services for a new project for supporting COVID-19 emergency response in Syria, including the increase of the capacities of the national health sector in the provision of life-saving and life sustaining services to the populations affected by the ongoing conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁹⁸⁶

On 15 April 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with Turkey to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to USD300 million for the Rapid Support for micro and small enterprises project in order to assist business operations and employment of micro and small enterprises that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus contribute to the sustainable growth of industries and the Turkish economy.⁵⁹⁸⁷

On 11 May 2021, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Government of Guinea to provide grant aid of up to JPY22.27 billion for the Project for Construction of National Institute of Public Health in order to construct facilities and install necessary equipment and thus strengthen the capacity for diagnostics, surveillance, quality control, training, and research.⁵⁹⁸⁸

On 18 June 2021, JICA signed Private Sector Investment Finance Loan Agreement with Itaú Unibanco S.A., a Brazilian private financial institution, to provide financing of USD150 million in order to enhance the healthcare sector in Brazil by improving the capacity of private hospitals and bolstering the supply capacity of medical equipment and pharmaceutical companies.⁵⁹⁸⁹ On 28 July

⁵⁹⁸³ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID 19, expand trade capacity, WTO (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

⁵⁹⁸⁴ Japan to give \$41 million aid to Asian nations over vaccine supply, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/09/japan-to-give-41-million-aid-to-asian-nations-over-vaccine-supply.html>

⁵⁹⁸⁵ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁵⁹⁸⁶ The Government of Japan and UNOPS Support COVID-19 Response in Syria, Reliefweb (New York) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-and-unops-support-covid-19-response-syria>

⁵⁹⁸⁷ Signing of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Turkey: Delivering rapid and direct support for micro and small enterprises affected by COVID-19, JICA (Tokyo) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210421_41_en.html

⁵⁹⁸⁸ Signing of Grant Agreement with Guinea: Contributing to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19 and Ebola virus through the development of facilities for inspection, research, and training, JICA (Tokyo) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210518_en_21.html

⁵⁹⁸⁹ Signing of Private Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) Loan Agreement for Brazil's "Healthcare Sector Enhancement Project": Contributing to COVID-19 response through support to the health and medical sector, JICA (Tokyo) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210712_10e.html

2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to USD200 million for the Program to Strengthen Public Policy and Fiscal Management in Response to the Health and Economic Crisis Caused by COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic. This program aims to help strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of public policy and fiscal management of the Government of the Dominican Republic in response to the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 through the design and implementation of effective and fiscally responsible policy measures.⁵⁹⁹⁰

During the compliance monitoring period, there have been numerous indications of Japan's taking active role in supporting developing countries (including least developed countries, African and small island developing states) in overcoming intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 30 November 2020, Korea made a decision to provide USD700,000 in humanitarian assistance to Latin American countries affected by Hurricane Iota. Humanitarian assistance is said to be delivered to Colombia, Honduras and Nicaragua.⁵⁹⁹¹

On 18 December 2020, Korea announced its intention to contribute extra funding to the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to help promote human security of residents in the Aral Sea region, Uzbekistan. Korea would contribute USD1 million to protect residents from negative environmental consequences such as desertification and shortage of drinking water caused by climate change.⁵⁹⁹²

On 20 January 2021, Korea presented its new official development assistance (ODA) strategy. The strategy was presented on the margins of the 36th International Development Cooperation Committee meeting. The country pledged to double the size of ODA by 2030. Next, Korea would more actively utilize its competitive advantages such as ICTs and best practices in public administration and share them with recipient countries. Also, the strategy implies facilitation of public trust by revitalizing participation of private companies in development financing and supporting participation of young people in development programs.⁵⁹⁹³

⁵⁹⁹⁰ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Dominican Republic: Supporting the Dominican Republic to strengthen public policy and fiscal management in response to the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19, by providing the first budget support in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, JICA (Tokyo) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210804_41_en.html

⁵⁹⁹¹ ROK Government to Extend US\$700,000 in Humanitarian Assistance to Three Latin American Countries Affected by Highest-Category Hurricane Iota, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321399

⁵⁹⁹² Korea to Contribute 1 Million U.S. Dollars to UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea for 2 years, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321460

⁵⁹⁹³ 36th Meeting of the International Development Cooperation Committee, Office for Government Policy Coordination (Seoul). Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.opm.go.kr/opm/news/press-release.do?mode=view&articleNo=132653>

On 25 January 2021, Korea and Uzbekistan held an official meeting to discuss measures to strengthen bilateral ties. The parties highlighted need to further deepen investment and export cooperation, including modernization of Bukhara Oil Refinery and Mubarek Power Plant. Also, the parties discussed expansion of cooperation in healthcare and health infrastructure.⁵⁹⁹⁴

On 25 January 2021, Korea's and Afghanistan's Foreign Ministers held a telephone conversation on key issues of bilateral affairs. The parties agreed that the two countries should work closely together in all areas, including political affairs, economy, development and culture. Korea's representative also expressed hope that the intra-Afghan peace negotiations would result in establishment of permanent peace in the country.⁵⁹⁹⁵

On 15 March 2021, Korea's International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations Development Programme signed a grant cost-sharing agreement in mine-action field. Korea committed USD10 million to Cambodia's Mine Action sector in 2021 – 2025. Funds would be used to reduce dangers associated with remaining explosives in Cambodia that affects people's lives and health.⁵⁹⁹⁶

On 4 February 2021, Korea and Georgia signed a cooperation agreement. The two parties agreed on deepening cooperation in air services. The agreement is said to lay institutional foundation for operating flights between the two countries⁵⁹⁹⁷.

On 30 March 2021, Korea took part on the Fifth Brussels Conference on humanitarian crisis in Syria. The participating countries noted negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the need for the international community's assistance in all spheres. Korea announced its intention to offer USD18 million in humanitarian assistance to Syria.⁵⁹⁹⁸

On 13 April 2021, Korea announced its intention to allocate extra funds to support Timor-Leste. The country was affected by severe floods; Korea would provide USD100,000 to help the recipient in overcoming the disaster's immediate outcomes.⁵⁹⁹⁹

On 14 April 2021, Korea pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The country announced its intention to allocate USD100,000 to assist the recipient party in overcoming the outcomes of La Soufriere Volcano eruption.⁶⁰⁰⁰

On 22 June 2021, Korea and the African Development Bank reached an agreement on building-up a joint Energy Investment Network. Korea agreed to invest USD600 million in energy in African countries over a period of five years.⁶⁰⁰¹

⁵⁹⁹⁴ Korea and Uzbekistan Discusses Ways to Strengthen Sustainable Economic cooperation, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul). Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5057>

⁵⁹⁹⁵ Outcome of Telephone Conversation between Korean and Afghan Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul), 27 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320554

⁵⁹⁹⁶ Korea Commits \$10M to Increase Cambodia's Mine Clearance and Victim Assistance Efforts in 2021 and Beyond. UNDP (Phnom Penh) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/korea-commit-10m-to-increase-cambodias-mine-clearance-and-victi.html>

⁵⁹⁹⁷ Korea and Georgia Sign Air Services Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320576

⁵⁹⁹⁸ ROK Government Announces Plan to Contribute US\$18 Million in Support of Syrian Refugees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321614

⁵⁹⁹⁹ Korea to Provide US\$100,000 in Humanitarian Assistance to Timor-Leste Affected by Record Floods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321627

⁶⁰⁰⁰ Korea to Provide US\$100,000 in Humanitarian Assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Affected by Eruption of La Soufriere Volcano, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321632

On 27 August 2021, Korea and the Inter-American Development Bank reached an agreement on renewing the agreement under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund Co Financing Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean. Under the new scheme, Korea would donate USD500 million till 2025.⁶⁰⁰²

Korea has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 12 December 2020, Mexican Army and Air Force transfer more than 15 tons of humanitarian aid to Honduras.⁶⁰⁰³

On 22 December 2020, at the request of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Government of Mexico delivered humanitarian aid to Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala and Honduras. Humanitarian aid was divided as follows: 150 tons for Chiapas and Tabasco; 21 tons for Guatemala; and 26.5 tons for Honduras.⁶⁰⁰⁴

On 11 January 2021, the governments of Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras presented a Joint Declaration on the integral management of migratory processes in the region. Declaration reaffirms the commitment of the four countries to jointly address the migratory phenomenon in all its dimensions, especially the challenges related to irregular and massive migration, security, the comprehensive fight against the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, guaranteeing unrestricted respect for the human rights of migrants in all phases of the migration cycle. Likewise, it expresses the concern of governments about the exposure of irregular migrants to situations of high risk to their health and life, particularly during the health crisis derived from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁰⁰⁵

On 4 May 2021, the President of the Republic of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei Falla, made an official visit to Mexico. The heads of State and their delegates held a meeting in which they addressed

⁶⁰⁰¹ Korea to Launch Korea-Africa Energy Investment Framework, the Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong-Si) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5157>

⁶⁰⁰² Korea and IDB Agree to Expand Joint Fund for LAC] Development, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5203>

⁶⁰⁰³ El Ejército y Fuerza Aérea Mexicanos trasladan más de 15 toneladas de ayuda humanitaria a la República de Honduras, Mexican Government 20 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/el-ejercito-y-fuerza-aerea-mexicanos-trasladan-mas-de-15-toneladas-de-ayuda-humanitaria-a-la-republica-de-honduras>

⁶⁰⁰⁴ Por llamado de la Celac, el Gobierno de México gestiona ayuda humanitaria a Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala y Honduras, Mexican Government 22 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/por-llamado-de-la-celac-el-gobierno-de-mexico-gestiona-ayuda-humanitaria-a-chiapas-tabasco-guatemala-y-honduras>

⁶⁰⁰⁵ México, El Salvador, Guatemala Y Honduras presentan declaración conjunta sobre la gestión integral de los procesos migratorios en la región, Mexican Government 11 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-el-salvador-guatemala-y-honduras-presentan-declaracion-conjunta-sobre-la-gestion-integral-de-los-procesos-migratorios-en-la-region?state=published>

the main topics of interest on the agenda and confirmed the solid level of understanding and fraternity between both countries. They agreed to promote greater commercial exchange, through the modernization of the customs infrastructure and the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as promoting the attraction of investment and the promotion of tourism between both countries.⁶⁰⁰⁶

On 24 June 2021, Mexico donated 400,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and three tons of medical supplies to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.⁶⁰⁰⁷

During the compliance period Mexico assisted several developing countries in socio-economic issues and provided help in health sphere.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

From 14 to 25 December 2020, Rosatom, a state-owned energy corporation, conducted an intensive workshop for specialists in nuclear energy from Egypt. The course was dedicated to nuances of practical exploitation of water-waer energetic reactor-type nuclear reactors that are Russia's know-how. Egypt remains the only country in the region that possess at least one Generation III reactor. Egypt's El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant is said to be completed by 2026 with Russia's Rosatom as the reactor supplier.⁶⁰⁰⁸

On 15 December 2020, Russia's Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs, joint-stock company "Gazprombank" and JSC "Uzbekneftegaz" concluded several cooperation agreements. Trilateral agreements cover development of oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan.⁶⁰⁰⁹

On 17 December 2020, the Government of Russia approved the decision to allow a credit of USD1 billion to Belarus. The debtor would receive the sum divided into two tranches – USD500 million in 2020 and USD500 million in 2021. The purpose of the credit is said to pay off previously granted loans of Belarus to Russia and the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development.⁶⁰¹⁰

⁶⁰⁰⁶ Comunicado conjunto México-Guatemala, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/comunicado-conjunto-mexico-guatemala-271457>

⁶⁰⁰⁷ Mexico donates 400,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and three tons of medical supplies to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-donates-400-800-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines-and-three-tons-of-medical-supplies-to-guatemala-el-salvador-and-honduras>

⁶⁰⁰⁸ Rosatom to Organize a Workshop on VVER-type Technologies for Egyptian Counterparts, Rosatom (Moscow) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://rosatom.ru/journalist/news/rosatom-provel-obuchenie-po-tekhnologii-vver-dlya-predstaviteley-obrazovatelnykh-organizatsiy-i-regu/>

⁶⁰⁰⁹ VEB to support Russian export to facilitate development of oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan, AK&M Information Agency (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://www.akm.ru/press/gruppa_veb_rf_podderzhit_eksport_rossiyskikh_kompaniy_dlya_proektov_neftegazovogo_sektora_respubliki/

⁶⁰¹⁰ Government Executive Order №3379-p 17 December 2020 'Agreement between the Government of Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on allowing the state financial loan, Official Web-Portal of Laws of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021.

<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202012210072>

On 22 January 2021, Gazprom, a state-owned mining company, established a sub-company in Mongolia. “Gazoprovod Soyuz Vostok” will conduct front end engineering design works and feasibility study for “Soyuz Vostok” natural gas pipeline project that would connect Russia’s natural gas deposits with end consumers in China.⁶⁰¹¹

On 28 April 2021, Russia has announced its intention to send a large shipment of medical aid to India to support the local authorities amid growing number of COVID-19 – infected patients. The shipment includes oxygen concentrators and anti-COVID medicines. The shipment was said to be delivered with a charter flight under the EMERCOM supervision.⁶⁰¹²

On 27 May 2021, Human Vaccine LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Russian Direct Investment Fund announces the signing of an agreement for the supply of 220 million doses of two-dose Sputnik V Russian COVID-19 vaccine with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. This amount is sufficient to vaccinate 110 million people.⁶⁰¹³

On 28 May 2021, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko visited Uzbekistan. The parties discussed bilateral cooperation in healthcare. On the meeting’s margins the two countries signed an agreement on opening of a branch department of the Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University in Uzbekistan.⁶⁰¹⁴

On 30 June 2021, Minister Murashko took part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s meeting on health-related issues of multilateral cooperation. The participants adopted the Roadmap on cooperation in healthcare for 2022 – 2024 and issued a joint communique.⁶⁰¹⁵

On 17 July 2021, the Russian Direct Investment Fund and the Serum Institute of India (SII) have reached an agreement on production of the Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V. SII plans to produce more than 300 million doses annually starting from September 2021.⁶⁰¹⁶

On 19 August 2021, Minister Murashko had a meeting with Carla Vizzotti, the Minister of Health of Argentina. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation in health, including the joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁰¹⁷

⁶⁰¹¹ “Gazoprovod Soyuz Vostok” Company was established in Mongolia, Gazprom (Russia) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gazprom.ru/press/news/2021/january/article522596/>

⁶⁰¹² Concerning Emergency Medical Aid Shipment for the Republic of India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4715108

⁶⁰¹³ RDIF and UNICEF sign Sputnik V vaccine supply agreement, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (Moscow) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. https://rdif.ru/Eng_fullNews/6854/

⁶⁰¹⁴ A delegation of the Ministry of Health of Russia headed by the Minister of Health of the Russian Federation arrived in Uzbekistan on a working visit, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 May 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/05/28/16719-delegatsiya-minzdrava-rossii-vo-glave-s-ministrom-zdravoohraneniya-rf-pribyla-v-uzbekistan-s-rabochim-vizitom>

⁶⁰¹⁵ Mikhail Murashko took part in the Meeting of SCO Health Ministers, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 30 June 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/06/30/16914-mihail-murashko-prinyal-uchastie-v-soveschani-ministrov-zdravoohraneniya-shos>

⁶⁰¹⁶ RDIF and Serum Institute of India, the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, to start production of Sputnik vaccine at Company’s facilities in September, the Russian Direct Investments Fund (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. https://rdif.ru/Eng_fullNews/6934/

⁶⁰¹⁷ Mikhail Murashko met with the Minister of Health of Argentina, who highly appreciated the Russian Sputnik V vaccine, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 August 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/08/19/17188-mihail-murashko-vstretilsya-s-ministrom-zdravoohraneniya-argentiny-kotoraya-vysoko-otsenila-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-sputnik-v>

Russia has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 4 December 2020, it was reported that King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, according to which some of the winners of the Gamers Without Borders tournament, organized by the Saudi Arabian Federation for Electronic and Intellectual Sports (SAFEIS), will donate a sum amounting to USD1,339,500 to help children worldwide face the coronavirus pandemic through preventive and awareness-raising programs; it was further reported that KSrelief had already signed an agreement with SAFEIS to allocate the donation funds resulting from the organization of the Gamers Without Borders tournament, which amounted to USD10 million, to international organizations and bodies concerned with combating COVID-19 worldwide.⁶⁰¹⁸

On 7 February 2021, it was reported that KSrelief jointly with the WHO had launched a joint aid program for Yemen worth USD20.5 million, which would support the delivery of essential health service, as well as projects on COVID-19 preparedness and response, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation services in addition to operational budgets and training of personnel to provide medical services.⁶⁰¹⁹

On 16 February 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had delivered a sixth batch of medical aid to the Palestinian health ministry, which included medicines, equipment and other medical supplies to help limit the spread of COVID-19.⁶⁰²⁰

On 20 February 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had begun distributing food aid to families badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic in South Africa.⁶⁰²¹

On 29 March 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia's King Salman had directed KSrelief to aid Jordan with liquid oxygen supplies, oxygen cylinders and regulators, as well as digital intravenous pumps and other related devices and supplies to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁰²²

On 6 April 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had organized a training course for health practitioners at COVID-19 isolation units in Aden, Yemen, in cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Public

⁶⁰¹⁸ Saudi Arabia's KSrelief, GAVI to raise COVID-19 awareness among children, Arab News (Riyadh) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1772216/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰¹⁹ Saudi aid agency, WHO join hands to improve Yemen's public health system, Arab News (Riyadh) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1805056/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰²⁰ KSrelief sends 6th batch of Saudi medical aid to help Palestinians battle COVID pandemic, Arab News (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1810016/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰²¹ Saudi aid agency helps affected families in South Africa, Arab News (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1812361/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰²² Saudi Arabia's King Salman directs KSrelief to aid Jordan with oxygen supplies, Arab News (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1833946/saudi-arabia>

Health and Population and the WHO, to highlight the skills and knowledge in dealing with the COVID-19 cases.⁶⁰²³

On 20 April 2021, it was reported that Yemen started the first round of its COVID-19 inoculation campaign with support from KSrelief, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund.⁶⁰²⁴

On 21 April 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had delivered a special medical aid package worth USD1,5 million to help combat the COVID-19 in Pakistan.⁶⁰²⁵

On 18 May 2021, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stated that Saudi Arabia would support African countries with investments and loans worth about USD1 billion to help their economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁰²⁶

On 30 June 2021, KSrelief stated at the G20 Ministerial Event that Saudi Arabia was ready to become a regional hub for the production of COVID-19 vaccines and other medicines and supplies, as well as for logistics activities. According to Dr. Al Rabeeah, regional production of COVID-19 vaccines and other medicines and supplies would not only ensure vaccine availability, but also create job opportunities and boost the ability of regional health care systems to control their own vaccine distribution and delivery.⁶⁰²⁷

On 5 August 2021, it was reported that the World Health Organization (WHO) was partnering with the King Salman Centre for Humanitarian Aid and Relief in the fight against COVID-19 in Yemen. Through this partnership, and in coordination with local authorities, the WHO has been enabling rapid detection and response to COVID-19 cases through the Emergency Operations Centres, which represent a platform for an integrated, multisectoral coordination system at central and governorate levels across the country.⁶⁰²⁸

On 2 September 2021, KSrelief delivered a variety of medical aid items to Mali to combat the COVID-19 virus there. This aid is strong evidence of the deep ties between the two countries, and delivered the appreciation of Mali's government to Saudi Arabia, represented by KSrelief, for the aid.⁶⁰²⁹

⁶⁰²³ KSrelief holds training course for health practitioners in COVID-19 in Aden, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/605249/SAUDI-ARABIA/KSrelief-holds-training-course-for-health-practitioners-in-COVID-19-in-Aden>

⁶⁰²⁴ Yemen launches first round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846141/middle-east>

⁶⁰²⁵ Saudi aid agency delivers \$1.5 million medical aid package to Pakistan, Arab News (Riyadh) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846726/saudi-arabia>

⁶⁰²⁶ Saudi to invest \$1 bln to support Africa's post-pandemic recovery, Reuters (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-invest-1-bln-support-africas-post-pandemic-recovery-2021-2021-05-18/>

⁶⁰²⁷ Dr. Al Rabeeah Affirms the Kingdom's Readiness to Become a Regional Hub for the Production of COVID-19 Vaccines to Support the Global Supply Chain for Countries in Need, KSrelief (Riyadh) 30 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/329a19a5-5f9d-441f-8436-d84136e25cb5>

⁶⁰²⁸ KSrelief partners with WHO to save lives from COVID-19, WHO (Geneva) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.emro.who.int/yemen/news/ksrelief-partners-with-who-to-save-lives-from-covid-19.html?format=html>

⁶⁰²⁹ KSrelief Delivers COVID-19 Medical Support to Mali, KSrelief (Riyadh) 2 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/d9e0e350-1fad-46c6-9089-156f363c2013>

During the compliance monitoring period, there have been numerous indications of Saudi Arabia's taking active role in supporting developing countries in overcoming intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

From 25 to 26 November 2020, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition hosted a virtual meeting with counterparts from Ethiopia. The objective of the meeting was to bolster bilateral economic cooperation including trade and investments.⁶⁰³⁰

On 25 November 2020, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition held a meeting with Chili's Chamber of Industry, Commerce and Tourism on trade opportunities. The meeting was said to set a basis for potential partnerships between the two countries' businesses.⁶⁰³¹

On 4 December 2020, South Africa donated electoral material to the Central African Republic (CAR). The donation is aimed at assisting the National Elections Authority of the CAR with the Presidential and Legislative elections later in December 2020.⁶⁰³²

On 5 December 2020, the leaders of African Union countries held the 13th Extraordinary session on trade matters. The meeting was chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa. The session was dedicated to the kickstart of the African Continental Free Trade Area signed in 2018. The agreement was agreed to come into force on 1 January 2021. The summit itself concentrated on the legal instruments that would facilitate the area's operation.⁶⁰³³

On 12 January 2021, South Africa and Algeria held a bilateral ministerial working meeting. The parties discussed issues of international cooperation including fostering enabling environment for the private sector to do business and economic ties in general.⁶⁰³⁴

On 23 July 2021, Minister of Higher Education Science and Innovation Dr. Blade Nzimande presented the negotiation results between Biovac (47.5 per cent owned by the State) and Pfizer-Biotech. The parties agreed on giving Biotech the right to produce the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine that

⁶⁰³⁰ South Africa and Ethiopia to Host Virtual Trade Investment Seminar, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-ethiopia-to-host-virtual-trade-investment-seminar/>

⁶⁰³¹ South Africa and Chile to Host Trade Opportunities Webinar, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-chile-to-host-trade-opportunities-webinar/>

⁶⁰³² South Africa donates electoral material to the Central African Republic, Department of International Relations and Cooperation Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/car1204.htm>

⁶⁰³³ Thirteen Extra Ordinary Session on the AfCFTA: The Assembly of the Union Adopts Decision on the Start of Trading, African Union (Addis Ababa) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/39731-pr-pr_156_-_13th_extraordinary_session_on_afcfta.pdf

⁶⁰³⁴ Joint Communiqué of the Occasion of the Working Visit by H.E. Mr Sabri Boukadoum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Algeria, 12 January 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/alge0112.pdf>

includes on-site development and equipment installation activities. The produced vaccine would be distributed within the African Union.⁶⁰³⁵

South Africa has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states, but the country's assistance was limited to health-related issues.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 13 January 2021, the Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) delivered medical devices to support the Muslim Free Hospital in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw.⁶⁰³⁶

On 19 January 2021, it was reported that TIKA delivered medical devices to support the University Hospital in Tunisia's city of Medenine.⁶⁰³⁷

On 22 March 2021, it was reported that TIKA had implemented several projects in order to combat COVID-19 in the region of Northern Syria; the projects included setting up four cleaning supplies production workshop and a mask production workshop in order to contribute to the fight against the pandemic.⁶⁰³⁸

On 19 April 2021, it was reported that TIKA donated a drug delivery vehicle to a First Aid Center in Libya's town of Ghadames as part of the scheme to support healthcare development in the country.⁶⁰³⁹

On 14 April 2021, it was reported that the Palestine-Turkey Friendship Hospital, built by TIKA in the Gaza Strip, greatly reduced the burden on the health sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Palestine-Turkey Friendship Hospital was transferred to Palestinian authorities on 30 March 2020 upon the instructions of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in order to contribute to the fight against COVID-19. More than 3,500 COVID-19 patients have been treated in the hospital since then.⁶⁰⁴⁰

⁶⁰³⁵ Minister Blade Nzimande congratulates Biovac for appointment to manufacture and distribute Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 vaccine doses within Africa, South Africa Government (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-congratulates-biovac-appointment-manufacture-and-distribute-pfizer>

⁶⁰³⁶ TIKA Supports a Hospital in Myanmar, TIKA (Ankara) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_a_hospital_in_myanmar-60758

⁶⁰³⁷ TIKA Supports the University Hospital in Tunisia, TIKA (Ankara) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_the_university_hospital_in_tunisia-60898

⁶⁰³⁸ TIKA Supports the Fight against COVID19 Pandemic in Northern Syria, TIKA (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_the_fight_against_covid19_pandemic_in_northern_syria-61441

⁶⁰³⁹ Turkey Provides Healthcare Support for Libya, TIKA (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/turkey_provides_healthcare_support_for_libya-61868

⁶⁰⁴⁰The Hospital Built by TIKA Reduces the Burden of COVID19 in Gaza, Reliefweb (New York) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hospital-built-t-ka-reduces-burden-covid19-gaza>

On 28 July 2021, TİKA held the Introduction to Emergency Response Training for Gambian healthcare providers in cooperation with the Ministries of Health of the Republic of Turkey and The Gambia, as part of the Emergency Medicine Capacity Building Program (ATKAP).⁶⁰⁴¹

On 28 July 2021, it was reported that the remote training program “Methods to Combat COVID-19” which was organized by TİKA in cooperation with the Association for Health and Civilization and the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan with the participation of 22 Afghan healthcare providers, was completed. Throughout the training program, trainers shared their extensive knowledge and experience on the causes of COVID-19, the way it has spread over time, its clinical features and radiological manifestations, and practices in our country regarding the diagnosis process, the treatment of adult and pediatric patients, intensive care practices, prevention methods, contact tracing, and hospital management during the pandemic.⁶⁰⁴²

On 9 September 2021, it was reported that under the ATKAP, TİKA, organized “Methods of Combating Covid-19” distance education program for El Salvadoran healthcare personnel in cooperation with the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation and Health and Civilization Association.⁶⁰⁴³

Turkey has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The UK has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 30 November 2020, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched the project called Supporting COVID Response in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through Health Systems Strengthening. The project worth GBP4.8 million will provide support on strengthening health systems in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to prevent, detect and control the threat of COVID-19, and will also involve Thailand in regional initiatives.⁶⁰⁴⁴

On 1 February 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched a one-year programme funding the World Bank to analyze, document and disseminate Brazil’s successful experience with the emergency benefit to protect vulnerable populations from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazil’s emergency cash transfer programme had been one of the

⁶⁰⁴¹ TİKA Contributes to Increasing the Emergency Medicine Capacity of The Gambia, TİKA (Ankara) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_contributes_to_increasing_the_emergency_medicine_capacity_of_the_gambia-64702

⁶⁰⁴² TİKA Supports Afghanistan’s Fight against the Pandemic, Reliefweb (New York) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/t-ka-supports-afghanistan-s-fight-against-pandemic>

⁶⁰⁴³ Covid-19 Training for El Salvador Health Personnel, TİKA (Ankara) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/covid_19_training_for_el_salvador_health_personnel-65341

⁶⁰⁴⁴ Supporting COVID Response in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through Health Systems Strengthening, UK Development Tracker (London) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301205>

largest and most rapidly deployed social protection programs in the world, helping 67 million informal workers. Sharing these learnings through this project meets a demand from poorer countries seeking advice on how to improve their social protection policies at speed and during a crisis.⁶⁰⁴⁵

On 8 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched the project on New technologies for global health delivered by Product Development Partnerships. The project budget is GBP51 million. It is focused on neglected tropical diseases, diseases of emerging resistance and diseases of epidemic potential, and will support the development of new products such as drugs, diagnostics and insecticides for targeted diseases.⁶⁰⁴⁶

On 19 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched its Core Funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2020-2024 project. The UK will provide GBP340 million of core funding to the WHO for its 13th General Programme of Work which aims to provide Universal Health Coverage to 1 billion more people, protect them from health emergencies and enable to live healthier lives.⁶⁰⁴⁷

On 11 June 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the UK will donate 100 million surplus COVID-19 vaccines to other countries within a year. 80 million vaccines will go through COVAX and 20 million will be donated bilaterally. 5 million of these will be donated by the end of September 2021 and 30 million – by the end of 2021.⁶⁰⁴⁸

The United Kingdom has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

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

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 19 March 2021, the USAID announced the award of USD9.2 million to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The CDRI, launched by India in 2019 is a global climate initiative involving the private sector, governments, and multilateral agencies aimed at fostering disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.⁶⁰⁴⁹

On 12 April 2021, the USAID launched the Transformational Strategies for Farm Output Risk Mitigation (TRANSFORM) project. This five-year, USD33 million project, is aiming to mobilize

⁶⁰⁴⁵ Sharing lessons learned from Brazil's Social Protection response to COVID-19, UK Development Tracker 16 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301301>

⁶⁰⁴⁶ New technologies for global health delivered by Product Development Partnerships, UK Development Tracker (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301067>

⁶⁰⁴⁷ Core Funding to the World Health Organisation WHO 2020-2024, UK Development Tracker (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300935>

⁶⁰⁴⁸ The sharing of 100 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccines with countries in need, UK Development Tracker (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301364/summary>

⁶⁰⁴⁹ United States Promotes Climate Resilient Infrastructure with \$9.2 Million Commitment, USAID (Washington DC) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-19-2021-united-states-promotes-climate-resilient-infrastructure-92-million>

private sector innovation to address emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance in animal production value chains in Asia and Africa. TRANSFORM is designed to engage global market actors “to develop, test, and scale innovative solutions that sustainably improve animal health, strengthen production systems in animal agriculture value chains, and enhance global health security.”⁶⁰⁵⁰

On 26 April 2021, the USAID launched two new projects aimed at assisting Vietnam in tackling the climate crisis. The USD36 million Sustainable Forest Management project is to focus on forest conservation, while the USD38 million Biodiversity Conservation project is aims to “protect critical ecosystems to build resilience against the impacts of climate change, maintain and increase forest quality, and protect and stabilize wildlife populations.”⁶⁰⁵¹

On 27 April 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris announced the distribution of USD310 million including USD255 million in assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including the refugees and vulnerable migrants in the region. The assistance includes approximately USD104 million from the Department of State, USD125 million from the USAID, and USD26 million from the Department of Defense. The aid is targeting food security, healthcare, childcare, sanitation, and economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.⁶⁰⁵²

On 28 April 2021, the US deployed emergency COVID-19 relief shipments to India. The shipment, delivered by air, included 440 oxygen cylinders and regulators, 960,000 Rapid Diagnostic Tests, and 100,000 masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁶⁰⁵³

On 5 May 2021, the USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced the transfer of USD300 million to UNICEF aimed at improving the quality of life of women and children across such areas as healthcare, education, water and sanitation, hygiene, youth engagement, as well as child protection. This grant supplements the United States USD134 million annual contribution to UNICEF, as well as USAID’s USD61 million investment in 2020 in urgent work to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the secondary impacts of COVID-19.⁶⁰⁵⁴

On 25 September 2021, the United States Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power announced the allocation of USD297 million for “humanitarian assistance to provide urgently needed food assistance, health care, water, and psychosocial support to address urgent humanitarian needs around the world caused by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.” This new funding includes USD108 million for the efforts to provide health assistance in Syria; USD96 million to support global programs on health, humanitarian protection, and food security; USD34

⁶⁰⁵⁰ USAID Engages Private Sector in Global Health Security Efforts, USAID (Washington DC) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-1-2021-usaid-engages-private-sector-global-health-security-efforts>

⁶⁰⁵¹ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million to Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, USAID (Washington DC) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁶⁰⁵² United States Announces Increased Assistance for the People of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, USAID (Washington DC) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-27-2021-united-states-announces-increased-assistance-people-of-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras>

⁶⁰⁵³ United States Airlifts Emergency Supplies to help India Address Deadly Second Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic, USAID (Washington DC) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-28-2021-united-states-airlifts-emergency-supplies-to-help-india-address-deadly-second-wave-of-covid-19-pandemic>

⁶⁰⁵⁴ USAID Awards up to \$300 Million to UNICEF to Improve the Lives of Mothers and Children Globally, USAID (Washington DC) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/may-5-2021-usaid-awards-300-million-unicef-improve-lives-mothers-and-children>

million to pre-position emergency food supplies to help mitigate famine and food insecurity around the world; USD18 million to help Niger meet its population's nutritional needs, etc.⁶⁰⁵⁵

The United States has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 1 December 2020, the EU announced a new EUR20 million program to support health preparedness and response capacities in Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries.⁶⁰⁵⁶

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a new partnership initiative to strengthen the capacity of Africa CDC to prepare for and respond to public health threats in Africa. The four-year project "EU for health security in Africa: ECDC for Africa CDC," funded by the EU is aimed at facilitating harmonized surveillance and disease intelligence and supporting the implementation of the public health workforce strategy of Africa CDC.⁶⁰⁵⁷

On 10 December 2020, the EU and Germany announced their plans to provide a EUR113 million joint grant to safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable workers in the garment and leather export-oriented industries of Bangladesh. Due to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, these workers are at heightened risk of being pushed into poverty.⁶⁰⁵⁸

On 15 December 2020, the European Investment Bank agreed EUR400 million of financing to support the participation of low- and middle-income economies in COVID-19 Global Vaccines Alliance (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment.⁶⁰⁵⁹

⁶⁰⁵⁵ USAID provides nearly \$297 million in urgently needed food, water, and health care for COVID-19 response around the world, USAID (Washington) 25 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. [https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/sep-25-2021-usaid-provides-nearly-297-million-urgently-needed-covid-19-response-around-](https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/sep-25-2021-usaid-provides-nearly-297-million-urgently-needed-covid-19-response-around-world#:~:text=Today%2C%20at%20the%20Global%20Citizen,the%20devastating%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.)

world#:~:text=Today%2C%20at%20the%20Global%20Citizen,the%20devastating%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.

⁶⁰⁵⁶ Team Europe COVID-19 response: EU announces €20 million to support health systems in ASEAN, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-covid-19-response-eu-announces-eu20-million-support-health-systems-asean_en

⁶⁰⁵⁷ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, European Commission (Brussels) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies_en

⁶⁰⁵⁸ Team Europe: EU and Germany join forces with the Government of Bangladesh to safeguard the livelihoods of workers in export-oriented industries, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-eu-and-germany-join-forces-government-bangladesh-safeguard-livelihoods-workers_en

⁶⁰⁵⁹ Team Europe contributes €500 million to COVAX initiative to provide one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses for low and middle income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-contributes-eu500-million-covax-initiative-provide-one-billion-covid-19-vaccine_en

On 18 December 2020, the European Commission announced the mobilization of EUR84.26 million in support of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Benin, Central African Republic, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.⁶⁰⁶⁰

On 23 December 2020, the EU's Caribbean Investment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank signed two agreements for a total EU contribution of EUR23 million to support investments in primary health care services in Jamaica and in sustainable energy in Barbados.⁶⁰⁶¹

On 26 January 2021, the EU announced its decision to contribute EUR25 million to enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon who are, respectively, the first, second and fifth biggest cocoa producers, generating almost 70 per cent of the world production.⁶⁰⁶²

On 19 February 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced EUR100 million in humanitarian assistance to support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa, which are spearheaded by the Africa CDC. The funding will, among others, contribute to ensuring the cold chains, roll-out registration programs, training of medical and support staff as well as logistics.⁶⁰⁶³

On 19 February 2021, the EU announced an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, thus doubling its contribution to this global initiative.⁶⁰⁶⁴

On 3 March 2021, the EU and the European Investment Bank announced EUR120 million of new support for Equity Bank to enhance financing to Kenyan companies most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The package will support access to finance at appropriate conditions for Kenyan small and medium sized enterprises, including in the agriculture sector, through EUR100 million loans from the European Investment Bank and EUR20 million of EU grant support.⁶⁰⁶⁵

On 5 April 2021, the International Monetary Fund received the EU's contribution of SDR141 million to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, which provides grants for debt service relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19.⁶⁰⁶⁶

⁶⁰⁶⁰ Coronavirus Global Response: EU mobilises €84 million for four African countries, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-global-response-eu-mobilises-eu84-million-four-african-countries_en

⁶⁰⁶¹ The European Union and the Inter-American Development Bank sign two contracts to support Caribbean partner countries, European Commission (Brussels) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-and-inter-american-development-bank-sign-two-contracts-support-caribbean-partner_en

⁶⁰⁶² EU boosts sustainable cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon, European Commission (Brussels) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-boosts-sustainable-cocoa-production-cote-divoire-ghana-and-cameroon_en

⁶⁰⁶³ G7: EU to support COVID-19 vaccination strategies and capacity in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g7-eu-support-covid-19-vaccination-strategies-and-capacity-africa_en

⁶⁰⁶⁴ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-doubles-contribution-covax-eu1-billion-ensure-safe-and-effective-vaccines-low-and-middle_en

⁶⁰⁶⁵ Team Europe partners with Equity Bank to support Kenyan business and agriculture amid COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-partners-equity-bank-support-kenyan-business-and-agriculture-amid-covid-19_en

⁶⁰⁶⁶ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/global-recovery-eu-disburses-sdr-141-million-imfs-catastrophe-containment-and-relief-trust_en

On 12 April 2021, the EU announced an additional EUR6.5 million for Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a global fund for the education of children in emergencies and protracted crises launched in 2016. The total EU contribution to the ECW thus reached EUR27.5 million.⁶⁰⁶⁷

On 27 September 2021, President von der Leyen announced that the EU will provide EUR140 million to support research in sustainable food systems, and EUR25 million for Education Cannot Wait, a global fund for education.⁶⁰⁶⁸

The European Union has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁶⁰⁶⁷ Education Cannot Wait: EU contributes additional €6.5 million, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/education-cannot-wait-eu-contributes-additional-eu65-million_en

⁶⁰⁶⁸ EU announces €25 million for education in crisis contexts and €140 million to support research in sustainable food systems, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2021. Access date: 27 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-announces-eu25-million-education-crisis-contexts-and-eu140-million-support-research_en

14. Health Preparedness and Response

“2020-18: We commit to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | | 0 | |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | | +1 |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | +0.80 (90%) | | |

Background

Advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response is fundamental to a comprehensive response to the spread of infectious diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the global community must take consistent action in all stages of pandemics in order to provide a comprehensive response to global health emergencies and minimize their social and economic repercussions. The World Health Organization (WHO), in particular, emphasized the need to execute preparedness in order to “strengthen the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to withstand public health emergencies.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members stated its support in implementing International Health Regulations (IHR) to “prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases,” as well as “do[ing] what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak.”⁶⁰⁶⁹ The G20 leaders’ emphasis and priority on health this year was in the context of the Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.⁶⁰⁷⁰ The G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to follow applicable WHO recommended measures. Lastly, the G20 members agreed to

⁶⁰⁶⁹ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁰ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

address longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”⁶⁰⁷¹

In 2017, the G20 health ministers met for the first time and published the Berlin Declaration. The G20 health ministers acknowledged the global interconnectedness of societies, governments, and economies and that an infectious disease can have repercussions socially, economically, and politically.⁶⁰⁷² The Berlin Declaration also recognized the G20’s “unique position to lead by example and foster global preparedness for and responsiveness to health crises.”⁶⁰⁷³ The G20 leaders therefore committed to foster global preparedness to health crises by supporting initiatives that strengthen countries’ health systems, “particularly where they are weak and conditions for access to treatment and healthcare are poor.”⁶⁰⁷⁴

In 2018, G20 leaders proclaimed that they would “continue to strengthen core capacities required by International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies, while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard.”⁶⁰⁷⁵ However, this remained a fairly broad statement that failed to consider and attempt to foresee how pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies might be hindered by institutional design problems inherent in international organizations, such as the WHO.

In 2019, the leaders stated that they would “strengthen health systems with a focus on quality, including through enhancing health workforce and human resources for policy development,” and that they would “promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address...prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.”⁶⁰⁷⁶ The G20 health members also published the Okayama Declaration that reiterated the importance of global health emergency preparedness, prevention, detection, and response and to, therefore, comply with the IHR and to continue to support the WHO’s role in overseeing IHR implementation.⁶⁰⁷⁷

Any policy measures that were introduced have proven to be only partially effective in successfully preparing for and responding to the health impacts of pandemics like COVID-19 on the human population. Furthermore, the phrase “promote healthy and active ageing” was unclear in that it failed to acknowledge the unique health needs of each population group and the appropriate level of preparedness and response required to address them. In 2020, the leaders vowed to “take all necessary health measures and seek to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect people, especially the most vulnerable.”⁶⁰⁷⁸ While much progress has been made by G20

⁶⁰⁷¹ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁶⁰⁷² Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

⁶⁰⁷³ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁵ G20 Leaders’ Health Commitments, 2008-2019, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-health.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2019-06-29-g20_leaders-dirigeants_g20.aspx

⁶⁰⁷⁷ Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Okayama) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

⁶⁰⁷⁸ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

members to combat and respond to COVID-19, seniors and vulnerable people remain linked to the largest number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths.⁶⁰⁷⁹

World leaders recognize that health and the spread of infectious diseases is affected by a variety of economic, environmental and social determinants. In order to appropriately prepare and respond to these factors, “increasing attention should go to ensuring that health policies benefit the least well-off.”⁶⁰⁸⁰ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has stated that the international community has a responsibility to prepare for potential health crises, through strengthening “the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.”⁶⁰⁸¹ Indeed, a recent McKinsey report found that government policy which effectively contains the health impacts of COVID-19 might lead to faster economic growth, rebound and recovery.⁶⁰⁸² Consequently, at the 2020 Summit in Riyadh, G20 leaders agreed that they would continue to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response, while taking into account the unique situation of each member country.

Commitment Features

In this commitment, there are four targets. These are advancing global pandemic: preparedness, prevention detection and response.

“Commit” is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy⁶⁰⁸³ “Advanc[ing]” is understood to mean move or push forward, make progress, give active support to, promote, cause an event to occur at an earlier date.⁶⁰⁸⁴ “Global” is understood to mean relating to the whole world, world-wide⁶⁰⁸⁵ “Pandemic” refers to an outbreak of a disease prevalent globally or in the whole world.⁶⁰⁸⁶ In the context of this commitment, it is mainly referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Preparedness” refers to a state of readiness.⁶⁰⁸⁷ Preparedness, in the context of global health emergencies, refers to planning processes prior to the emergence of global health emergencies that attempt to minimize its human mortality, social disruption and economic consequences. Examples of “preparedness,” as recommended by the WHO, include but are not limited to funding to anticipated preparedness planning, establishing organizations responsible for producing pandemic preparedness plans, establishing a core national pandemic planning committee, identifying individuals and

⁶⁰⁷⁹ Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death by Age Group, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington, DC) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>

⁶⁰⁸⁰ Health for Everyone? Social Inequalities in Health and Health Systems, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/3c8385d0-en.pdf>

⁶⁰⁸¹ Strengthening health systems during a pandemic: The role of development finance, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134620-xueji119ph

⁶⁰⁸² Nine scenarios for the COVID-19 economy, McKinsey & Company (Toronto) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/nine-scenarios-for-the-covid-19-economy#>

⁶⁰⁸³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁰⁸⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁰⁸⁵ Global, Oxford Languages (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/global>

⁶⁰⁸⁶ Pandemic, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/pandemic_1

⁶⁰⁸⁷ Preparedness, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/preparedness>

organizations that will contribute to planning such as national, regional public health authorities, national virologists, and nongovernmental organizations.⁶⁰⁸⁸ Preparedness, in this commitment, is not limited to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions for preparedness may be intended for future possible global health emergencies beyond this compliance cycle.

“Prevention” the action of stopping something from happening or arising.⁶⁰⁸⁹ “Prevention, in the context of this commitment, refers to actions G20 members take in preventing their citizens from being infected with infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Examples of “prevention include but are not limited to administering regular sanitization in public settings, implementing COVID-19 information campaigns that prevent the spread of COVID-19, enforcing social distancing rules, and imposing travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders.

“Detection” refers to the action or process of identifying the presence of something concealed.⁶⁰⁹⁰ Examples of “detection” include but are not limited to detecting and investigating the first evidence of sustained human-human transmission of a virus with pandemic potential, investigating and assessing the earliest cases of a disease, establishing organisations that specialize in reporting and surveillance, characterizing the features of the new disease and establishing more accessible testing centers.

“Response” refers to a reaction to something.⁶⁰⁹¹ Response, in the context of this commitment, refers to actions a G20 member takes in reaction to global health emergencies, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, and its relevant repercussions to society, economy, and people’s health. Examples of “response” include but are not limited to distributing personal protective equipment to hospitals, providing targeted health service accessibility to vulnerable segments of society, vaccinating health-care workers, and supporting the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative (through financing, collaboration, personnel development, exchange of best practices).

The commitment has a current component, “We commit to,” and also a near-future-oriented component “advancing global pandemic...⁶⁰⁹²” The structure of the commitment therefore provides member states with urgency and necessity. The clause, “we commit to” is substantially politically binding. Member states have already come to terms with the fact that they have already and continue to make significant commitment “to advancing global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.” In the immediate future, i.e. in the compliance period, and they will continue to advance efforts in the four aforementioned areas.

The commitment discretely refers to the member states with “we,” thereby referring to the fact that all member states are included and that they will aid each other in combatting the pandemic.⁶⁰⁹³

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance. If a G20 member only takes partial action on one or both levels, it would only be

⁶⁰⁸⁸ WHO checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning, World Health Organisation (Geneva) 2005. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/FluCheck6web.pdf>

⁶⁰⁸⁹ Prevention, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/prevention?q=prevention>

⁶⁰⁹⁰ Detection, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/detection?q=detection>

⁶⁰⁹¹ Response, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/response?q=response>

⁶⁰⁹² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁰⁹³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

considered partial compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response. For strong actions, a G20 would have to initiate a program or new law, contribute financial or technical assistance or implement policy changes to implementing specific measures to promote a country or partnership's capacity to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.

Full compliance, therefore, requires the G20 member to take strong action in all four areas or strong action in three areas and some action in the other. Partial compliance requires the G20 member to take strong action in one or two areas and some action in the other, or some combination of this to demonstrate compliance with at least half or 50% of this commitment. Anything less than this is a -1 for non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | The G20 member taken insufficient action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response. |
| 0 | The G20 member has taken some action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response. |
| +1 | The G20 member has taken strong action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response. |

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Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 30 November 2020, Argentina published decree 956/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that stipulated conditions for the extension of lockdown status for the Buenos Aires metropolitan region until 20 December 2020.⁶⁰⁹⁴ The measures issued in the decree restrict peoples movement, preventing big gatherings and encouraging a strict social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between individuals.⁶⁰⁹⁵ Travel restrictions, such as forbidding entry to non-resident individuals and demanding a negative COVID-19 test also continued to be put in place to reduce the chances of spreading the virus.⁶⁰⁹⁶

On 4 December 2020, Argentinian senators passed a “millionaires tax” that would target those with assets worth more than ARS200 million, which adds up to about 12,000 people.⁶⁰⁹⁷ Those impacted by the taxes would have to pay up to a 3.5 per cent tax on assets in Argentina and up to 5.25 per cent on assets outside the country.⁶⁰⁹⁸ The money raised from these taxes would be allocated between medical supplies, relief for small and medium-sized businesses, social developments, scholarships for students, and natural gas projects.⁶⁰⁹⁹

⁶⁰⁹⁴ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

⁶⁰⁹⁵ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

⁶⁰⁹⁶ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

⁶⁰⁹⁷ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

⁶⁰⁹⁸ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

⁶⁰⁹⁹ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

On 10 December 2020, President Alberto Fernandez disclosed a national vaccination plan in partnership with Russia's Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine.⁶¹⁰⁰ The plan included the goal of administering 60 million doses across Argentina in the first six months of 2021 to the elderly, health care workers, and military officials.⁶¹⁰¹

On 20 December 2020, Argentina published decree 1033/2020 that established social, preventive and distancing measures.⁶¹⁰² The measures addressed social distancing, economic activities, sports activities, quarantining procedures and prohibited social gatherings.⁶¹⁰³ Social gatherings of more than 20 people in closed places and more than 100 people in outdoor spaces were prohibited.⁶¹⁰⁴ The decree also mandated that employers guarantee safety and hygiene conditions to maintain the health of their employees.⁶¹⁰⁵

On 24 December 2020, Argentina published decree 2252/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that announced the closure of the Argentinian border.⁶¹⁰⁶ The measures issued in the decree suspended flights from and to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Holland. Following the issuance of this decree, only Argentinian citizens and residents would be permitted to cross the land borders.⁶¹⁰⁷ All ports of entry would be suspended to foreign nationals, but international cargo and medical and humanitarian aid would be exempt from these measures.⁶¹⁰⁸

On 29 December 2020, Minister of Health of the Nation Ginés González García and the Federal Health Council began the vaccination campaign, by administering the vaccines to health care workers.⁶¹⁰⁹ It was the last meeting of the year, a holiday for Argentines and also the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.⁶¹¹⁰ The Minister's counterpart from the province of Santa Fe, Sonia Martorano, was reported to have said that "we lived with great emotion, it is a historic day and

⁶¹⁰⁰ Coronavirus: how is the mega vaccination plan designed by the Government (Olivos) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/politica/vacunacion/coronavirus-como-es-el-megaplan-que-disena-el-gobierno-n5150581>

⁶¹⁰¹ Coronavirus: how is the mega vaccination plan designed by the Government (Olivos) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/politica/vacunacion/coronavirus-como-es-el-megaplan-que-disena-el-gobierno-n5150581>

⁶¹⁰² Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰³ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰⁴ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰⁵ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

⁶¹⁰⁶ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

⁶¹⁰⁷ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: April 20, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

⁶¹⁰⁸ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: April 20, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

⁶¹⁰⁹ The Country's Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

⁶¹¹⁰ The Country's Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

we had a lot of support from health personnel.” It was noted that 700 people had already been vaccinated in public and private institutions.⁶¹¹¹

On 30 December 2020, Argentina authorized the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine, after approving the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine earlier.⁶¹¹² The government released its plan of purchasing 22 million doses of the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine in the first few months of 2021 and an additional 750,000 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines in December 2020.⁶¹¹³ It is the first Latin American country to authorize the British vaccine and according to the resolution of the National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology, “the mentioned product presents an acceptable benefit-risk balance, allowing to support the granting of the registration and conditional authorization of the product for the requested indication.”⁶¹¹⁴

On 16 January 2021, Science, Technology & Innovation Minister Roberto Salvarezza reported that the SARS-CoV-2 variant had been detected in a traveller from the United Kingdom.⁶¹¹⁵ The British variant was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) in December 2020 and after being found in dozens of other countries is believed to be more easily transmitted because of a mutation of a spike protein that latches on to humans.⁶¹¹⁶

On 30 January 2021, President Fernández issued his 18th official quarantine announcement.⁶¹¹⁷ He officially announced the renewal social distancing measures for the month of February and also reaffirmed the return of school children to their classes.⁶¹¹⁸

On 1 February 2021, Argentina extended the shutdown of the air, land, and sea borders to foreigners to prevent travelers from spreading the virus in the country.⁶¹¹⁹

On 9 February 2021, Argentina’s drug regulator authorized the emergency use of the Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccine Sinopharm.⁶¹²⁰ Argentina expected 1 million doses to arrive in the following days.⁶¹²¹

⁶¹¹¹ The Country’s Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

⁶¹¹² Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

⁶¹¹³ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

⁶¹¹⁴ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

⁶¹¹⁵ Argentina detects first case of British coronavirus variant (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/argentina-detects-first-case-of-british-coronavirus-variant.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁶ Argentina detects first case of British coronavirus variant (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/argentina-detects-first-case-of-british-coronavirus-variant.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁷ No change except classes: Social distancing to be extended until March 1 (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/no-change-except-classes-social-distancing-to-be-extended-until-march-1.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁸ No change except classes: Social distancing to be extended until March 1 (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/no-change-except-classes-social-distancing-to-be-extended-until-march-1.phtml>

⁶¹¹⁹ Legislation and Official Notices: National Direction of Migration, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/240290/20210201>

⁶¹²⁰ Argentina Approves Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUSKBN2AL0P9>

⁶¹²¹ Argentina Approves Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUSKBN2AL0P9>

On 17 March 2021, Argentina launched a new digital services to manage the pandemic: the Cuidar Escuelas platform.⁶¹²² This platform would allow for the registration of COVID-19 cases in educational institutions, would provide the digital vaccination card and would allow those who worked in educational institutions to register for vaccines.⁶¹²³ The platform was developed with the goal of early detection of COVID-19 cases and to control and monitor the cases in educational institutions.⁶¹²⁴

On 25 March 2021, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team held a meeting with Argentina's Economy Minister, Martín Guzmán and his team to discuss a new economic plan.⁶¹²⁵ Argentina and the IMF team agreed that there was a need for macroeconomic sustainability and planning for post-COVID recovery.⁶¹²⁶ The discussions allowed the officials and the IMF team to recognize the significance of policies to boost exports and productivity, which would stabilize the Argentinian economy.⁶¹²⁷

On 25 March 2021, Argentina announced its decision to suspend flights from Brazil, Chile, and Mexico to prevent different COVID-19 strains from entering Argentina.⁶¹²⁸ Argentinians who return from other countries would continue to be required to complete testing and mandatory isolation.⁶¹²⁹

On 28 March 2021, Argentina received the first shipment of vaccines acquired through the COVAX Mechanism, which is a global fund that works towards the equitable distribution of vaccines around the globe.⁶¹³⁰ Argentina received 218,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca/Oxford vaccine which would be added to the ongoing vaccination campaign.⁶¹³¹

On 8 April 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizotti and the Minister of Defense Augustin Rossi thanked the United States Southern Command Admiral, Craig S. Faller, for the donation of three mobile hospitals for USD3.5 million to Argentina.⁶¹³² The admiral has been reported to have said that “since the COVID-19 crisis began, Southern Command has worked closely with its Argentine partners. Together, we have made 15 humanitarian assistance donations related to COVID-19 to

⁶¹²² The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

⁶¹²³ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

⁶¹²⁴ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

⁶¹²⁵ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁶¹²⁶ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁶¹²⁷ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁶¹²⁸ Argentina Suspends Flights From Brazil, Chile, and Mexico Due to Worsening Pandemic, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-argentina-vuelos-idLTAKBN2BI02H>

⁶¹²⁹ Argentina Suspends Flights From Brazil, Chile, and Mexico Due to Worsening Pandemic, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-argentina-vuelos-idLTAKBN2BI02H>

⁶¹³⁰ Argentina Receives First of COVID-19 Vaccines Through COVAX Mechanism, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/argentina-receives-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-mechanism>

⁶¹³¹ Argentina Receives First of COVID-19 Vaccines Through COVAX Mechanism, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/argentina-receives-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-mechanism>

⁶¹³² US Southern Command Chief Craig Faller donated \$ 3.5 million mobile hospitals to fight COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2021/04/08/el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-los-estados-unidos-craig-faller-dono-hospitales-moviles-por-usd-35-millones-para-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>

support Argentina's response to the pandemic, providing protective equipment, medical supplies, and monitoring and detection tools."⁶¹³³

On 8 April 2021, Minister Vizzotti held a meeting to analyze the progress and the implementation of the vaccination strategy against COVID-19 in older adults.⁶¹³⁴ They agreed to increase the speed of the vaccination rollout and promised to hold four different vaccination posts throughout the city, with more to follow.⁶¹³⁵ The Ministry of Health also agreed to work towards strengthening testing procedures and to work towards early detection.⁶¹³⁶

On 27 April 2021, Minister Vizzotti and Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas, held a meeting to work towards of the goal of guaranteeing medicinal oxygen during the second wave of COVID-19.⁶¹³⁷ The officials recognized that the current use of oxygen was between two to three times higher than last year.⁶¹³⁸ Some strategies discussed to optimize oxygen use included training medical staff in the rational use of oxygen, carrying out infrastructure improvements in hospitals and prioritizing the use of oxygen in the health care sector.⁶¹³⁹

On 1 May 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti, received 250 new respirators to strengthen the response against the second wave of COVID-19.⁶¹⁴⁰ The respirators will be distributed to different jurisdictions based on demand and number of respirators per inhabitant.⁶¹⁴¹ The Government of Argentina has distributed 3,682 respirators since the beginning of the pandemic and will distribute 296 more respirators in the upcoming year.⁶¹⁴²

⁶¹³³ US Southern Command Chief Craig Faller donated \$ 3.5 million mobile hospitals to fight COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2021/04/08/el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-los-estados-unidos-craig-faller-dono-hospitales-moviles-por-usd-35-millones-para-la-lucha-contr-el-covid-19/>

⁶¹³⁴ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contr>

⁶¹³⁵ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contr>

⁶¹³⁶ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contr>

⁶¹³⁷ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

⁶¹³⁸ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

⁶¹³⁹ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

⁶¹⁴⁰ Vizzotti Received 250 New Respirators to Reinforce the Care of COVID-19 Cases Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-recibio-250-nuevos-respiradores-para-reforzar-la-atencion-de-casos-de-covid-19-en>

⁶¹⁴¹ Vizzotti Received 250 New Respirators to Reinforce the Care of COVID-19 Cases Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-recibio-250-nuevos-respiradores-para-reforzar-la-atencion-de-casos-de-covid-19-en>

⁶¹⁴² Vizzotti Received 250 New Respirators to Reinforce the Care of COVID-19 Cases Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-recibio-250-nuevos-respiradores-para-reforzar-la-atencion-de-casos-de-covid-19-en>

On 11 May 2021, national health authorities received 2,200,000 out of 4,400,000 antigen tests for COVID-19, which will be distributed to all jurisdictions.⁶¹⁴³ The tests provide a quick result and do not require complex equipment.⁶¹⁴⁴ This purchase by the Ministry of Health will therefore ensure diagnosis of COVID-19 and also help mitigate its transmission throughout the community.⁶¹⁴⁵

On 24 May 2021, the Minister of Health, and the presidential advisor, Cecilia Nicolini, attended a meeting with the Mexican Secretary of Health, Jorge Alcocer Verla, to enhance the response to the second wave of COVID-19.⁶¹⁴⁶ Authorities from the health, science and innovation sector of both countries attended the meeting to exchange experiences on how to improve access to vaccines in the Latin American region.⁶¹⁴⁷ The G20 members also discussed clinical research, development of the health sector, cooperation in the science and technology sector, and immunizations.⁶¹⁴⁸

On 5 June 2021, the Minister of Health and other health ministers revealed the next steps of the vaccination plan against COVID-19.⁶¹⁴⁹ They proposed that once the groups defined in the Strategic Vaccination Plan have been vaccinated, other groups without risks be incorporated into the plan.⁶¹⁵⁰

On 25 June 2021, national health teams visited the Mendoza and San Luis provinces to study pandemic efforts.⁶¹⁵¹ They discussed approaches to COVID-19, as well as strategies to control border crossings to prevent the entry of infected travellers.⁶¹⁵²

⁶¹⁴³ Health Received More than 2 Million Antigen Tests for COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-recibio-mas-de-2-millones-de-test-de-antigenos-para-covid-19>

⁶¹⁴⁴ Health Received More than 2 Million Antigen Tests for COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-recibio-mas-de-2-millones-de-test-de-antigenos-para-covid-19>

⁶¹⁴⁵ Health Received More than 2 Million Antigen Tests for COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-recibio-mas-de-2-millones-de-test-de-antigenos-para-covid-19>

⁶¹⁴⁶ Vizzotti and Nicolini Led a Binational Meeting in Mexico with Health, Science and Social Security Authorities of Both Countries to Enhance Response to the Second Wave of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

⁶¹⁴⁷ Vizzotti and Nicolini Led a Binational Meeting in Mexico with Health, Science and Social Security Authorities of Both Countries to Enhance Response to the Second Wave of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

⁶¹⁴⁸ Vizzotti and Nicolini Led a Binational Meeting in Mexico with Health, Science and Social Security Authorities of Both Countries to Enhance Response to the Second Wave of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

⁶¹⁴⁹ Vizzotti and Health Ministers from Around the Country Defined the Next Steps of the Vaccination Plan Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-ministros-de-salud-de-todo-el-pais-definieron-los-proximos-pasos-del-plan-de>

⁶¹⁵⁰ Vizzotti and Health Ministers from Around the Country Defined the Next Steps of the Vaccination Plan Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-ministros-de-salud-de-todo-el-pais-definieron-los-proximos-pasos-del-plan-de>

⁶¹⁵¹ National Health Teams Visited Mendoza and San Luis to Monitor the Management of the Pandemic in the Provinces, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-nacionales-visitaron-mendoza-y-san-luis-para-acompanar-la-gestion-de-la>

On 1 July 2021, the Minister of Health ordered researchers to begin a study on the efficacy and safety of the combination of different COVID-19 vaccines.⁶¹⁵³ The Minister recognized the need to deliver a solid response to the population at a time of uncertainty.⁶¹⁵⁴ The study will explore the effects of mixing the different vaccines available and its effects on the new variants.⁶¹⁵⁵

On 7 July 2021, government officials held a meeting at the Ministry of Health headquarters to design a new public platform that will provide data on COVID-19 vaccines.⁶¹⁵⁶ The platform will also provide information about the distribution of vaccines, their effectiveness, and the number administered to the public.⁶¹⁵⁷

On 9 July 2021, the Government of Argentina extended the border closure until 6 August 2021.⁶¹⁵⁸ According to this ban, passengers on direct flights from India, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Africa and Chile are barred from entering.⁶¹⁵⁹ This will curb the spread of COVID-19.⁶¹⁶⁰

On 11 July 2021, the Minister of Health signed an agreement with Moderna Inc. for the supply of 20 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.⁶¹⁶¹ The storage conditions of the Moderna vaccine are similar to those already available in Argentina, which is convenient as the vaccines can be distributed immediately after they arrive in the country.⁶¹⁶²

On 27 July 2021, the Federal Health Council and the Ministry of Health signed agreements to implement the National Program for Healthy Cities, Municipalities, and Communities, which would

⁶¹⁵² National Health Teams Visited Mendoza and San Luis to Monitor the Management of the Pandemic in the Provinces, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-nacionales-visitaron-mendoza-y-san-luis-para-acompanar-la-gestion-de-la>

⁶¹⁵³ The Ministry of Health of the Nation Convened Research Groups to Study Combined Schemes of Vaccines Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-convoco-grupos-de-investigacion-para-estudiar-esquemas>

⁶¹⁵⁴ The Ministry of Health of the Nation Convened Research Groups to Study Combined Schemes of Vaccines Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-convoco-grupos-de-investigacion-para-estudiar-esquemas>

⁶¹⁵⁵ The Ministry of Health of the Nation Convened Research Groups to Study Combined Schemes of Vaccines Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-convoco-grupos-de-investigacion-para-estudiar-esquemas>

⁶¹⁵⁶ Development of an Open Platform for Public Access to Information on COVID-19 Vaccines Advances, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-el-desarrollo-de-una-plataforma-abierta-de-acceso-publico-la-informacion-sobre>

⁶¹⁵⁷ Development of an Open Platform for Public Access to Information on COVID-19 Vaccines Advances, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-el-desarrollo-de-una-plataforma-abierta-de-acceso-publico-la-informacion-sobre>

⁶¹⁵⁸ Border Closure Extension, Official Bulletin Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246738/20210709>

⁶¹⁵⁹ Border Closure Extension, Official Bulletin Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246738/20210709>

⁶¹⁶⁰ Border Closure Extension, Official Bulletin Argentina Republic (Buenos Aires) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246738/20210709>

⁶¹⁶¹ Argentina Signed an Agreement with Moderna for the Supply of 20 Million COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-moderna-por-el-suministro-de-20-millones-de-vacuna-covid-19>

⁶¹⁶² Argentina Signed an Agreement with Moderna for the Supply of 20 Million COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-firmo-un-acuerdo-con-moderna-por-el-suministro-de-20-millones-de-vacuna-covid-19>

lead to the investment of ARS2,200 million between 2021 and 2022.⁶¹⁶³ The program aims to promote an equitable approach to healthcare, including working on the social determinants of the health of the population.⁶¹⁶⁴

On 2 August 2021, the Federal Health Council officially launched vaccinations for prioritized adolescents that fall between the 12-17 age group.⁶¹⁶⁵ Adolescents that fall in the target population include those with diabetes, obesity, malnutrition, and chronic kidney disease.⁶¹⁶⁶

On 10 August 2021, authorities of the Ministry of Health sent equipment to San Martin de La Plata hospital to guarantee access to quality health care.⁶¹⁶⁷ Some of the equipment included to be included in the second delivery were electrocardiographs, and scalpels, with hospital beds and stretchers.⁶¹⁶⁸

On 24 August 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizzotti, arrived from Russia with a shipment of 1.4 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine.⁶¹⁶⁹ During her trip, Vizzotti discussed the applications of vaccines and the Delta variant.⁶¹⁷⁰

On 6 September 2021, My Argentina became the official travel document that would certify vaccination against COVID-19 and could be used for those travelling between countries.⁶¹⁷¹ The app

⁶¹⁶³ Nation Invests 2,200 Millions Pesos to Strengthen Health Promotion and Management in Municipalities Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-invierte-2200-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-la-promocion-y-la-gestion-de-la>

⁶¹⁶⁴ Nation Invests 2,200 Millions Pesos to Strengthen Health Promotion and Management in Municipalities Throughout the Country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-invierte-2200-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-la-promocion-y-la-gestion-de-la>

⁶¹⁶⁵ The Country's Health Ministers Launched Vaccinations Against COVID-19 in Prioritized Adolescents, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-lanzaron-la-vacunacion-contra-covid-19-en-adolescentes>

⁶¹⁶⁶ The Country's Health Ministers Launched Vaccinations Against COVID-19 in Prioritized Adolescents, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-lanzaron-la-vacunacion-contra-covid-19-en-adolescentes>

⁶¹⁶⁷ Delivery of Hospital Equipment for More Than 50 Million Pesos to the San Martin de La Plata Hospital, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/entrega-de-equipamiento-hospitalario-por-mas-de-50-millones-de-pesos-al-hospital-san-martin>

⁶¹⁶⁸ Delivery of Hospital Equipment for More Than 50 Million Pesos to the San Martin de La Plata Hospital, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/entrega-de-equipamiento-hospitalario-por-mas-de-50-millones-de-pesos-al-hospital-san-martin>

⁶¹⁶⁹ The Minister of the Health Arrived from the Russian Federation with 1.4 Million Doses of Sputnik V Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-ministra-de-salud-llego-de-la-federacion-rusa-con-14-millones-de-dosis-de-vacuna-sputnik>

⁶¹⁷⁰ The Minister of the Health Arrived from the Russian Federation with 1.4 Million Doses of Sputnik V Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-ministra-de-salud-llego-de-la-federacion-rusa-con-14-millones-de-dosis-de-vacuna-sputnik>

⁶¹⁷¹ The Digital Vaccination Credential of Mi Argentina will be the International Vaccination Accreditation Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-credencial-de-vacunacion-digital-de-mi-argentina-sera-la-acreditacion-internacional-de-0>

is available in both English and Spanish, and the vaccination credentials are available under the My Documents tab, where citizens can also add other forms of ID.⁶¹⁷²

Argentina has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response. This was demonstrated by actions such as enacting a tax that will help fight COVID-19, administering a vaccination campaign and extended a shutdown to travelers. Moreover, Presidential advisor, Cecilia Nicolini met with other G20 members to discuss further health sector development

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ujala Iqbal

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced an AUD57.8 million investment for aged care as part of its National Partnership on COVID-19 Response Initiative. This will include funding for training and support in infection prevention and control.⁶¹⁷³ Another plan, the AUD11.1 million, Serious Incident Response Scheme to protect senior Australians from abuse and neglect will improve quality and safety at the individual service and broader system level.⁶¹⁷⁴ By reducing preventable incidents from recurring this scheme requires residential aged care providers to manage all incidents with a focus on the safety and wellbeing of citizens.⁶¹⁷⁵ Additionally, investment of AUD15.7 million was announced for allied health services for facilities affected by COVID-19 outbreaks.⁶¹⁷⁶

On 8 January 2021, the National Cabinet of Australia met to discuss Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, topics included the Vaccination Policy and also new domestic and international aviation measures to control the spread of COVID-19 and its emerging variants.⁶¹⁷⁷ The Vaccination Policy will include a nationally consistent roll out policy, helping especially aged workers. The travel protocols domestically require that all travelers and air crew wear masks. Internationally, the protocols require that incoming international travelers present negative COVID-19 tests prior to departure and that air crew take a COVID-19 test every seven days and continue to quarantine between international flights.⁶¹⁷⁸

⁶¹⁷² The Digital Vaccination Credential of Mi Argentina will be the International Vaccination Accreditation Against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-credencial-de-vacunacion-digital-de-mi-argentina-sera-la-acreditacion-internacional-de-0>

⁶¹⁷³ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁴ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁵ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁶ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

⁶¹⁷⁷ Statement – National Cabinet, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-national-cabinet>

⁶¹⁷⁸ Statement – National Cabinet, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-national-cabinet>

On 25 January 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of Australia provisionally approved the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for national use.⁶¹⁷⁹ Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the TGA approval was an important step in the fight against COVID-19 and was reported to have said, “Our priority has always been to keep Australians safe and protect lives and livelihoods. Today’s approval is another big step forward for our community, particularly in the protection of our most vulnerable people.”⁶¹⁸⁰

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Health Greg Hunt responded to help the Australians in the UK who had flights booked with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) flag carrier Emirates.⁶¹⁸¹ The UK had banned flights to the UAE, to the anguish of Australians who were waiting for months to get home from Britain via the UAE. The Australian government announced it would charter an extra 20 dedicated repatriation flights for Australians after Emirates temporarily suspended them.⁶¹⁸² Minister Hunt also added that medical officials would re-examine the next week whether to lift the suspension on quarantine-free travel from New Zealand after the South African virus strain emerged in Auckland.⁶¹⁸³

On 3 February 2021, Minister Hunt, announced that the Australian government is working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, General Practices, state and territory governments, Primary Health Networks, General Practitioner-led Respiratory Clinics and community pharmacies to ensure that citizens living in regional, rural and remote locations have access to COVID-19 vaccination.⁶¹⁸⁴ This joint national effort will integrate over 2,000 vaccine sites across Australia. “We are working hard to ensure site readiness including specific handling requirements and sufficient cold chain capacity in locations that will be handling frozen vaccines,” Minister Hunt was reported to have said.⁶¹⁸⁵

On 4 February 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of a COVID-19 vaccination public information campaign to deliver key information about the COVID-19 vaccination program to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The AUD31 million campaign includes communication activities, such as media advertising in 32 different languages, as well as community engagement initiatives.⁶¹⁸⁶ Messages will target specific multicultural groups to ensure everyone in Australia has a full understanding of the vaccination program. Many people from CALD

⁶¹⁷⁹ Pfizer Vaccine Approved, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pfizer-vaccine-approved>

⁶¹⁸⁰ Pfizer Vaccine Approved, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pfizer-vaccine-approved>

⁶¹⁸¹ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

⁶¹⁸² Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

⁶¹⁸³ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

⁶¹⁸⁴ COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Regional, Rural and Remote Australians, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-for-regional-rural-and-remote-australians>

⁶¹⁸⁵ COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Regional, Rural and Remote Australians, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-for-regional-rural-and-remote-australians>

⁶¹⁸⁶ COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-campaign-to-support-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-audiences>

backgrounds, especially the aged within these communities will be the first groups to be vaccinated. It is critical that these communities receive translated information that is culturally appropriate.⁶¹⁸⁷

On 8 February 2021, the Australian Government partnered with the Australian College of Nursing to develop and deliver the free and accredited training modules for all COVID-19 vaccination providers. They introduced the COVID-19 – Pfizer – Training Program, which provides free training modules for the COVID-19 vaccination workforce. It covers topics such as multi-dose handling, handling the storage of vaccines, safety, surveillance monitoring, and reporting for adverse events after immunization. The goal of the program is to build a workforce competent in delivering the vaccine.⁶¹⁸⁸

On 16 February 2021, the TGA of Australia provisionally approved the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for national use.⁶¹⁸⁹ Although, initially the AstraZeneca vaccine will be initially imported from overseas, it will be manufactured locally in due time. Australia is one of the few countries where the vaccine will be manufactured. “The TGA has found the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective and I welcome their thorough assessment process,” Prime Minister Morrison said.⁶¹⁹⁰

On 21 February 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly received their first does of the Pfizer vaccine, marking the beginning of Australia’s vaccination program.⁶¹⁹¹ Prime Minister Morrison remarked that, “This is a historic day for Australia. From tomorrow, tens of thousands of Australians over the course of the next week can confidently come forward from those key priority groups that have been defined, to ensure that we move into this next phase of how we’ve been preparing and dealing with COVID-19.”⁶¹⁹²

On 14 March 2021, Australia announced an investment of AUD1.1 billion to extend the country’s COVID-19 health response and suppression strategy until 31 December 2021. Australia’s suppression strategy has been the most successful among OECD countries, having one of the lowest mortality rates. The investment will be used to fund COVID-19 testing and treatment, telehealth services, electronic prescription services, mental health services and aged care facilities.⁶¹⁹³

On 14 March 2021, Australia announced the addition of a new webpage on its Department of Health website aimed at addressing misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine hesitancy, as part of its AUD31 million education campaign.⁶¹⁹⁴

⁶¹⁸⁷ COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-campaign-to-support-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-audiences>

⁶¹⁸⁸ First COVID-19 Vaccine – Pfizer – Training Program, Department of Health (Canberra) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/first-covid-19-vaccine-pfizer-training-program>

⁶¹⁸⁹ TGA Approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tga-approves-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶¹⁹⁰ TGA Approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tga-approves-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶¹⁹¹ COVID-19 vaccines begin as Prime Minister receives Pfizer immunisation (Sydney) 21 February 2021, Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/covid-19-vaccines-begin-as-prime-minister-receives-pfizer-immunisation-20210221-p574cw.html>

⁶¹⁹² COVID-19 vaccines begin as Prime Minister receives Pfizer immunisation (Sydney) 21 February 2021, Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/covid-19-vaccines-begin-as-prime-minister-receives-pfizer-immunisation-20210221-p574cw.html>

⁶¹⁹³ Over \$1.1 billion to extend Australia’s COVID-19 health response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/over-11-billion-extend-australias-covid-19-health-response>

⁶¹⁹⁴ Is it true? Countering the misinformation on COVID-19 Vaccines, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/it-true-countering-misinformation-covid-19-vaccines>

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced it would be supporting Papua New Guinea in addressing a COVID-19 spike in the country. Australia agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a comprehensive support package to respond to the crises, including the delivery of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines from Australia's supply.⁶¹⁹⁵ Early vaccine assistance will be coordinated with Papua New Guinea's response, which has included their COVID-19 National Pandemic Response taskforce.⁶¹⁹⁶

On 22 March 2021, Australia announced new restrictions on social gatherings, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.⁶¹⁹⁷ Beginning on 23 March 2021, gathering places such as pubs, gyms, cinemas, nightclubs, restaurants and cafes, and places of worship were closed.⁶¹⁹⁸ In addition, the government restricted non-essential gatherings to 500 people in outdoor spaces and 100 people in indoor spaces.⁶¹⁹⁹ Restrictions on entering aged home care facilities were also implemented.⁶²⁰⁰ The restrictions are expected to be in effect for six months, with reviews of the regulations taking place on a monthly basis.⁶²⁰¹

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of Phase 1B of the Australian government's vaccination plan.⁶²⁰² Priority groups in this phase include elderly adults over the age of 70, health care workers not vaccinated in Phase 1A, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over the age of 55, adults with a specified medical condition, adults with a severe disability who have a specified underlying medical condition, and critical and high risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing.⁶²⁰³

On 5 May 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it would increase the supply of AstraZeneca vaccines being provided to general medical practices.⁶²⁰⁴ Up to 200 doses per week will be delivered to general practices which had previously been receiving 100 doses per week, and 150 doses per week will be delivered to practices that had previously been receiving 50 doses per

⁶¹⁹⁵ Australia supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 Response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

⁶¹⁹⁶ Australia supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 Response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

⁶¹⁹⁷ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶¹⁹⁸ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶¹⁹⁹ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶²⁰⁰ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶²⁰¹ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

⁶²⁰² Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Begins, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-begins>

⁶²⁰³ Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Begins, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-begins>

⁶²⁰⁴ GPs to get increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines, Department of Health (Canberra) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/gps-to-get-increased-supplies-of-covid-19-vaccines>

week.⁶²⁰⁵ The AstraZeneca vaccine is approved for the vaccination of patients 50 years of age and older.⁶²⁰⁶

On 23 May 2021, the Australian Government identified India as a high risk country due to the significant increase in COVID-19 positive case numbers. The Australian Government therefore decided to implement a temporary pause on travellers from India entering Australian territory by air if the passenger had been in India within 14 days of the person's intended arrival date in Australia.⁶²⁰⁷

On 27 May 2021, the Department of Health announced that it would be inviting up to 900 additional general practices to join vaccine rollout efforts across the country, in addition to the 4400 already participating.⁶²⁰⁸ New practices can apply to deliver the vaccine through an expression of interest (EOI) process regulated by Primary Health Networks (PHNs), and territorial and national governments.⁶²⁰⁹ These additional practices will be brought into the vaccine rollout program beginning in mid-June to deliver AstraZeneca vaccines to those over the age of 50.⁶²¹⁰

On 2 June 2021, the Government of Australia announced an AUD60 million investment to extend the COVID-19 Aged Care Support Program to 30 June 2022.⁶²¹¹ Through this program, aged care facilities struggling with COVID-19 outbreaks can apply for grants to cover the cost of additional staff, personal protective equipment, cleaning and infection control supplies, and waste management.⁶²¹² The COVID-19 Aged Care Support Program was initially established on 27 March 2020.⁶²¹³

On 4 June 2021, the Department of Health announced that aged care facilities will be required to report the proportion of staff that have been partially and fully vaccinated against COVID-19, beginning on 15 June.⁶²¹⁴ While it remains voluntary for staff to be vaccinated and to disclose if they

⁶²⁰⁵ GPs to get increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines, Department of Health (Canberra) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/gps-to-get-increased-supplies-of-covid-19-vaccines>

⁶²⁰⁶ GPs to get increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines, Department of Health (Canberra) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/gps-to-get-increased-supplies-of-covid-19-vaccines>

⁶²⁰⁷ Australia bans, criminalises arrivals from COVID-hit India (Dubai) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/1/australia-bans-criminalises-arrivals-from-covid-hit-india>

⁶²⁰⁸ More GPs to join the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/more-gps-to-join-the-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²⁰⁹ More GPs to join the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/more-gps-to-join-the-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²¹⁰ More GPs to join the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/more-gps-to-join-the-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²¹¹ \$60 million to continue life-saving COVID-19 support for aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/60-million-to-continue-life-saving-covid-19-support-for-aged-care-0>

⁶²¹² \$60 million to continue life-saving COVID-19 support for aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/60-million-to-continue-life-saving-covid-19-support-for-aged-care-0>

⁶²¹³ \$60 million to continue life-saving COVID-19 support for aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/60-million-to-continue-life-saving-covid-19-support-for-aged-care-0>

⁶²¹⁴ New reporting requirements on workforce COVID-19 vaccination to protect older Australians in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-reporting-requirements-on-workforce-covid-19-vaccination-to-protect-older-australians-in-aged-care>

have received a vaccine, available data will be collected from each facility on a weekly basis using an online reporting tool.⁶²¹⁵ The data is intended to be used to assess the level of outbreak risk in each aged care facility.⁶²¹⁶

On 10 June 2021, the Government of Australia extended several COVID-19 emergency measures implemented under the Biosecurity Act of 2015 until 17 September 2021.⁶²¹⁷ These include mandatory pre-departure testing and mask-wearing for international flights, restrictions on the entry of cruise vessels within Australian territory, restrictions on outbound international travel for Australians, and restrictions on the business activity of retail outlets at international airports.⁶²¹⁸

On 11 June 2021, Australia announced it will commit at least 20 million vaccine doses to a global G7 push to boost access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and pandemic preparedness in developing countries. On 23 September, Australia increased this commitment to up to 60 million doses, including sharing an additional 20 million and procuring a further 20 million doses. On 23 September 2021, more than 3.2 million of these doses have been delivered.⁶²¹⁹

On 18 June 2021, the Government of Australia announced plans to invest AUD1.2 million to ensure multicultural communities have access to information about the COVID-19 vaccination program.⁶²²⁰ This investment will provide small grants for culturally and linguistically diverse groups wishing to run information campaigns about the COVID-19 vaccine in their community.⁶²²¹ The grants will be distributed through the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council.⁶²²²

On 29 June 2021, the Government of Australia announced an emergency leave extension for people living permanently in residential aged care facilities, who want to temporarily relocate with family to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19.⁶²²³ Typically, aged care residents are entitled to up to 52

⁶²¹⁵ New reporting requirements on workforce COVID-19 vaccination to protect older Australians in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-reporting-requirements-on-workforce-covid-19-vaccination-to-protect-older-australians-in-aged-care>

⁶²¹⁶ New reporting requirements on workforce COVID-19 vaccination to protect older Australians in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 7 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-reporting-requirements-on-workforce-covid-19-vaccination-to-protect-older-australians-in-aged-care>

⁶²¹⁷ COVID-19 measures extended for a further three months, Department of Health (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 14 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-emergency-measures-extended-for-a-further-three-months>

⁶²¹⁸ COVID-19 measures extended for a further three months, Department of Health (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 14 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-emergency-measures-extended-for-a-further-three-months>

⁶²¹⁹ Statement to the President's Global Summit to End COVID-19, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-presidents-global-summit-end-covid-19-washington-dc-usa>

⁶²²⁰ Helping multicultural communities share COVID-19 vaccine info, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/helping-multicultural-communities-share-covid-19-vaccine-info>

⁶²²¹ Helping multicultural communities share COVID-19 vaccine info, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/helping-multicultural-communities-share-covid-19-vaccine-info>

⁶²²² Helping multicultural communities share COVID-19 vaccine info, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/helping-multicultural-communities-share-covid-19-vaccine-info>

⁶²²³ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

days of social leave from their facility each year.⁶²²⁴ However, emergency leave provisions introduced in May 2020 give residents the option to take additional emergency leave during COVID-19.⁶²²⁵ In addition, residents taking emergency leave will continue to receive residential care subsidies from the government.⁶²²⁶ These emergency leave provisions, which were set to expire on 30 June 2021, are now in effect until 30 June 2022.⁶²²⁷

On 2 July 2021, the Department of Health announced an AUD11 million grant program to support aged care workers in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine.⁶²²⁸ The Residential Aged Care COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Support Grant will allow residential care workers to be paid AUD80 to take time off for an off-site vaccination, and an additional AUD185 of paid leave if a worker becomes unwell after receiving the vaccine.⁶²²⁹ The grant funding aims to encourage workers who may be concerned about losing wages after being vaccinated to take paid time off work to get vaccinated.⁶²³⁰

On 15 July 2021, the Government of Australia announced additional telehealth support services for Australians living in COVID-19 hotspot areas, to ensure healthcare is still accessible when movement in communities is limited.⁶²³¹ Medicare-funded telehealth platforms will be available for doctors and other medical professionals to use to provide consultations of 20 minutes or more.⁶²³² The new service also exempts patients from a previous requirement that they must have seen the consulting physician in-person over the last 12 months.⁶²³³

On 18 July 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it would supply additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to general practitioners, community pharmacies and other healthcare providers in Greater Melbourne, Moorabool Shire, City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire,

⁶²²⁴ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁵ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁶ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁷ Emergency leave extension for aged care residents, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/emergency-leave-extension-for-aged-care-residents>

⁶²²⁸ Support for mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/support-for-mandatory-vaccination-of-residential-aged-care-workers>

⁶²²⁹ Support for mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/support-for-mandatory-vaccination-of-residential-aged-care-workers>

⁶²³⁰ Support for mandatory vaccination of residential aged care workers, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/support-for-mandatory-vaccination-of-residential-aged-care-workers>

⁶²³¹ Additional telehealth support for Australians in COVID-19 hotspots, Department of Health (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-telehealth-support-for-australians-in-covid-19-hotspots>

⁶²³² Additional telehealth support for Australians in COVID-19 hotspots, Department of Health (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-telehealth-support-for-australians-in-covid-19-hotspots>

⁶²³³ Additional telehealth support for Australians in COVID-19 hotspots, Department of Health (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-telehealth-support-for-australians-in-covid-19-hotspots>

Borough of Queenscliff and Bass Coast Shire.⁶²³⁴ Health professionals in these areas are able to request a package of PPE from the National Medical Stockpile.⁶²³⁵ These packages aim to suppress COVID-19 infection rates across Melbourne.⁶²³⁶

On 28 July 2021, the Office of the Prime Minister announced increased financial support for workers in New South Wales as part of its expanded COVID-19 Disaster Payment program.⁶²³⁷ This program supports workers who have lost wages due to state government lockdowns or public health orders.⁶²³⁸ Those who lose 20 hours of work or more will receive AUD750 per week, and those who lose between eight and 20 hours will receive a payment of AUD450 per week.⁶²³⁹

On 31 July 2021, Acting Government Chief Medical Officer Michael Kidd declared the City of Brisbane, Moreton Bay Region, Redland City, Logan City, City of Ipswich, Shire of Noosa, City of Gold Coast, Lockyer Valley Region, Scenic Rim Region, Somerset Region and Sunshine Coast Region Local Government Areas (LGAs) COVID-19 hotspots from 31 July to 3 August 2021.⁶²⁴⁰ As recognized hotspots, these regions will be eligible for additional governmental support, such as PPE, provisions for asymptomatic testing, assistance with contact tracing, re-prioritization of vaccine supply, Medicare-insured telehealth services and additional support for aged care centres.⁶²⁴¹

On 2 August 2021, the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI) recommended that children from age 12 to 15 years be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine.⁶²⁴² The ATAGI recommended that those with specific medical conditions that increase their risk for severe COVID-19, such as asthma, diabetes, and obesity, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and all children living in remote communities should be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine.⁶²⁴³ The

⁶²³⁴ Personal Protective Equipment for Primary Health Networks in Victoria, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/personal-protective-equipment-for-primary-health-networks-in-victoria>

⁶²³⁵ Personal Protective Equipment for Primary Health Networks in Victoria, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/personal-protective-equipment-for-primary-health-networks-in-victoria>

⁶²³⁶ Personal Protective Equipment for Primary Health Networks in Victoria, Department of Health (Canberra) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/personal-protective-equipment-for-primary-health-networks-in-victoria>

⁶²³⁷ COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment Boosted, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/covid-19-disaster-support-payment-boosted>

⁶²³⁸ COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment Boosted, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/covid-19-disaster-support-payment-boosted>

⁶²³⁹ COVID-19 Disaster Support Payment Boosted, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/covid-19-disaster-support-payment-boosted>

⁶²⁴⁰ Declaration of South East Queensland as a Commonwealth hotspot, Department of Health (Canberra) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/declaration-of-south-east-queensland-as-a-commonwealth-hotspot>

⁶²⁴¹ Declaration of South East Queensland as a Commonwealth hotspot, Department of Health (Canberra) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/declaration-of-south-east-queensland-as-a-commonwealth-hotspot>

⁶²⁴² ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

⁶²⁴³ ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

ATAGI awaits further evidence to make recommendations on the vaccination of all other children aged 12 to 15 years.⁶²⁴⁴

On 3 August 2021, the Doherty Institute at the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital released a modelling report to advise the government on containing the virus while easing COVID-19 restrictions in the country.⁶²⁴⁵ The report included models of national COVID-19 infection rates at varying vaccination coverage levels among those aged 16 years and older.⁶²⁴⁶ The modelling report also explored the implications of extending vaccination coverage eligibility to children 12 years of age and over.⁶²⁴⁷ This report resulted in 70 per cent being set as the target vaccination coverage level before the country eases COVID-19 restrictions.⁶²⁴⁸

On 6 August 2021, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced plans to work with the Pacific Islands on vaccine certification programs.⁶²⁴⁹ This will allow recognition of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and is an effort to allow the safe reopening of international travel.⁶²⁵⁰

On 6 August 2021, the National Cabinet agreed to a four-phase National Plan to control COVID-19 transmission as vaccination rates rise and case numbers decrease.⁶²⁵¹ Phase A focuses on continuing attempts to suppress community transmission of the virus and is the current phase of the National Plan.⁶²⁵² Phase B is initiated when 70 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated, and focuses on minimizing serious illness and fatalities from the virus with low-level restrictions such as quarantine requirements for international travelers.⁶²⁵³ Phase C of the plan is initiated when 80 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated and focuses on minimizing serious illness and fatalities with baseline restrictions such as highly targeted lockdowns.⁶²⁵⁴ Phase D will focus on minimizing COVID-19 restrictions with minor control measures and providing booster vaccinations when necessary.⁶²⁵⁵

⁶²⁴⁴ ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

⁶²⁴⁵ Release of Doherty Institute Modelling Report to advise on the National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/release-of-the-doherty-institute-modelling-report-to-advise-on-the-national-plan-to-transition-australias-national-covid-response>

⁶²⁴⁶ Doherty Modelling Report Revised 10th August 2021, Doherty Institute (Melbourne) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

https://www.doherty.edu.au/uploads/content_doc/DohertyModelling_NationalPlan_and_Addendum_20210810.pdf

⁶²⁴⁷ Doherty Modelling Report Revised 10th August 2021, Doherty Institute (Melbourne) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

https://www.doherty.edu.au/uploads/content_doc/DohertyModelling_NationalPlan_and_Addendum_20210810.pdf

⁶²⁴⁸ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁴⁹ Pacific Islands Forum, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pacific-islands-forum-1>

⁶²⁵⁰ Pacific Islands Forum, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pacific-islands-forum-1>

⁶²⁵¹ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵² National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵³ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵⁴ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

⁶²⁵⁵ National Cabinet Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement-11>

On 9 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was approved for use in adults.⁶²⁵⁶ The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) found that the vaccine meets all standards of safety, quality and efficacy to prevent infection in those aged 18 years of age and older, and reduces the rate of severe infection and hospitalization.⁶²⁵⁷ The vaccine will require individuals to receive two doses 18 days apart.⁶²⁵⁸

On 12 August 2021, the ATAGI released a statement on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine after reports of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) were reported as adverse side effects.⁶²⁵⁹ The ATAGI reinforced the benefit of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweighed the potential adverse effects in Australians under the age of 60 and recommended that all those in this age group who do not have access to the Pfizer vaccine strongly consider immunization with the AstraZeneca vaccine.⁶²⁶⁰ It also reinforced the benefits of the Pfizer vaccine after reports of myocarditis and reaffirmed that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh risks in all eligible Australians 12 years of age and older.⁶²⁶¹

On 15 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it received one million doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine through an agreement with the Republic of Poland.⁶²⁶² These doses are to be delivered to Australians aged 20 to 39 years after community transmission data recently identified this age group of individuals to be key transmitters.⁶²⁶³ 53 per cent of the doses are to be delivered to 12 LGAs in Greater Sydney where infection rates continue to rise.⁶²⁶⁴

On 20 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced a pause on some flights originating from New Zealand initially scheduled from 20 August 2021 to 24 August 2021 at 11:59 PM (AEST)

⁶²⁵⁶ Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Use in Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-approved-use-australia>

⁶²⁵⁷ Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Use in Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-approved-use-australia>

⁶²⁵⁸ Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Approved for Use in Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-approved-use-australia>

⁶²⁵⁹ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) weekly COVID-19 meeting on 11 August 2021 update, Department of Health (Canberra) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-weekly-covid-19-meeting-on-11-august-2021-update>

⁶²⁶⁰ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) weekly COVID-19 meeting on 11 August 2021 update, Department of Health (Canberra) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-weekly-covid-19-meeting-on-11-august-2021-update>

⁶²⁶¹ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) weekly COVID-19 meeting on 11 August 2021 update, Department of Health (Canberra) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi-weekly-covid-19-meeting-on-11-august-2021-update>

⁶²⁶² One Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from Europe Boosting Australian Supplies, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/one-million-doses-pfizer-vaccine-europe-boosting-australian-supplies>

⁶²⁶³ One Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from Europe Boosting Australian Supplies, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 15 August 2021. Access Date 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/one-million-doses-pfizer-vaccine-europe-boosting-australian-supplies>

⁶²⁶⁴ One Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from Europe Boosting Australian Supplies, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 15 August 2021. Access Date 19 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/one-million-doses-pfizer-vaccine-europe-boosting-australian-supplies>

after a rise in COVID-19 case numbers in New Zealand.⁶²⁶⁵ All passengers on flights originating from New Zealand during this time were required to undergo 14 days of supervised quarantine in a designated hotel.⁶²⁶⁶ On 23 August 2021, this pause on flights was extended until 11:59 PM (AEST) on 27 August 2021.⁶²⁶⁷ On 27 August, this pause was extended until 11:59PM (AEST) on 31 August 2021.⁶²⁶⁸ On 31 August, the pause was extended again until 11:59pm (AEST) on 7 September 2021.⁶²⁶⁹ On 7 September, the pause was extended again until 11:59PM (AEST) on 14 September 2021.⁶²⁷⁰

On 26 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it would be making Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) kits available for the detection of COVID-19 to specific providers and services in high-risk LGAs of Sydney and western New South Wales.⁶²⁷¹ These providers include residential aged care facilities, home care, and short-term restorative care, among others.⁶²⁷² The government also plans to provide training and support to these facilities to implement RAT testing as soon as possible.⁶²⁷³

On 26 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that community and in-home aged care workers can receive COVID-19 vaccinations at designated vaccine hubs in New South Wal,⁶²⁷⁴ Victoria,⁶²⁷⁵ Queensland,⁶²⁷⁶ Perth⁶²⁷⁷ and Adelaide.⁶²⁷⁸ All healthcare providers will receive the Pfizer vaccine.⁶²⁷⁹

On 27 August 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ATAGI) recommended COVID-19 vaccination in all youth 12 years of age and older.⁶²⁸⁰ The ATAGI

⁶²⁶⁵ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights>

⁶²⁶⁶ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights>

⁶²⁶⁷ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights-0>

⁶²⁶⁸ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights-1>

⁶²⁶⁹ Pause extended on New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/pause-extended-on-new-zealand-green-zone-flights-2>

⁶²⁷⁰ Continued pause to New Zealand green zone flights, Department of Health (Canberra) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/continued-pause-to-new-zealand-green-zone-flights>

⁶²⁷¹ Rapid antigen testing in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/rapid-antigen-testing-in-aged-care>

⁶²⁷² Rapid antigen testing in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/rapid-antigen-testing-in-aged-care>

⁶²⁷³ Rapid antigen testing in aged care, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/rapid-antigen-testing-in-aged-care>

⁶²⁷⁴ NSW aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/nsw-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁵ VIC aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/vic-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁶ QLD aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/qld-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁷ Perth aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/perth-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁸ Adelaide aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/adelaide-aged-care-vaccine-hub-open-now>

⁶²⁷⁹ NSW aged care vaccine hubs open now, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/nsw-aged-care-vaccine-hubs-open-now>

⁶²⁸⁰ ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

recommends using a two-dose schedule using the Pfizer vaccine.⁶²⁸¹ Recommendations on the use of the Moderna vaccine in this age group are yet to be finalized.⁶²⁸²

On 27 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that all children aged 12 to 15 years will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination on 13 September 2021.⁶²⁸³ The ATAGI has approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine in this population.⁶²⁸⁴ Bookings for the vaccine can be made through general practitioners, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics, and Aboriginal Community Control Health Organizations.⁶²⁸⁵ Each state or territory will announce when vaccination clinics are open to this age group.⁶²⁸⁶ Prime Minister Scott Minister also announced that the Moderna vaccine will be made available to individuals aged 12 to 18 years, subject to approval from the TGA.⁶²⁸⁷ The government expects all youth aged 12 to 18 to have access to a COVID-19 vaccine during the rest of 2021.⁶²⁸⁸

On 31 August 2021, the Government of Australia announced that it will receive 500,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine through a deal with the government of Singapore to boost its vaccine program in September.⁶²⁸⁹ The vaccines will be distributed to all provinces and territories according to the size of their populations.⁶²⁹⁰ As part of the deal, Australia will supply 500,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine to Singapore in December.⁶²⁹¹

⁶²⁸¹ ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

⁶²⁸² ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

⁶²⁸³ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁴ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁵ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁶ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁷ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁸ Children aged 12 to 15 years now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/children-aged-12-15-years-now-eligible-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶²⁸⁹ 500,000 Pfizer-BioNTech Doses Boosts September Vaccine Rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/500000-pfizer-biontech-doses-boosts-september-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²⁹⁰ 500,000 Pfizer-BioNTech Doses Boosts September Vaccine Rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/500000-pfizer-biontech-doses-boosts-september-vaccine-rollout>

⁶²⁹¹ 500,000 Pfizer-BioNTech Doses Boosts September Vaccine Rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/500000-pfizer-biontech-doses-boosts-september-vaccine-rollout>

On 3 September 2021, the Government of Australia announced that four million additional doses of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine will be arriving as part of a deal with the United Kingdom.⁶²⁹² After batch testing, the doses will be distributed across the country on an equal population basis. 60 per cent will be distributed through the primary care network and 40 per cent will be distributed through the state-operated vaccination clinics.⁶²⁹³

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met in their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁶²⁹⁴ Following the summit in March, the leaders released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” This encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁶²⁹⁵

Australia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. It continues to expand programming to support accessibility of the COVID-19 vaccine for various communities across the country, and has engaged in partnerships to support vaccination programs in other countries. It has taken measures to improve COVID-19 detection, such as by providing RAT kits to aged care facilities, and has developed a national plan to contain the virus while easing community restrictions once target vaccination levels are reached.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amandeep Saini

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 8 December 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello announced that the Federal Government is investing more than BRL280 million to train around 380,000 Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics.⁶²⁹⁶ Minister Pazuello was reported to have said, “The Health with Agent program really aims to be early in discovering diseases that can be treated quickly, and to prevent them from getting worse. This is the great logic of this program. Investments in basic care for the Brazilian population is one of the priorities of this management.

⁶²⁹² Four million Pfizer doses arrive to supercharge vaccine rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/four-million-pfizer-doses-arrive-super-charge-vaccine-roll-out>

⁶²⁹³ Four million Pfizer doses arrive to supercharge vaccine rollout, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/four-million-pfizer-doses-arrive-super-charge-vaccine-roll-out>

⁶²⁹⁴ Here to stay’: Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁶²⁹⁵ Here to stay’: Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁶²⁹⁶ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

This initiative will greatly improve the qualification of our service.”⁶²⁹⁷ This initiative revamps the health care system to respond to the current pandemic and to future ones that may arise.⁶²⁹⁸

On 18 December 2020, the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Camex) extended the validity of Resolution No. 17/2020, which reduced the Import Tax rate to zero for products considered essential to face the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶²⁹⁹ The objective of the measure, by maintaining the reduction of tariffs to zero, is to increase the supply of medicines, as well as supplies for the national production of goods intended to fight the pandemic, reducing the costs for the manufacture of these goods in the country and increasing availability for the Brazilian health system.⁶³⁰⁰ This tax reduction makes importing essential goods easier and faster to respond to urgent needs.⁶³⁰¹

On 6 January 2021, the Executive Management Committee of the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Gecex) decided to reduce the Import Tax to 0 per cent for five more products, including syringes and needles.⁶³⁰² The products become part of the list of temporary tariff reductions with the aim of facilitating the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³⁰³ Building upon other products deemed essential during the pandemic and their import tax being dropped, the addition of five more products is an important step to speeding up access to necessary goods.⁶³⁰⁴

On 15 January 2021, Gecex approved the temporary reduction of the Import Tax to zero for 258 products.⁶³⁰⁵ Among other products, the measure includes vital sign monitors, oxygen sensors, tanks for storing medical gases, as well as various medical supplies that allow intensifying the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³⁰⁶

On 16 January 2021, Gecex temporarily eliminated the import tax of more than 250 medical, hospital and personal protective equipment, necessary to fight the pandemic caused by COVID-19, such as

⁶²⁹⁷ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasi-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

⁶²⁹⁸ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasi-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

⁶²⁹⁹ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contracovid-19>

⁶³⁰⁰ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contracovid-19>

⁶³⁰¹ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contracovid-19>

⁶³⁰² Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰³ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁴ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁵ Camex expands tariff reductions and suspends anti-dumping to intensify the fight against COVID, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 15 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-amplia-reducoes-tarifarias-e-suspende-antidumping-para-intensificar-combate-a-covid>

⁶³⁰⁶ Camex expands tariff reductions and suspends anti-dumping to intensify the fight against COVID, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 15 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-amplia-reducoes-tarifarias-e-suspende-antidumping-para-intensificar-combate-a-covid>

gloves, aprons and masks.⁶³⁰⁷ Building upon previous import tax reductions, the list has been expanded to continue ensuring that Brazilians have access to necessary products and equipment.⁶³⁰⁸

On 21 January 2021, Brazil, in a meeting of the Executive Council of the World Health Organization (WHO), adopted a resolution that aims to reinforce the attention to the mental health of people during the pandemic, entitled “Preparation and response in mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.”⁶³⁰⁹ The document, entitled “Mental health preparedness and response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,” had Brazil’s active participation in the negotiations.⁶³¹⁰ The country acted as co-sponsor of the project, proposed by Thailand, in a commitment to promote the debate on mental health within the scope of multilateral discussions.⁶³¹¹

On 22 January 2021, President Bolsonaro asked Minister Pazuello to create an Epidemiological Fund to reinforce immunization against COVID-19 and halt the advance of the pandemic in the state of Amazonas.⁶³¹² The Epidemiological Fund was developed in partnership with the National Council of Health Secretaries and the National Council of Municipal Health Secretariats and allocates a quota of new doses of vaccines to the region.⁶³¹³

On 12 February 2021, the Ministry of Health implemented, at the Central Public Health Laboratories of the States, the National Network for Genetic Sequencing to investigate mutations and different strains of SARS-CoV-2 in circulation in Brazil.⁶³¹⁴ According to Secretary Arnaldo, the initiative will accelerate the investigation of COVID-19 virus mutations.⁶³¹⁵ He also stated that “The surveillance

⁶³⁰⁷ Government zeroes import tax on more than 250 items to help fight COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-de-250-itens-para-auxiliar-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁸ Government zeroes import tax on more than 250 items to help fight COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-de-250-itens-para-auxiliar-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³⁰⁹ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

⁶³¹⁰ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

⁶³¹¹ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

⁶³¹² Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>

⁶³¹³ Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>

⁶³¹⁴ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

⁶³¹⁵ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

and monitoring of these mutations will help us in the response of SUS to control the pandemic in the country and to understand more and more the behavior of the virus.”⁶³¹⁶

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it should receive another shipment of vaccines from the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca/Oxford through the COVAX Facility consortium.⁶³¹⁷ The global alliance has allocated 10,672,800 doses to Brazil that will be distributed between February and June to further expand vaccine access to Brazilians.⁶³¹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Pazuello, met with the president of the board of directors of the global vaccine alliance Gavi, José Manuel Barroso, to discuss the allocation of vaccines acquired by COVAX Facility.⁶³¹⁹ The first shipment by COVAX is expected to arrive in Brazil through the Rotating Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and corresponds to the AstraZeneca/Oxford immunizer, manufactured in Korea.⁶³²⁰ The initial schedule, subject to changes, foresees 2.9 million doses in March and another 6.1 million by May.⁶³²¹

On 29 March 2021, Gecex temporarily zeroed the Import Tax on 65 more products used to fight the new coronavirus pandemic.⁶³²² This builds upon previous import tax reductions on goods and materials needed in response to the ongoing pandemic.⁶³²³

On 14 April 2021, 1,301 adult intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 35 pediatric ICU beds were authorized by the Ministry of Health for the care of critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³²⁴ Several municipalities in the states of Alagoas, Amazonas, Amapá, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio Grande do Norte, Rondônia, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo are part of the allocations.⁶³²⁵

⁶³¹⁶ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

⁶³¹⁷ Brazil guarantees over 10.6 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 through the global consortium Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-garante-mais-10-6-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-contr-a-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

⁶³¹⁸ Brazil guarantees over 10.6 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 through the global consortium Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-garante-mais-10-6-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-contr-a-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

⁶³¹⁹ Minister Pazuello asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

⁶³²⁰ Minister Pazuello asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

⁶³²¹ Minister Pazuello asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

⁶³²² Camex zeroes Import Tax on 65 more products to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/camex-zera-impuesto-de-importacao-de-mais-65- produtos-para-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³²³ Camex zeroes Import Tax on 65 more products to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/camex-zera-impuesto-de-importacao-de-mais-65- produtos-para-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶³²⁴ Health authorizes 1,300 more ICU beds COVID-19 for 16 states, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-1-3-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-16-estados>

⁶³²⁵ Health authorizes 1,300 more ICU beds COVID-19 for 16 states, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-1-3-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-16-estados>

On 16 April 2021, over 2.3 million orotracheal intubation drugs will be distributed by the Ministry of Health beginning on April 16.⁶³²⁶ The inputs were acquired in China and donated to the Federal Government by a group of companies formed by Petrobras, Vale, Engie, Itaú Unibanco, Klabin and Raízen.⁶³²⁷ Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga in a press conference mentioned that the action will reinforce assistance to the Unified Health System and patient care throughout the country.⁶³²⁸ “The obligation to purchase these drugs is from states and municipalities. However, we are in an international public emergency and we have to take the necessary steps to ensure supply throughout the country, especially in smaller municipalities that are unable to purchase,” said Minister Queiroga.⁶³²⁹

On 17 April 2021, Brazil released another BRL2.6 billion for the Ministry of Health to expand the actions carried out in the fight against the pandemic.⁶³³⁰ The resource will be used to purchase medicines that make up the intubation kit and also for new beds in the ICU.⁶³³¹ Of the amount released, BRL1.2 billion will be for the opening of new ICU beds – requested by the state and municipal health departments, in order to serve critically ill patients infected with the new coronavirus.⁶³³² The financial contribution will also be used to buy intubation drugs.⁶³³³ BRL1.4 billion will be allocated so that the Ministry of Health can maintain the stock of inputs for a period of 90 days.⁶³³⁴ The other 100 million include expenses with vaccine distribution logistics, for example, and transporting patients who need care in other states and municipalities.⁶³³⁵

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 411 adult ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.⁶³³⁶ Several municipalities in the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito

⁶³²⁶ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³²⁷ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³²⁸ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³²⁹ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³³⁰ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³¹ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³² Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³³ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³⁴ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³⁵ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³³⁶ Health authorizes 411 more ICU COVID-19 beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-411-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

Santo, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo are part of the allocations.⁶³³⁷

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 526 beds of Pulmonary Ventilatory Support for exclusive care to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients.⁶³³⁸ The authorizations, on an exceptional and temporary basis, are destined for the Federal District and the states of Bahia, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Paraná, São Paulo, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Amazonas and Rio Grande do Sul.⁶³³⁹

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 666 more COVID-19 ICU beds for seven states: Alagoas, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶³⁴⁰

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health is allocating BRL8.3 million for the purchase of hospital medical supplies, equipment and materials for the Special Indigenous Sanitary District Yanomami.⁶³⁴¹ The inputs will be destined to expand the health care of more than 28,000 indigenous people located between the states of Amazonas and Roraima, in the middle of the Amazon rainforest and in areas of difficult access.⁶³⁴²

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized another 45 adult and five pediatric ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.⁶³⁴³ In total, four states are being benefited: Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶³⁴⁴

On 28 April 2021, Minister Queiroga, reinforced that the union between the managers of the Unified Health System (SUS) is the key to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, which involves the Federal, State and Municipal governments.⁶³⁴⁵ The statement was given during the inauguration of the board

⁶³³⁷ Health authorizes 411 more ICU COVID-19 beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-411-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

⁶³³⁸ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 526 more beds are authorized for ten states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-526-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-dez-estados-e-df>

⁶³³⁹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 526 more beds are authorized for ten states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-526-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-dez-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁴⁰ 666 more COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-666-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

⁶³⁴¹ DSEI Yanomami: Health allocates R \$ 8.3 million to purchase medicines, equipment and supplies, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/dsei-yanomami-saude-destina-r-8-3-milhoes-para-compra-de-medicamentos-equipamentos-e-insumos>

⁶³⁴² DSEI Yanomami: Health allocates R \$ 8.3 million to purchase medicines, equipment and supplies, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/dsei-yanomami-saude-destina-r-8-3-milhoes-para-compra-de-medicamentos-equipamentos-e-insumos>

⁶³⁴³ Over 50 COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for four states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-50-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-quatro-estados>

⁶³⁴⁴ Over 50 COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for four states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-50-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-quatro-estados>

⁶³⁴⁵ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

of directors of the National Council of Health Secretaries, in Brasília.⁶³⁴⁶ “It cannot be just a promise, tripartite has to be a reality. We need to come together to face our only enemy, which is the virus. And the weapon we have for this is SUS,” said Queiroga.⁶³⁴⁷

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health will distribute an additional 864,000 units of orotracheal intubation drugs.⁶³⁴⁸ The inputs were acquired through auctions carried out by the portfolio and also acquired through PAHO.⁶³⁴⁹ These materials were acquired to better equip medical establishments fight the pandemic and treat patients coming in and is a strong step in improving the country’s response and handling.⁶³⁵⁰

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 867 adult ICU beds and five pediatric ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁵¹ Several municipalities in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and the Federal District are benefiting from allocations.⁶³⁵²

On 3 May 2021, the Ministry of Health, as President of the Supplementary Health Council (CONSU), in order to integrate Supplementary Health actions with those of the Unified Health System (SUS) in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, published a Public Consultation.⁶³⁵³ Any person or institution can contribute by sending suggestions and opinions about the proposal.⁶³⁵⁴

On 4 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 1,152 adult ICU beds and 51 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁵⁵ Several municipalities are being benefited in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato

⁶³⁴⁶ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

⁶³⁴⁷ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

⁶³⁴⁸ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³⁴⁹ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³⁵⁰ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

⁶³⁵¹ Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-872-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados-e-o-df>

⁶³⁵² Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-872-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados-e-o-df>

⁶³⁵³ Public Consultation of the National Supplementary Health Policy for Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 3 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/consulta-publica-da-politica-nacional-de-saude-suplementar-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³⁵⁴ Public Consultation of the National Supplementary Health Policy for Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 3 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/consulta-publica-da-politica-nacional-de-saude-suplementar-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

⁶³⁵⁵ Health authorizes more than 1,200 Covid-19 ICU beds for 19 states, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-1-2-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-19-estados>

Grosso, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Rondônia and São Paulo.⁶³⁵⁶

On 4 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 253 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁵⁷ The authorizations, are intended for the states of Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraná, Minas Gerais, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, Ceará and Sergipe.⁶³⁵⁸

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 284 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁵⁹ The authorizations, are intended for the Federal District and for the states of Ceará, Espírito Santo, Maranhão, Pará, Piauí, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Bahia, Rio Grande do Sul and Paraíba.⁶³⁶⁰

On 11 May 2021, the Federal Government released BRL5.5 billion for the purchase of more vaccines, with the objective of reinforcing the national campaign against COVID-19.⁶³⁶¹

On 11 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 174 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁶² The authorizations, are intended for the states of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Maranhão, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo.⁶³⁶³

On 11 May 2021, the Ministry of Health will transfer nearly BRL1 billion in resources to combat COVID-19 in primary care, the gateway for patients to the Unified Health System (SUS).⁶³⁶⁴ The funds allocated to serve states and municipalities have as objectives, among others, to fund the development of strategic actions to support the care of elderly people; intensify attention to

⁶³⁵⁶ Health authorizes more than 1,200 Covid-19 ICU beds for 19 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-1-2-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-19-estados>

⁶³⁵⁷ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 253 more beds are authorized for 12 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-253-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-12-estados>

⁶³⁵⁸ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 253 more beds are authorized for 12 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 4 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-253-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-12-estados>

⁶³⁵⁹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 284 more beds are authorized for 10 states and the Federal District, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-284-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-10-estados-e-distrito-federal>

⁶³⁶⁰ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 284 more beds are authorized for 10 states and the Federal District, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-284-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-10-estados-e-distrito-federal>

⁶³⁶¹ More than R\$5.5 billion are released for the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-de-r-5-5-bilhoes-sao-liberados-para-compra-de-vacinas-covid-19>

⁶³⁶² Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: an additional 174 beds are authorized for eight states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-174-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-oito-estados>

⁶³⁶³ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: an additional 174 beds are authorized for eight states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-174-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-oito-estados>

⁶³⁶⁴ Federal Government releases another R\$1 billion to fight the pandemic in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-1-bilhao-para-o-combate-a-pandemia-na-atencao-primaria-1>

malnutrition in children under seven years of age and pregnant women in the Bolsa Família program; and strengthen health care teams for traditional peoples and communities.⁶³⁶⁵

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 864 adult ICU beds and 51 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁶⁶ Several municipalities in the states of Amazonas, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and also for the Federal District are being benefited.⁶³⁶⁷

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 68 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁶⁸ The authorizations are intended for the states of Ceará, Minas Gerais and Rondônia.⁶³⁶⁹

On 18 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 212 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁷⁰ The authorizations are intended for the Federal District and for the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Paraíba, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondônia, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶³⁷¹

On 24 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 488 adult ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁷² The measure benefits municipalities in the states of Bahia, Ceará, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Pará, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo.⁶³⁷³

On 25 May 2021, the Ministry of Health released the transfer of more than BRL1 billion for Health Funds of states and municipalities.⁶³⁷⁴ The money is intended for the payment of 21,998 beds in the

⁶³⁶⁵ Federal Government releases another R\$1 billion to fight the pandemic in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-1-bilhao-para-o-combate-a-pandemia-na-atencao-primaria-1>

⁶³⁶⁶ Health authorizes more than 880 ICU beds Covid-19 for 11 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-880-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-11-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁶⁷ Health authorizes more than 880 ICU beds Covid-19 for 11 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-880-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-11-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁶⁸ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 68 more beds are authorized for three states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-68-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-tres-estados>

⁶³⁶⁹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 68 more beds are authorized for three states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 12 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-68-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-tres-estados>

⁶³⁷⁰ Health authorizes over 212 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for 12 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 18 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-212-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-para-12-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁷¹ Health authorizes over 212 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for 12 states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia), 18 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-212-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-para-12-estados-e-df>

⁶³⁷² Health authorizes another 488 Covid-19 ICU beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-488-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

⁶³⁷³ Health authorizes another 488 Covid-19 ICU beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-488-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

⁶³⁷⁴ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$ 1 billion to pay for ICU Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 25 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-destina-mais-de-r-1-bilhao-para-pagamento-de-uti-covid-19>

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) authorized and in force throughout the country, intended to serve exclusively patients affected by COVID-19.⁶³⁷⁵

On 28 May 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 122 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁷⁶ The authorizations are intended for the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Norte, Maranhão, Ceará and São Paulo.⁶³⁷⁷

On 1 June 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga, signed the technology transfer agreement for the AstraZeneca laboratory so that the Institute of Technology in Immunobiologicals (Bio-Manguinhos), of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), can produce the immunizing agent against COVID-19 with Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (IFA) manufactured in the territory.⁶³⁷⁸ Fiocruz will start producing the input in its facilities, without depending on products from abroad, such as IFA from China or ready-made doses purchased from India.⁶³⁷⁹ With the production of a national API, Fiocruz contributes for Brazil to advance in overcoming this challenge.⁶³⁸⁰

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 62 adult ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁸¹ Municipalities in the states of Ceará, Pernambuco and São Paulo were benefited.⁶³⁸²

On 10 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 364 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁸³ The authorizations are intended for the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Pará, Rio Grande do Norte, Goiás, Mata Grosso, Paraíba, and Paraná.⁶³⁸⁴

On 10 June 2021, the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, participated in the program Agora.com Lacombe, on RedeTV, highlighting that vaccination and health care are the pillars of the fight against

⁶³⁷⁵ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$ 1 billion to pay for ICU Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 25 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-destina-mais-de-r-1-bilhao-para-pagamento-de-uti-covid-19>

⁶³⁷⁶ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: over 122 beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-122-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

⁶³⁷⁷ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: over 122 beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-122-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

⁶³⁷⁸ Brazil starts producing 100% national Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-passa-a-produzir-vacina-covid-19-100-nacional>

⁶³⁷⁹ Brazil starts producing 100% national Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-passa-a-produzir-vacina-covid-19-100-nacional>

⁶³⁸⁰ Brazil starts producing 100% national Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-passa-a-produzir-vacina-covid-19-100-nacional>

⁶³⁸¹ Health authorizes more than 62 Covid-19 ICU beds for 3 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-62-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-3-estados>

⁶³⁸² Health authorizes more than 62 Covid-19 ICU beds for 3 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-62-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-3-estados>

⁶³⁸³ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 364 more beds are authorized for 16 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 10 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-364-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-16-estados>

⁶³⁸⁴ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 364 more beds are authorized for 16 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 10 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-364-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-16-estados>

COVID-19.⁶³⁸⁵ Queiroga highlighted the federal government's role in fighting the pandemic and commended President Jair Bolsonaro role in encouraging research in various areas, such as disease treatments and technology transfer.⁶³⁸⁶ He was quoted to have said that, "last week, we signed an agreement to transfer AstraZeneca's technologies with Fiocruz. This signals the strengthening of the health industrial complex."⁶³⁸⁷

On 17 June 2021, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) was elected member of the Joint Coordination Council of the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) of the World Health Organization (WHO) for a mandate from January 2022 to December 2025.⁶³⁸⁸ The last term of a Brazilian representative on the entity's board ended in 2013.⁶³⁸⁹

On 18 June 2021, the Ministry of Health signed an ordinance that released BRL2.8 million to expand the fight against COVID-19 by supporting the initiatives of the Street Clinic (eCR) teams.⁶³⁹⁰

On 22 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 91 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁹¹ The authorizations are intended for the following states: Ceará, Amazonas, Bahia, Sergipe, São Paulo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Maranhão, and Minas Gerais.⁶³⁹²

On 24 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 61 beds of Ventilatory Pulmonary Support for exclusive care to patients confirmed or suspected of COVID-19.⁶³⁹³ The authorizations are intended for the following states: Paraíba, Ceará, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, and Mato Grosso.⁶³⁹⁴

On 24 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 391 adult and 5 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19.⁶³⁹⁵ The beds were authorized for the states of Bahia, Ceará,

⁶³⁸⁵ Queiroga reinforces the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Osasco) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-reforca-importancia-da-vacinacao-contracovid-19-no-brasil>

⁶³⁸⁶ Queiroga reinforces the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Osasco) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-reforca-importancia-da-vacinacao-contracovid-19-no-brasil>

⁶³⁸⁷ Queiroga reinforces the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Osasco) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-reforca-importancia-da-vacinacao-contracovid-19-no-brasil>

⁶³⁸⁸ Fiocruz is elected member of the WHO tropical diseases research and training program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 18 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fiocruz-e-eleita-membro-de-programa-de-pesquisa-e-treinamento-em-doencas-tropicais-da-oms>

⁶³⁸⁹ Fiocruz is elected member of the WHO tropical diseases research and training program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 18 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fiocruz-e-eleita-membro-de-programa-de-pesquisa-e-treinamento-em-doencas-tropicais-da-oms>

⁶³⁹⁰ Ministry of Health releases R\$ 2.8 million for Street Clinic teams, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 18 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-r-2-8-milhoes-para-equipas-de-consultorio-na-rua>

⁶³⁹¹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 91 more beds are authorized for nine states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-91-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-nove-estados>

⁶³⁹² Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 91 more beds are authorized for nine states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-91-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-nove-estados>

⁶³⁹³ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 61 more beds are authorized for five states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-61-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-cinco-estados>

⁶³⁹⁴ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 61 more beds are authorized for five states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-61-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-cinco-estados>

Espírito Santo, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo, and Tocantins.⁶³⁹⁶

On 29 June 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 618 adult and 28 pediatric ICU beds to care for critically ill patients with COVID-19; more than BRL27.4 million will be transferred to the units.⁶³⁹⁷ These authorizations benefit municipalities in Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, and Tocantins.⁶³⁹⁸

On 7 July 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a campaign to encourage immunization with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.⁶³⁹⁹ About 3.4 million people have not yet returned to vaccination posts to take the second dose.⁶⁴⁰⁰

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Health promoted a series of webinars on the fight against Hepatitis.⁶⁴⁰¹ The "Yellow July" campaign was instituted in Brazil to reinforce the actions of surveillance, prevention and control of viral hepatitis.⁶⁴⁰²

On 21 July 2021, the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, highlighted the role of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic during his participation in a High Level Panel, jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).⁶⁴⁰³ With the theme "Expanding the production of COVID-19 vaccines to promote equitable access," the event was attended by ministers of health and trade from several

⁶³⁹⁵ Health authorizes more than 396 Covid-19 ICU beds for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-396-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁶ Health authorizes more than 396 Covid-19 ICU beds for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-de-396-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁷ Health authorizes over 646 ICU beds Covid-19 for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-646-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁸ Health authorizes over 646 ICU beds Covid-19 for 14 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-646-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-14-estados>

⁶³⁹⁹ Ministry of Health launches campaign to encourage immunization with the 2nd dose of Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-para-incentivo-da-imunizacao-com-a-2a-dose-da-vacina-covid-19>

⁶⁴⁰⁰ Ministry of Health launches campaign to encourage immunization with the 2nd dose of Covid-19 vaccine, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-para-incentivo-da-imunizacao-com-a-2a-dose-da-vacina-covid-19>

⁶⁴⁰¹ Ministry of Health promotes a series of webinars on the fight against Hepatitis; see schedule, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-promove-serie-de-webinar-sobre-o-combate-as-hepatites-veja-programacao>

⁶⁴⁰² Ministry of Health promotes a series of webinars on the fight against Hepatitis; see schedule, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-promove-serie-de-webinar-sobre-o-combate-as-hepatites-veja-programacao>

⁶⁴⁰³ Minister reinforces role of SUS and vaccination program at WHO and WTO event, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-reforca-papel-do-sus-e-programa-de-vacinacao-em-evento-da-oms-e-omc>

countries, international financial organizations, and the directors general of WHO, WTO, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.⁶⁴⁰⁴

On 21 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it was investing BRL20 million for innovation in the production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals in a partnership with the Brazilian Company for Research and Industrial Innovation (Embrapii).⁶⁴⁰⁵ Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga highlighted the importance of developing a flexible and autonomous industry from external pressures to generate Brazilian solutions in the area.⁶⁴⁰⁶

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced BRL5.1 million to reinforce highly complex care in the public health network by paying for services in two hospitals in the municipalities of Blumenau and Chapecó, in Santa Catarina.⁶⁴⁰⁷

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 457 COVID-19 ICU beds, 25 of which are pediatric, and 431 beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in the states of Bahia, Ceará, Federal District, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraná, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santa Catarina and Tocantins.⁶⁴⁰⁸ The investment totals to BRL31 million.⁶⁴⁰⁹

On 11 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced funding for 12 emergency care units in the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and Sergipe.⁶⁴¹⁰

On 11 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 97 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, intended for moderate and severe patients who need oxygen support, but have not evolved into cases that require mechanical ventilation in the states of Bahia, Ceará, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul,

⁶⁴⁰⁴ Minister reinforces role of SUS and vaccination program at WHO and WTO event, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-reforca-papel-do-sus-e-programa-de-vacinacao-em-evento-da-oms-e-omc>

⁶⁴⁰⁵ Ministry of Health invests R\$ 20 million in innovation in the production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-veste-r-20-milhoes-em-inovacao-na-producao-de-farmacos-e-biofarmacos>

⁶⁴⁰⁶ Ministry of Health invests R\$ 20 million in innovation in the production of pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-veste-r-20-milhoes-em-inovacao-na-producao-de-farmacos-e-biofarmacos>

⁶⁴⁰⁷ Ministry of Health releases R\$ 5.1 million to reinforce highly complex care in Santa Catarina, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-r-5-1-milhoes-para-reforcar-atendimentos-de-alta-complexidade-em-santa-catarina>

⁶⁴⁰⁸ Saúde authorizes another 457 Covid ICU beds and 431 pulmonary ventilatory support beds, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 5 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-457-leitos-de-uti-covid-e-431-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴⁰⁹ Saúde authorizes another 457 Covid ICU beds and 431 pulmonary ventilatory support beds, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 5 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-457-leitos-de-uti-covid-e-431-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴¹⁰ Ministry of Health enables 12 more Emergency Care Units, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-habilita-mais-12-unidades-de-pronto-atendimento>

Paraíba, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.⁶⁴¹¹ The total investment is BRL1.3 million.⁶⁴¹²

On 17 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced further funding of BRL1.2 billion for the costs of adult and pediatric beds in Intensive Care Units across the country.⁶⁴¹³

On 19 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced more than BRL54.5 million for the cost of Ventilatory Lung Support beds to treat patients who require non-invasive and invasive ventilatory support.⁶⁴¹⁴ The units will help to stabilize the patients until relocation to hospitals that have ICU beds to deal with COVID-19.⁶⁴¹⁵

On 20 August 2021, the Ministry of Health expanded the support it offers municipalities to improve patient care with COVID-19.⁶⁴¹⁶ More than BRL574 million were released to accredit 2,700 health establishments.⁶⁴¹⁷ The financial incentive will help with expenses for units in 2,200 municipalities from July to September 2021, in total amounts ranging between BRL180 thousand and BRL300 thousand per unit and will be made in a single installment from the National Fund to municipal health funds.⁶⁴¹⁸

On 24 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 47 new beds of pulmonary ventilatory support to fight the pandemic in six Federation Units.⁶⁴¹⁹ An amount totaling to BRL674.9 thousand will be invested for this action.⁶⁴²⁰

⁶⁴¹¹ Saúde authorizes another 97 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-97-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴¹² Saúde authorizes another 97 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-97-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴¹³ Ministry of Health releases R\$ 1.2 billion for Covid-19 ICU beds across the country, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-r-1-2-bilhao-para-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-em-todo-o-pais>

⁶⁴¹⁴ Saúde transfers R\$ 54.5 million to pulmonary ventilatory support beds for patients with Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-repassa-r-54-5-milhoes-para-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-a-pacientes-com-covid-19>

⁶⁴¹⁵ Saúde transfers R\$ 54.5 million to pulmonary ventilatory support beds for patients with Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 11 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-repassa-r-54-5-milhoes-para-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-a-pacientes-com-covid-19>

⁶⁴¹⁶ Ministry of Health releases more than R\$574 million to combat Covid-19 in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-mais-de-r-574-milhoes-para-o-combate-a-covid-19-na-atencao-primaria>

⁶⁴¹⁷ Ministry of Health releases more than R\$574 million to combat Covid-19 in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-mais-de-r-574-milhoes-para-o-combate-a-covid-19-na-atencao-primaria>

⁶⁴¹⁸ Ministry of Health releases more than R\$574 million to combat Covid-19 in Primary Care, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-libera-mais-de-r-574-milhoes-para-o-combate-a-covid-19-na-atencao-primaria>

⁶⁴¹⁹ Saúde allocates an additional R\$ 674.9 thousand for 47 new beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-r-674-9-mil-para-47-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

On 26 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it was expanding urgent and emergency care for the population of the municipality of Itaguaí, in Rio de Janeiro, with a new Emergency Care Unit (24h UPA) which will be funded by the Ministry for the unit's qualification.⁶⁴²¹

On 27 August 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 109 new beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in seven states, Bahia, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Sergipe.⁶⁴²² To fund the new beds, the Ministry of Health is investing BRL1.5 million.⁶⁴²³

On 28 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it extended opening hours for 373 health units in 211 Brazilian cities.⁶⁴²⁴ The Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, signed an ordinance that provides for more than BRL110.8 million until December 2022, for the Primary Health Care units to guarantee service to the population.⁶⁴²⁵

On 2 September 2021, the National Council for Supplementary Health approved the general guidelines for transparency and monitoring for health plans to act during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴²⁶ Among the guidelines for supplementary health are actions to ensure the right of beneficiaries to care in the assistance network of the contracted health plan operator.⁶⁴²⁷ In addition, the text provides for the monitoring of information from the network of health services contracted by the citizen, in particular those related to bed occupancy data and care outcomes, within the provisions of the General Data Protection Law.⁶⁴²⁸

⁶⁴²⁰ Saúde allocates an additional R\$ 674.9 thousand for 47 new beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-r-674-9-mil-para-47-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴²¹ Health invests R\$ 3 million to enable UPA 24h in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-investe-r-3-milhoes-para-habilitar-upa-24h-no-rio-de-janeiro>

⁶⁴²² Ministry of Health authorizes 109 new beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-autoriza-109-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-em-sete-estados>

⁶⁴²³ Ministry of Health authorizes 109 new beds for pulmonary ventilatory support in seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-autoriza-109-novos-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-em-sete-estados>

⁶⁴²⁴ Ministry of Health enables 373 units in the Saúde na Hora program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-habilita-373-unidades-no-programa-saude-na-hora>

⁶⁴²⁵ Ministry of Health enables 373 units in the Saúde na Hora program, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 August 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-habilita-373-unidades-no-programa-saude-na-hora>

⁶⁴²⁶ Federal Government Approves National Policy to Combat Covid-19 for Health Plans, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/governo-federal-aprova-politica-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-covid-19-para-planos-de-saude>

⁶⁴²⁷ Federal Government Approves National Policy to Combat Covid-19 for Health Plans, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/governo-federal-aprova-politica-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-covid-19-para-planos-de-saude>

⁶⁴²⁸ Federal Government Approves National Policy to Combat Covid-19 for Health Plans, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/governo-federal-aprova-politica-nacional-de-enfrentamento-a-covid-19-para-planos-de-saude>

On 3 September 2021, the Ministry of Health released BRL1.1 billion to be distributed to all states to fund hospitalizations in clinical ward beds.⁶⁴²⁹

On 6 September 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it is strengthening and expanding the structure of the Unified Health System to combat COVID-19 throughout Brazil.⁶⁴³⁰ The Federal Government published two ordinances releasing BRL59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support.⁶⁴³¹ The amount is for payment retroactive to the month of August and includes all states in the country.⁶⁴³²

On 8 September 2021, the Department of Chronic Diseases and Sexually Transmitted Infections of the Secretariat of Health Surveillance (SVS), made available in public consultation the proposal for the second edition of the Technical Manual for the Diagnosis of Syphilis.⁶⁴³³

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of Health established a working group to prepare the Plan of Integrated Surveillance of Risk Factors for Congenital Anomalies in Brazil.⁶⁴³⁴

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it is expanding and reinforcing the entire structure of medium and high complexity for Covid-19's serious and very serious cases, and authorized 146 new ICU beds Covid for 10 Brazilian states.⁶⁴³⁵ To fund the new beds, the Federal Government is investing another BRL7 million in the states of Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.⁶⁴³⁶

On 10 September 2021, the Vice President of the Republic, Hamilton Mourão, and 20 other authorities, the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, visited the facilities of the Evandro Chagas Institute.⁶⁴³⁷ The focus of the visit was to present the IEC researchers activities' in protecting the

⁶⁴²⁹ Health releases BRL 1.1 billion in extra resources to combat Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 3 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-libera-r-1-1-bilhao-de-recursos-extras-para-combate-a-covid-19>

⁶⁴³⁰ Saúde invests R\$ 59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-investe-r-59-9-milhoes-para-custeio-de-4-175-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴³¹ Saúde invests R\$ 59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-investe-r-59-9-milhoes-para-custeio-de-4-175-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴³² Saúde invests R\$ 59.9 million to fund 4,175 beds of pulmonary ventilatory support, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 6 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-investe-r-59-9-milhoes-para-custeio-de-4-175-leitos-de-suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar>

⁶⁴³³ Second edition of the Technical Manual for the Diagnosis of Syphilis is available for public consultation, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/segunda-edicao-do-manual-tecnico-para-diagnostico-da-sifilis-esta-disponivel-para-consulta-publica>

⁶⁴³⁴ Health plans prevention strategies for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/segunda-edicao-do-manual-tecnico-para-diagnostico-da-sifilis-esta-disponivel-para-consulta-publica>

⁶⁴³⁵ Health authorizes over 146 Covid ICU beds for 10 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-autoriza-mais-146-leitos-de-uti-covid-para-10-estados>

⁶⁴³⁶ Health authorizes over 146 Covid ICU beds for 10 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/saude-autoriza-mais-146-leitos-de-uti-covid-para-10-estados>

⁶⁴³⁷ During a visit to the IEC, Queiroga reinforces the Federal Government's support for research and health surveillance in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/em-visita-ao-iec-queiroga-reforca-apoio-do-governo-federal-em-pesquisa-e-vigilancia-em-saude-no-brasil>

environment and the health of the Brazilian population.⁶⁴³⁸ The minister reinforced the Federal Government's commitment to science, research, and health surveillance.⁶⁴³⁹

Brazil has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by instituting the Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics program, imposing zero tax on products to fight COVID-19, by partnering with PAHO to disburse orotracheal intubation drugs and by participating in COVAX to immunize its citizens.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sydney Grad

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 22 November 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged to aid developing nations access to the vaccine.⁶⁴⁴⁰ Leaders gathered at the G20 summit to agree on a coordinated response to the pandemic; in response to the discussions, Canada has pledged to ensure access to the vaccine, and a rejection of protectionism is the foundation to international cooperation moving forward.⁶⁴⁴¹

On 27 November 2020, Health Canada implemented an interim order “respecting drug shortages” as a measure to help Canadian drug suppliers in response to the bulk importation of certain drugs by the United States and other countries.⁶⁴⁴² The measure allows Health Canada to assess and help alleviate any potential drug shortages due to bulk buying as a response to COVID-19 worldwide.⁶⁴⁴³

On 30 November 2020, Transport Canada implemented new ministerial orders under section 32.01 of the railway safety act due to COVID-19 requiring intercity passengers on rail carriers to implement health checks for COVID-19 and refuse to board symptomatic passengers.⁶⁴⁴⁴ This new measure also

⁶⁴³⁸ During a visit to the IEC, Queiroga reinforces the Federal Government's support for research and health surveillance in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/em-visita-ao-iec-queiroga-reforca-apoio-do-governo-federal-em-pesquisa-e-vigilancia-em-saude-no-brasil>

⁶⁴³⁹ During a visit to the IEC, Queiroga reinforces the Federal Government's support for research and health surveillance in Brazil, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021-1/setembro/em-visita-ao-iec-queiroga-reforca-apoio-do-governo-federal-em-pesquisa-e-vigilancia-em-saude-no-brasil>

⁶⁴⁴⁰ Trudeau joins G20 in promising COVID-19 aid to poor nations, rejecting protectionism, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-joins-g20-in-promising-covid-19-aid-to-poor-nations-rejecting-protectionism-1.5199907>

⁶⁴⁴¹ Trudeau joins G20 in promising COVID-19 aid to poor nations, rejecting protectionism, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-joins-g20-in-promising-covid-19-aid-to-poor-nations-rejecting-protectionism-1.5199907>

⁶⁴⁴² Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply), Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/importation-exportation/interim-order-drug-shortages-protecting-supply.html>

⁶⁴⁴³ Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply), Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/importation-exportation/interim-order-drug-shortages-protecting-supply.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁴ Order under Section 32.01 of the Railway Safety Act due to COVID-19, No. 9, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2020. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/enforcement-action-measures-mitigate-threats-rail-safety/ministerial-orders-emergency-directives/order-under-section-3201-railway-safety-act-due-covid-19-no-9>

influenced the role out of similar measures for pilots of private aircraft that has since been repealed.⁶⁴⁴⁵

On 14 December 2020, Canada announced additional support for equitable Access to COVID-19 tests treatments and vaccines.⁶⁴⁴⁶ Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced a CAD485 million contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. Amongst other initiatives, this will help the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund procure up to three million antibody therapeutics.⁶⁴⁴⁷ Minister Gould added that Canada will also invest CAD255 million in additional support for medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing and vulnerable countries. This will be achieved through focused investments with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the development, delivery and distribution of vaccines and therapeutics in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁶⁴⁴⁸

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry announced the investment of CAD1 billion into COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and biomanufacturing capacity.⁶⁴⁴⁹ This announcement relies on the already established Vaccine and Therapeutics task forces and biomanufacturing subcommittee in parliament.⁶⁴⁵⁰ The investment includes CAD5.1 million to Precision NanoSystems Incorporated, to expand the production of ribonucleic acid vaccines and future genetic medicines in Canada.⁶⁴⁵¹ Another CAD14 million will be allocated for Edesa Biotech Inc. to advance work on a monoclonal antibody therapy for acute respiratory distress syndrome, which is the leading cause of COVID-19 deaths.⁶⁴⁵²

On 11 February 2021, Canada launched a new initiative called the “Feminist Response and Recovery Fund” that will provide CAD100 million for projects helping women in need.⁶⁴⁵³ The fund will allow

⁶⁴⁴⁵ Order under Section 32.01 of the Railway Safety Act due to COVID-19, No. 9, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2020. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/enforcement-action-measures-mitigate-threats-rail-safety/ministerial-orders-emergency-directives/order-under-section-3201-railway-safety-act-due-covid-19-no-9>

⁶⁴⁴⁶ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁷ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁸ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁶⁴⁴⁹ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵⁰ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵¹ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵² New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

⁶⁴⁵³ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

organizations to pursue projects and scale up operations that help women and girls participate in Canada's economy and society throughout and post COVID-19.⁶⁴⁵⁴ The Recovery Fund is designed to help women at the local, regional and national levels who are the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women continue to work on the front lines and the government is investing in organizations promoting equity.⁶⁴⁵⁵

On 14 February 2021, the Department of Justice amended regulations to pursue additional efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 across Canada by including more persuasive fines to improve compliance with the Quarantine Act and the emergency orders made under that act.⁶⁴⁵⁶

On 3 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an investment of CAD518 million to support more than 100 projects and 1000 researchers across the country.⁶⁴⁵⁷ The new funding will ensure that researchers have the tools necessary to address the pandemic's changing needs and speed up vaccine production.⁶⁴⁵⁸ Prime Minister Trudeau said that, "Canada's researchers and scientists are some of the brightest and most skilled in the world. Today's investments will ensure that they have what they need to help us build a Canada that is healthier, cleaner, and more competitive."⁶⁴⁵⁹ This demonstrates Canada's advanced preparedness to combat the pandemic and future ones that may occur.⁶⁴⁶⁰

On 1 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD6.5 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Saskatchewan.⁶⁴⁶¹ Canada aims to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁶²

On 6 April 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the final installment of the over CAD19 billion Safe Restart Agreement aimed at helping provinces and territories safely restart the economy.⁶⁴⁶³ The

⁶⁴⁵⁴ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

⁶⁴⁵⁵ d Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

⁶⁴⁵⁶ Regulations Amending the Contraventions Regulations, The Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2021/2021-02-15-x3/html/extra3-eng.html>

⁶⁴⁵⁷ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁵⁸ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁵⁹ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁶⁰ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

⁶⁴⁶¹ Government of Canada Invests Close to \$6.5 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-close-to-65-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-saskatchewan.html>

⁶⁴⁶² Government of Canada Invests Close to \$6.5 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-close-to-65-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-saskatchewan.html>

⁶⁴⁶³ Support for testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement (Ottawa) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/06/support-testing-and-contact-tracing-through-safe-restart-agreement>

agreement helps expand the capacity of healthcare systems, secure personal protective equipment, and helps protect the most vulnerable communities across Canada.⁶⁴⁶⁴

On 14 April 2021, Infrastructure Canada announced a CAD150 million investment in better ventilation in public buildings to help reduce possible aerosol transmission of COVID-19.⁶⁴⁶⁵ The project aims to “monitor, and improve indoor air quality and ventilation, including upgrades or conversions of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as community-based solutions in Indigenous communities.”⁶⁴⁶⁶

On 14 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD16 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Alberta.⁶⁴⁶⁷ Canada invested in the creation of an eHealth strategy that includes virtual care, expanded access to health records, and developed a privacy and security framework needed to deliver health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁶⁸

On 16 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD46 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Ontario.⁶⁴⁶⁹ Canada aims to use this investment to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁷⁰

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry announced a CAD59.2 million investment in the University of Saskatchewan’s Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization’s for further development and manufacture of bio-solutions such as vaccines and therapeutics.⁶⁴⁷¹ The proposed investment would allow researchers to handle all the disease-causing pathogens in the world.⁶⁴⁷²

On 23 April 2021, Public Services and Procurement Canada announced that Canada has secured COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer for 2022 and 2023 with the possibility to extend current contracts

⁶⁴⁶⁴ Support for testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement (Ottawa) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/06/support-testing-and-contact-tracing-through-safe-restart-agreement>

⁶⁴⁶⁵ Government of Canada investing an additional \$150 million in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-investing-an-additional-150-million-in-better-ventilation-for-schools-hospitals-and-other-public-buildings.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁶ Government of Canada investing an additional \$150 million in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-investing-an-additional-150-million-in-better-ventilation-for-schools-hospitals-and-other-public-buildings.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁷ Government of Canada Invests nearly \$16 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Alberta (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-nearly-16-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-alberta.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁸ Government of Canada Invests nearly \$16 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Alberta (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-nearly-16-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-alberta.html>

⁶⁴⁶⁹ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁰ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁴⁷¹ Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

⁶⁴⁷² Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

into 2024.⁶⁴⁷³ Canada has now secured 65 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with access to up to 120 million doses.⁶⁴⁷⁴ This new procurement is in addition to the current 48 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Canada secured in late 2020.⁶⁴⁷⁵

On 26 April 2021, Public Safety Canada announced the deployment of federal health human resources, Canadian Armed forces, and the Canadian Red Cross as well as transport medical staff from across Canada to support the hardest hit Ontario medical facilities.⁶⁴⁷⁶

On 27 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada announced CAD10 million in funding for humanitarian assistance to the Canadian Red Cross to support the Indian Red Cross Society's response to the rising cases in India.⁶⁴⁷⁷ The investment will allow for the purchase of medical supplies, as well as supporting blood and ambulance services.⁶⁴⁷⁸

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD 64 million to launch the Immunization Partnership Fund.⁶⁴⁷⁹ The project aims to build the capacity of healthcare providers as vaccinator providers.⁶⁴⁸⁰ CAD32.25 million is allocated for community-led projects, while additional funding is earmarked to support electronic vaccination registries to help monitor vaccine uptake.⁶⁴⁸¹

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD2.25 million through the Immunization Partnership Fund for two projects that are designed to support vaccination efforts.⁶⁴⁸² The first project, run through the University of Alberta, will address misinformation about the vaccine, while the second project, run through the University of Toronto,

⁶⁴⁷³ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁴ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁵ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁶ Government of Canada assists Ontario with COVID-19 response (Ottawa) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-assists-ontario-with-covid-19-response.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁷ Canada announces funding support in response to COVID-19 in India (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-announces-funding-support-in-response-to-covid-19-in-india.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁸ Canada announces funding support in response to COVID-19 in India (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-announces-funding-support-in-response-to-covid-19-in-india.html>

⁶⁴⁷⁹ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁰ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

⁶⁴⁸¹ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

⁶⁴⁸² The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

will address fears of needles and vaccines.⁶⁴⁸³ Both projects will aim to support Canada's research into barriers that Canadians face in getting vaccinated.⁶⁴⁸⁴

On 5 May 2021, on the fringes of the G7 summit in London, Canada and India met virtually and discussed the elevated situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in India.⁶⁴⁸⁵ It was finalized that a Canadian Armed Forces aircraft will depart on Wednesday carrying critical medication and ventilators to help support India's battle against the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This consignment will include 25,000 vials of the anti-viral remdesivir as well as 50 ventilators.⁶⁴⁸⁶

On 7 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced additional resources for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions through the "Access to COVID-19 Tools" (ACT) Accelerator under the auspices of UNICEF.⁶⁴⁸⁷ The CAD375 million investment will help with the development, production, and supply chain logistics for low- and middle-income countries.⁶⁴⁸⁸ Additional support includes capacity building for COVID-19 testing around the world.⁶⁴⁸⁹

On 18 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD5 million in support of a Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Program through the World Bank.⁶⁴⁹⁰ The investment will help with regional capacity for disease and epidemic preparedness in West Africa and is intended to provide immediate relief to the region during COVID-19.⁶⁴⁹¹

On 27 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with premiers across Canada to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁴⁹² The Prime Minister announced land border restrictions would be extended to 21

⁶⁴⁸³ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁴ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁵ Canada sending COVID-19 relief supplies to India (New Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/canada-sending-covid-19-relief-supplies-to-india-101620235238135.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁶ Canada sending COVID-19 relief supplies to India (New Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/canada-sending-covid-19-relief-supplies-to-india-101620235238135.html>

⁶⁴⁸⁷ Canada becomes first country to support COVID-19 therapeutics via new UNICEF fund, Prime Minister of Canada (New York) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/canada-becomes-first-country-support-covid-19-therapeutics-new-unicef-fund>

⁶⁴⁸⁸ Prime Minister announces additional support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 4 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/07/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-equitable-access-new>

⁶⁴⁸⁹ Prime Minister announces additional support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 4 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/07/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-equitable-access-new>

⁶⁴⁹⁰ Prime Minister Trudeau announces additional support for hard-hit African economies, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/18/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-additional-support-hard-hit-african>

⁶⁴⁹¹ Prime Minister Trudeau announces additional support for hard-hit African economies, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/18/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-additional-support-hard-hit-african>

⁶⁴⁹² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds 31st call with premiers on COVID-19 response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/05/27/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-holds-31st-call-premiers-covid-19-response>

June 2021, and closed airports to flights from India and Pakistan until further notice due to the rapid spread of the virus in the region.⁶⁴⁹³

On 12 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau released a joint statement alongside the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron on the margins of the G7 summit.⁶⁴⁹⁴ The released statement reaffirmed Canada's commitment to multilateral cooperation with developing countries through donating vaccines to the COVAX program.⁶⁴⁹⁵ Additional resources and information will be made available at the France-Canada Council of Ministers.⁶⁴⁹⁶

On 5 July 2021, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, announced funding for three new community-led projects to increase the number of vaccinated people across the country.⁶⁴⁹⁷ The Indigenous Primary Health Care Council, University Health Network, and the Women's College Hospital will receive funding to educate and build the capacity of non-physician health care practitioners to promote vaccines within their communities.⁶⁴⁹⁸

On 12 July 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced funding for five new community-led projects to increase the number of vaccinated people across the country.⁶⁴⁹⁹ The African Arts & Culture Community Contributor Society, the Mainline a program of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services Inc., Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre will all receive increased funding to provide culturally resonant COVID-19 support to communities in need.⁶⁵⁰⁰

⁶⁴⁹³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds 31st call with premiers on COVID-19 response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/05/27/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-holds-31st-call-premiers-covid-19-response>

⁶⁴⁹⁴ Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/06/12/joint-statement-prime-minister-canada-justin-trudeau-and-president>

⁶⁴⁹⁵ Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/06/12/joint-statement-prime-minister-canada-justin-trudeau-and-president>

⁶⁴⁹⁶ Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/06/12/joint-statement-prime-minister-canada-justin-trudeau-and-president>

⁶⁴⁹⁷ Government of Canada funds three new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-three-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁹⁸ Government of Canada funds three new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-three-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

⁶⁴⁹⁹ Government of Canada funds five new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2021. Access Date 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-five-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁰ Government of Canada funds five new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2021. Access Date 24 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-five-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada.html>

On 27 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada had received 66 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.⁶⁵⁰¹ The supply total is now enough to vaccinate every eligible Canadian two months ahead of the scheduled September goal set out by the government in late 2020.⁶⁵⁰² The Prime Minister also noted that Canada remains a global leader in vaccinations with 80 per cent of Canadians having already received their first dose and 64 per cent fully vaccinated.⁶⁵⁰³

On 27 July 2021, the Government of Canada announced a new program and funding for two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth.⁶⁵⁰⁴ BGC Canada (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada) will receive CAD500,000 to promote the benefits of vaccinating against COVID-19.⁶⁵⁰⁵ The Minister of Health also announced that “the Canada Safety Council will receive up to CAD220,000 to create a COVID-19 vaccine education and awareness program to be delivered in schools.”⁶⁵⁰⁶

On 10 August 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced a new agreement with Moderna Inc. to build an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in Canada.⁶⁵⁰⁷ The new facility will allow Canada to boost research, and innovation, be more prepared for future pandemics, and will help fight the long-term fight against COVID-19.⁶⁵⁰⁸

On 12 August 2021, the Public Health Agency announced new funding for research into possible and rare instances of adverse effects from COVID-19 vaccinations.⁶⁵⁰⁹ The Canadian Immunization

⁶⁵⁰¹ Canada reaches major vaccine campaign milestone, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 Jul 2021. Access Date 28 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/27/canada-reaches-major-vaccine-campaign-milestone>

⁶⁵⁰² Canada reaches major vaccine campaign milestone, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 Jul 2021. Access Date 28 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/27/canada-reaches-major-vaccine-campaign-milestone>

⁶⁵⁰³ Canada reaches major vaccine campaign milestone, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 Jul 2021. Access Date 28 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/27/canada-reaches-major-vaccine-campaign-milestone>

⁶⁵⁰⁴ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-youth.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁵ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-youth.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁶ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in youth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-covid-19-vaccination-in-youth.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁷ Government of Canada announces agreement with leading COVID-19 vaccine developer Moderna, Inc. to build mRNA vaccine facility in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-leading-covid-19-vaccine-developer-moderna-inc-to-build-mrna-vaccine-facility-in-canada.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁸ Government of Canada announces agreement with leading COVID-19 vaccine developer Moderna, Inc. to build mRNA vaccine facility in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-leading-covid-19-vaccine-developer-moderna-inc-to-build-mrna-vaccine-facility-in-canada.html>

⁶⁵⁰⁹ Government of Canada funds research on responding to possible adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-funds-research-on-responding-to-possible-adverse-events-following-covid-19-vaccination0.html>

Research Network, housed at Dalhousie University will receive CAD800,000 to further research into identification and response to adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination.⁶⁵¹⁰

On 13 August 2021, the Government of Canada negotiated an additional agreement with Moderna Inc. for additional vaccine supply beyond 2021.⁶⁵¹¹ The Government of Canada announced that it will guarantee access to 40 million additional doses, with the option of 65 million more.⁶⁵¹² The agreement also includes access to vaccine adaptations based on the variant situation in Canada in future.⁶⁵¹³

On 13 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario.⁶⁵¹⁴ The new sites will allow people who have COVID-19 or those who have been exposed to it isolate themselves in safe, and reliable accommodations to keep themselves and their communities safe.⁶⁵¹⁵ The additional unspecified amount of funding will go to several counties and regions across Ontario.⁶⁵¹⁶

Canada has taken strong action to fully advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response. This has been demonstrated when Canada enacted the Quarantine Act, contributed to the COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and invested in science and technology to speed up vaccine development. Furthermore, Canada made it vital for passengers to undergo COVID-19 tests for detection.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rabul Pallan

⁶⁵¹⁰ Government of Canada funds research on responding to possible adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-funds-research-on-responding-to-possible-adverse-events-following-covid-19-vaccination0.html>

⁶⁵¹¹ Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-negotiates-additional-agreement-with-moderna-for-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁵¹² Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-negotiates-additional-agreement-with-moderna-for-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁵¹³ Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-negotiates-additional-agreement-with-moderna-for-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁶⁵¹⁴ Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-covid-19-safe-voluntary-isolation-sites-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁵¹⁵ Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-covid-19-safe-voluntary-isolation-sites-in-ontario.html>

⁶⁵¹⁶ Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-covid-19-safe-voluntary-isolation-sites-in-ontario.html>

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to combat COVID-19 by advancing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 22 November 2020, the National Health Commission released guidelines on the COVID-19 prevention and control work at blood donation stations.⁶⁵¹⁷ The guideline aims to ensure the safety of health workers and donors and to secure blood supplies for the fall and winter of 2021.⁶⁵¹⁸

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced their plans to ensure the livelihood of the most impoverished population under the pandemic.⁶⁵¹⁹ The plans include conducting a census of people in need of social relief, expanding the relief's coverage and increasing financial support.⁶⁵²⁰ China provided temporary subsidies for 7.46 million people in 2020, 56 per cent more than the same period in 2019.⁶⁵²¹

On 24 November 2020, the National Health Commission, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the regional government of Guangxi held the third China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Health Cooperation Forum in Nanning, China.⁶⁵²² The forum offered the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) to play a leading role in global health governance and aimed to improve the cooperation between China and ASEAN in disease prevention, control and responding to public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 epidemic.⁶⁵²³

On 26 November 2020, Head of the Elderly Health Department of the National Health Commission Wang Haidong announced that the commission now requires hospitals to accommodate nonusers of smartphones, especially senior citizens, while implementing high-tech epidemic prevention and control measures.⁶⁵²⁴ Hospitals should continue to offer elderly patients traditional face-to-face services including registration, payment and inquiries concerning test results.⁶⁵²⁵

⁶⁵¹⁷ China tightens COVID-19 prevention in blood donation, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/22/content_WS5fba2924c6d0f7257694055c.html

⁶⁵¹⁸ China tightens COVID-19 prevention in blood donation, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/22/content_WS5fba2924c6d0f7257694055c.html

⁶⁵¹⁹ China ensures basic needs of vulnerable group amid COVID-19 fallout, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/23/content_WS5fbb7949c6d0f72576940695.html

⁶⁵²⁰ China ensures basic needs of vulnerable group amid COVID-19 fallout, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/23/content_WS5fbb7949c6d0f72576940695.html

⁶⁵²¹ Measures to aid those affected by COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/24/content_WS5fbc6aac6d0f72576940742.html

⁶⁵²² China-ASEAN health cooperation forum opens in South China, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202011/25/content_WS5fbd9373c6d0f72576940872.html

⁶⁵²³ China-ASEAN health cooperation forum opens in South China, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202011/25/content_WS5fbd9373c6d0f72576940872.html

⁶⁵²⁴ Hospitals required to issue elderly-friendly epidemic policies, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-11/27/c_82286.htm

⁶⁵²⁵ Hospitals required to issue elderly-friendly epidemic policies, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-11/27/c_82286.htm

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Transport released guidelines on preventing the transmission of COVID-19 through imported cold-chain foods during transportation.⁶⁵²⁶ The guidelines include instructions on giving personnel training and protection and disinfection of vehicles.⁶⁵²⁷

On 1 December 2020, the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) provided China's private enterprises guidance and assistance on reinforcing the enterprises' commitment to the research and development of COVID-19 test kits.⁶⁵²⁸ The chairman of Liferiver, a Chinese diagnostics solution provider, Shao Junbin said that officials from the NMPA were available for consultations on the phone and online chat groups, which helped the company develop one of the first novel coronavirus detection reagent certified by the country as well as the WHO.⁶⁵²⁹

On 2 December 2020, State Council Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan announced that China has achieved major progress in the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines.⁶⁵³⁰ 14 vaccines have entered clinical trials, 5 of which entered phase-III clinical trials.⁶⁵³¹

On 7 December 2020, the National Health Commission released a notice that instructed all medical institutions at the grassroots level to test patients who have shown symptoms of fever for the novel coronavirus.⁶⁵³² The notice is aimed at improving the ability of medical institutions to detect the virus early.⁶⁵³³

On 8 December 2020, the National Health Commission and the UK Department of Health and Social Care held the fifth China-UK health dialogue online.⁶⁵³⁴ Representatives from both sides shared information on COVID-19 prevention and control, diagnosis and treatment, and global health cooperation.⁶⁵³⁵

⁶⁵²⁶ China vows to stem COVID-19 spread through imported foods, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/27/content_WS5fc100a3c6d0f72576940cdb.html

⁶⁵²⁷ China vows to stem COVID-19 spread through imported foods, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/27/content_WS5fc100a3c6d0f72576940cdb.html

⁶⁵²⁸ Regulator's support energizes test kit makers to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/01/content_WS5fc59b0dc6d0f72576940f8c.html

⁶⁵²⁹ Regulator's support energizes test kit makers to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/01/content_WS5fc59b0dc6d0f72576940f8c.html

⁶⁵³⁰ Vice-premier underlines progress in COVID-19 vaccine development, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202012/03/content_WS5fc81dc1c6d0f725769412a2.html

⁶⁵³¹ Vice-premier underlines progress in COVID-19 vaccine development, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202012/03/content_WS5fc81dc1c6d0f725769412a2.html

⁶⁵³² Grassroots health centers told to conduct virus tests, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/09/content_WS5fd00c5fc6d0f7257694192a.html

⁶⁵³³ Grassroots health centers told to conduct virus tests, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/09/content_WS5fd00c5fc6d0f7257694192a.html

⁶⁵³⁴ China, UK seek closer health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/11/c_82422.htm

⁶⁵³⁵ China, UK seek closer health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/11/c_82422.htm

On 8 December 2020, China delivered the second batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid, including 130,000 N95 masks, to the Arab League based in Cairo, Egypt.⁶⁵³⁶ China has sent the Arab countries more than 1 million testing kits and over 18 million masks, and dispatched medical teams to eight Arab countries.⁶⁵³⁷

On 9 December 2020, the State Council outlined a number of measures to support the growth of the personal insurance sector to address the growing demand for healthcare, senior care and social security.⁶⁵³⁸ Measures included offering insurers incentives to develop products that suit seniors' demands and financial resources, incorporating treatment costs that lie outside the basic medical insurance in the government's coverage.⁶⁵³⁹

On 11 December 2020, China donated medical supplies worth RMB2 million to Myanmar to fight against COVID-19.⁶⁵⁴⁰ The supplies included 30,000 personal protective equipment, 30,000 isolation gowns, 42,000 N95 masks and 150,000 surgical masks.⁶⁵⁴¹

On 15 December 2020, China held a ceremony for the China-aided future headquarters of Africa CDC project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁶⁵⁴² The ceremony gathered senior officials from the AU Commission and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representatives of various African countries, diplomats from the Chinese mission to the AU, and high-level dignitaries. Head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union Liu Yuxi affirmed that China "will continue to support the African Union's Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak and Africa's efforts to build stronger public health prevention and control systems."⁶⁵⁴³ He also stressed that China will try to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and accessible and affordable for African countries.⁶⁵⁴⁴

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission donated medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest referral hospital, the Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals.⁶⁵⁴⁵ The donated materials included

⁶⁵³⁶ China delivers 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Arab League, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Cairo) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/09/c_82395.htm

⁶⁵³⁷ China delivers 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Arab League, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Cairo) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/09/c_82395.htm

⁶⁵³⁸ State Council urges more personal health insurance, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202012/15/content_WS5fd80804c6d0f72576941e1a.html

⁶⁵³⁹ State Council urges more personal health insurance, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202012/15/content_WS5fd80804c6d0f72576941e1a.html

⁶⁵⁴⁰ China donates more medical supplies for Myanmar's fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Yangon) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/11/content_WS5fd368e2c6d0f72576941bea.html

⁶⁵⁴¹ China donates more medical supplies for Myanmar's fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Yangon) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/11/content_WS5fd368e2c6d0f72576941bea.html

⁶⁵⁴² China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁶⁵⁴³ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁶⁵⁴⁴ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁶⁵⁴⁵ China donates medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest hospital, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/16/content_WS5fd958f1c6d0f72576941f88.html

ventilators, blood oxygen saturation monitors, electrocardiographs, oxygen machines, among other equipment.⁶⁵⁴⁶

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued a set of standards and specifications for promoting the application of information technology in the public health sector.⁶⁵⁴⁷ The standards aimed to improve the country's emergency response mechanism for major epidemics.⁶⁵⁴⁸

On 15 December 2020, Ambassador to South Sudan Hua Ning lauded the eighth batch of the medical team from China to help poor communities in South Sudan.⁶⁵⁴⁹ Chinese medical doctors have offered free treatment to more than 2,000 people residing along the 392 km Juba-Terekeka-Yirol-Rumbek road in South Sudan.⁶⁵⁵⁰

On 16 December 2020, the Civil Aviation Administration of China announced new COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights.⁶⁵⁵¹ Flights will be suspended for two weeks instead of one week if the number of passengers who test positive for COVID-19 reaches five.⁶⁵⁵²

On 21 December 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention implemented strict measures to prevent COVID-19 infections via cold-chain and frozen foods.⁶⁵⁵³ The measures include strict testing and disinfection at customs, protection and regular nucleic acid testing for the workers, and the inoculation of high-risk groups.⁶⁵⁵⁴

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a plant for manufacturing an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.⁶⁵⁵⁵ China expected the facility to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase.⁶⁵⁵⁶

⁶⁵⁴⁶ China donates medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest hospital, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202012/16/content_WS5fd958f1c6d0f72576941f88.html

⁶⁵⁴⁷ China to promote IT application in public health, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/15/content_WS5fd8b522c6d0f72576941f16.html

⁶⁵⁴⁸ China to promote IT application in public health, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/15/content_WS5fd8b522c6d0f72576941f16.html

⁶⁵⁴⁹ Chinese doctors treat over 2,000 people in South Sudan, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Juba) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/16/c_82460.htm

⁶⁵⁵⁰ Chinese doctors treat over 2,000 people in South Sudan, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Juba) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/16/c_82460.htm

⁶⁵⁵¹ China tightens COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/16/content_WS5fd9f2f5c6d0f72576942004.html

⁶⁵⁵² China tightens COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/16/content_WS5fd9f2f5c6d0f72576942004.html

⁶⁵⁵³ China steps up prevention of COVID-19 via cold chain, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0880dc6d0f725769423ec.html

⁶⁵⁵⁴ China steps up prevention of COVID-19 via cold chain, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0880dc6d0f725769423ec.html

⁶⁵⁵⁵ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, People's Republic of China Government (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

On 30 December 2020, Premier Li Keqiang announced that China will step up its epidemic prevention and control during the Spring Festival travel rush and strengthen emergency response in the State Council executive meeting.⁶⁵⁵⁷

On 31 December 2020, the National Health Commission announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to all its citizens.⁶⁵⁵⁸ It will vaccinate senior citizens, people with underlying conditions, and the general public in an orderly manner. China also promised to provide the vaccines to the world at a fair and reasonable price.⁶⁵⁵⁹

On 31 December 2020, China and Egypt signed a letter of intent for cooperation on anti-coronavirus vaccines in Cairo, Egypt.⁶⁵⁶⁰ The countries signed this letter after Egypt received a batch of COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese drugmaker Sinopharm from China in December 2020.⁶⁵⁶¹

On 5 January 2021, the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19 ordered the strict inspection of vaccine quality, safety and smooth cold-chain transportation, and timely and accurate delivery of vaccines.⁶⁵⁶² The Chinese National Medical Products Administration also established a traceability information system for the management of approved vaccines.⁶⁵⁶³

On 7 January 2021, China donated medical equipment to Zambia to tackle the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁵⁶⁴ The donated equipment includes ventilators, oxygen ventilators and other medical equipment.⁶⁵⁶⁵ China also organized a medical team to help in hospitals in Zambia for a period of one year.⁶⁵⁶⁶

⁶⁵⁵⁶ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, People's Republic of China Government (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

⁶⁵⁵⁷ China strengthens epidemic preparedness and response for Spring Festival to ensure safe travels, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202012/30/content_WS5fec7b86c6d0f72576942be2.html

⁶⁵⁵⁸ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁶⁵⁵⁹ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁶⁵⁶⁰ 2020 witnesses growing cooperation between Egypt, China in fighting COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/01/content_WS5fef1853c6d0f72576943134.html

⁶⁵⁶¹ 2020 witnesses growing cooperation between Egypt, China in fighting COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/01/content_WS5fef1853c6d0f72576943134.html

⁶⁵⁶² China pledges safety, effectiveness as vaccination to be carried out nationwide, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/05/c_82654.htm

⁶⁵⁶³ China pledges safety, effectiveness as vaccination to be carried out nationwide, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/05/c_82654.htm

⁶⁵⁶⁴ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

⁶⁵⁶⁵ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

⁶⁵⁶⁶ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

On 9 January 2021, deputy head of China's National Health Commission Zeng Yixin announced that China and WHO have reached a consensus on specific arrangements of the investigation of the origin of COVID-19.⁶⁵⁶⁷ Chinese experts will go to Wuhan to conduct the investigation once the WHO experts completed their procedures and finalized the schedule.⁶⁵⁶⁸

On 9 January 2021, Deputy Head Yixin announced that China has inoculated a total of over 9 million doses since 15 December 2020.⁶⁵⁶⁹ A total of 25,392 vaccination sites were available in the country.⁶⁵⁷⁰

On 20 January 2021, China's National Health Commission announced that China has administered more than 15 million doses since December 2020.⁶⁵⁷¹

On 3 March 2021, the Spokesperson for the Fourth Session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Guo Weimin updated that more than 52 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across China as of the end of February.⁶⁵⁷²

On 12 January 2021, the Regional Health Commission announced that it will send a medical team from South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region to Niger and Comoros.⁶⁵⁷³ The team will provide medical services for local residents and assist with anti-epidemic measures during their 18-month stay.⁶⁵⁷⁴

On 12 January 2021, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China will stand firm with Myanmar to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic during a meeting with Myanmar President U Win Myint in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.⁶⁵⁷⁵ He also said that China had decided to provide an emergency aid of COVID-19 vaccines and carry out further vaccine cooperation with Myanmar.⁶⁵⁷⁶

⁶⁵⁶⁷ China ready to work with WHO investigation team on COVID-19: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff944a1c6d0f72576943851.html

⁶⁵⁶⁸ China ready to work with WHO investigation team on COVID-19: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff944a1c6d0f72576943851.html

⁶⁵⁶⁹ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁶⁵⁷⁰ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁶⁵⁷¹ Over 15m doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/20/content_WS60082c8cc6d0f7257694435e.html

⁶⁵⁷² Output of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to top 1 bln doses in 2021, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/04/c_83130.htm

⁶⁵⁷³ Chinese medical team to help fight COVID-19 in Niger, Comoros, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/12/content_WS5ffcf819c6d0f72576943a7d.html

⁶⁵⁷⁴ Chinese medical team to help fight COVID-19 in Niger, Comoros, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/12/content_WS5ffcf819c6d0f72576943a7d.html

⁶⁵⁷⁵ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

⁶⁵⁷⁶ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

China also supported the Myanmar government's efforts in pursuing national reconciliation and will continue to provide assistance within its capacity.⁶⁵⁷⁷

On 13 January 2021, a spokesperson of the Commission's Disease Prevention and Control Bureau Wang Bin stated that China was fine-tuning its regular COVID-19 control policies to stem the coronavirus's faster spread in winter.⁶⁵⁷⁸ The new policies will required overseas travelers to present certificates of both negative nucleic acid test results and negative IgM antibody test results before boarding.⁶⁵⁷⁹

On 13 January 2021, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated that a WHO team in China is working with producers of the Chinese Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines for potential emergency use listings.⁶⁵⁸⁰

On 20 January 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention deposited a new COVID-19 variant detected in South Africa.⁶⁵⁸¹ It shared the information with research institutes and sci-tech resource sharing platforms in the country which would support the launch of scientific research, assessment of existing diagnostic reagents, vaccine research and development, and adjustment to epidemic prevention and control measures.⁶⁵⁸²

On 21 January 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Iraq delivered a donation to Baghdad, Iraq.⁶⁵⁸³ The donation includes 56 ambulances with their spare parts, 266 generators, and motorcycles, computers, laptops, printers, etc.⁶⁵⁸⁴

On 22 January 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Yang Wanming announced that China will offer aid to the Brazilian state of Amazonas to help overcome the health crisis of treating patients with COVID-19 in a video conference with the governor of Amazonas Wilson Lima.⁶⁵⁸⁵ The Chinese government and some Chinese enterprises will donate 4,300 kilograms of oxygen, 25 oxygen generators, 360,000 masks and other supplies to Amazonas.⁶⁵⁸⁶

⁶⁵⁷⁷ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

⁶⁵⁷⁸ China making adjustments to control COVID-19 in winter, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/14/c_82753.htm

⁶⁵⁷⁹ China making adjustments to control COVID-19 in winter, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/14/c_82753.htm

⁶⁵⁸⁰ WHO team working with Chinese vaccine producers ahead of potential emergency use: WHO director-general, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Geneva) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/13/c_82739.htm

⁶⁵⁸¹ China CDC deposits, shares COVID-19 variant, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/20/c_82800.htm

⁶⁵⁸² China CDC deposits, shares COVID-19 variant, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/20/c_82800.htm

⁶⁵⁸³ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/22/content_WS600a3721c6d0f725769444fa.html

⁶⁵⁸⁴ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/22/content_WS600a3721c6d0f725769444fa.html

⁶⁵⁸⁵ China offers aid to Brazilian state Amazonas to overcome health crisis, People's Republic of China Government (Rio De Janeiro) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/24/content_WS600d2003c6d0f725769446b9.html

⁶⁵⁸⁶ China offers aid to Brazilian state Amazonas to overcome health crisis, People's Republic of China Government (Rio De Janeiro) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/24/content_WS600d2003c6d0f725769446b9.html

On 25 January 2021, China sent a China-Europe freight train to Poland carrying COVID-19 prevention supplies and other products including over 40,000 protective suits.⁶⁵⁸⁷ The train also contained production and living supplies that will be transferred to Hamburg, Germany.⁶⁵⁸⁸

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice that prohibited all offline training outside the campus in areas with medium and high COVID-19 infection risk.⁶⁵⁸⁹

On 29 January 2021, Minister of the National Health Commission Ma Xiaowei and the Health Minister of Indonesia Budi Gunadi Sadikin exchanged views regarding COVID-19 prevention and control and bilateral health collaboration during a video conference.⁶⁵⁹⁰ Minister Xiaowei proposed that the two countries strengthen health cooperation in all areas including prevention and control of infectious diseases.⁶⁵⁹¹ Experts from both countries also discussed mobilization and deployment of medical resources, strategies of epidemic prevention and control as well as COVID-19 vaccination.⁶⁵⁹²

On 1 February 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced that China donated COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan.⁶⁵⁹³ China was also providing vaccine aid to 13 developing countries, including Brunei, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Palestine, Belarus, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Equatorial Guinea, with 38 more developing countries in need.⁶⁵⁹⁴ The spokesman added that China has supported its companies in conducting joint research and production of vaccines with foreign partners and already exported Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines to countries including the UAE, Morocco, Indonesia, Turkey, Brazil, and Chile.⁶⁵⁹⁵

On 4 February 2021, the Chinese Embassy announced that the Chinese government donated 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq.⁶⁵⁹⁶

On 5 February 2021, China provided the first batch of vaccine aid for Nepal.⁶⁵⁹⁷ Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Nepali Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.⁶⁵⁹⁸

⁶⁵⁸⁷ China-Europe freight train transports anti-COVID-19 supplies to Poland, People's Republic of China Government (Hangzhou) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/26/content_WS600f7c58c6d0f7257694485f.html

⁶⁵⁸⁸ China-Europe freight train transports anti-COVID-19 supplies to Poland, People's Republic of China Government (Hangzhou) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/26/content_WS600f7c58c6d0f7257694485f.html

⁶⁵⁸⁹ China bans all offline after-school training in COVID-19 risk areas, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/28/content_WS6012bcb9c6d0f72576944b51.html

⁶⁵⁹⁰ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁶⁵⁹¹ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁶⁵⁹² China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁶⁵⁹³ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁶⁵⁹⁴ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁶⁵⁹⁵ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁶⁵⁹⁶ China donates 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/05/content_WS601c9d5ec6d0f72576945267.html

On 8 February 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang announced that China will provide a batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt and the Arab League.⁶⁵⁹⁹ China will also facilitate Egypt's procurement of COVID-19 vaccines produced by Chinese companies.⁶⁶⁰⁰

On 10 February 2021, China provided a batch of emergency vaccine aid and facilitated the purchase of vaccines for Algeria to meet its urgent needs. Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum.⁶⁶⁰¹

On February 10 2021, China provided a batch of COVID-19 vaccines and financial assistance to Ethiopia.⁶⁶⁰² Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Demeke Mekonnen, Ethiopia's deputy prime minister and foreign minister.⁶⁶⁰³

On 17 February 2021, Minister Yi made four proposals for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic at a virtual open briefing of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) related to the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Delegates of the UNSC members and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the virtual meeting.⁶⁶⁰⁴ The four proposals aim to achieve the following: adhering to putting people first and enhancing global cooperation in the fight against COVID-19; fully implementing the UNSC resolutions and creating a favorable environment for fighting the pandemic; solving the vaccine deficit and increasing assistance to developing countries; and strengthening coordination and giving full play to the role of the United Nations system.⁶⁶⁰⁵

On 17 February 2021, Minister Yi announced China's decision to donate vaccines to UN peacekeepers at a Security Council meeting on COVID-19 vaccines.⁶⁶⁰⁶ On 15 March 2021, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun notified UN Secretary-General Antonio

⁶⁵⁹⁷ China to provide 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine aid for Nepal, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/06/content_WS601e0a62c6d0f7257694536d.html

⁶⁵⁹⁸ China to provide 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine aid for Nepal, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/06/content_WS601e0a62c6d0f7257694536d.html

⁶⁵⁹⁹ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁶⁶⁰⁰ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁶⁶⁰¹ China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Algeria, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/12/content_WS60264404c6d0719374af8c6c.html

⁶⁶⁰² China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/12/content_WS6026452cc6d0719374af8c70.html

⁶⁶⁰³ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁶⁶⁰⁴ State councilor makes four proposals for combating pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/18/content_WS602db810c6d0719374af8f71.html

⁶⁶⁰⁵ State councilor makes four proposals for combating pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/18/content_WS602db810c6d0719374af8f71.html

⁶⁶⁰⁶ China to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers, People's Republic of China Government (United Nations) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/16/content_WS604fe56cc6d0719374afae04.html

Guterres of China's intention to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers.⁶⁶⁰⁷

On 18 February 2021, Ambassador to Namibia Zhang Yiming announced that the Chinese government decided to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines at Namibia's request.⁶⁶⁰⁸ Namibia was also listed among the priority countries for purchasing Chinese vaccines.⁶⁶⁰⁹

On 19 February 2021, China provided COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus.⁶⁶¹⁰ China has provided the vaccines in support of the important consensus reached during a recent telephone conversation between the two countries.⁶⁶¹¹

On 22 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccine aid to 19 more African countries.⁶⁶¹²

On 23 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries and providing free vaccine aid to 53 countries in need.⁶⁶¹³ Vaccine aid from China has arrived in Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Mongolia and Belarus, and that vaccine exports from China have arrived in Serbia, Hungary, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Morocco, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, and Turkey.⁶⁶¹⁴

On 24 February 2021, Ambassador to Zimbabwe Guo Shaochun announced that China will donate another batch of 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe.⁶⁶¹⁵

On 24 February 2021, Minister Yi announced in a phone conversation with Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena that China is ready to enhance anti-epidemic cooperation with Sri Lanka by continuing to provide vaccine assistance to the country.⁶⁶¹⁶

⁶⁶⁰⁷ China to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers, People's Republic of China Government (United Nations) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/16/content_WS604fe56cc6d0719374afae04.html

⁶⁶⁰⁸ China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, People's Republic of China Government (Windhoek) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁶⁶⁰⁹ China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, People's Republic of China Government (Windhoek) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁶⁶¹⁰ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, People's Republic of China Government (Minsk) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁶⁶¹¹ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, People's Republic of China Government (Minsk) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁶⁶¹² China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 19 more African countries: FM spokesperson, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/22/content_WS60339952c6d0719374af9462.html

⁶⁶¹³ China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/23/content_WS6034f491c6d0719374af9552.html

⁶⁶¹⁴ China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/23/content_WS6034f491c6d0719374af9552.html

⁶⁶¹⁵ China to donate second batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/25/content_WS6036db13c6d0719374af9879.html

On 25 February 2021, China donated 200,000 doses of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone.⁶⁶¹⁷ It supported the Sierra Leone government's plan to vaccinate about 1.6 million people.⁶⁶¹⁸

On February 28 2021, China donated a batch of COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines.⁶⁶¹⁹ It was the first COVID-19 vaccine to reach the Philippines.⁶⁶²⁰

On 5 March 2021, Minister Xiaowei met with Cuban Ambassador to China Carlos Miguel Pereira in Beijing, China and renewed a memorandum of understanding on health cooperation between the two countries' health authorities.⁶⁶²¹ In the meeting, Ambassador Ma expressed China's willingness to deepen bilateral cooperation and exchanges in both the COVID-19 fight and other health-related areas to contribute to building a global health community.⁶⁶²²

On 7 March 2021, Minister Yi revealed that China plans to set up vaccination stations in countries where conditions are allowed.⁶⁶²³ The country hoped to administer Chinese vaccines for compatriots in need from surrounding countries.⁶⁶²⁴

On 7 March 2021, China announced that it will launch a digital health certificate for eligible international travelers to facilitate the safe and smooth flow of people.⁶⁶²⁵

On 15 March 2021, Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission Li Bin said China was actively devising new policies concerning international travel.⁶⁶²⁶

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang announced that China will continue its rigorous research on COVID-19 and other major infectious diseases to better protect the long-term health and safety of the people in a meeting of the 13th National People's Congress in

⁶⁶¹⁶ China ready to help Sri Lanka defeat pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/25/content_WS6036ded7c6d0719374af987d.html

⁶⁶¹⁷ China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Freetown) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/26/c_83062.htm

⁶⁶¹⁸ China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Freetown) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/26/c_83062.htm

⁶⁶¹⁹ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Philippines, People's Republic of China Government (Manila) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁶⁶²⁰ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Philippines, People's Republic of China Government (Manila) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁶⁶²¹ China, Cuba to boost health exchanges, cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/12/c_83212.htm

⁶⁶²² China, Cuba to boost health exchanges, cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/12/c_83212.htm

⁶⁶²³ China to set up overseas vaccination stations, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/08/c_83164.htm

⁶⁶²⁴ China to set up overseas vaccination stations, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/08/c_83164.htm

⁶⁶²⁵ New international travel policies being formulated, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/16/c_83240.htm

⁶⁶²⁶ New international travel policies being formulated, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/16/c_83240.htm

Beijing, China.⁶⁶²⁷ The ministry will spearhead reforms that can alleviate scientists from heavy paperwork, as well as create an academic environment conducive for basic research.⁶⁶²⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Yi said that China and Poland had reached an important consensus on strengthening cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries and fighting the pandemic after a telephone conversation with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau.⁶⁶²⁹ He said that China will continue supporting the Polish government and people in their efforts to effectively keep the epidemic under control and ensure the normal operation of its economy and society.⁶⁶³⁰

On 9 March 2021, the 11th Chinese medical aid team headed towards Papua New Guinea to provide medical aid at Port Moresby General Hospital in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea for one year.⁶⁶³¹ The team will bring advanced domestic clinical diagnosis and treatment technology to the country, help fight COVID-19 and provide medical services for overseas Chinese residents.⁶⁶³²

On 11 March 2021, Premier Keqiang said that China is open and cooperative about COVID-19 origin tracing, and will continue to work with the WHO in a press conference in Beijing, China.⁶⁶³³ China had maintained communication with the WHO and provided the WHO mission support during their work in China concerning the origins of the virus.⁶⁶³⁴

On 15 March 2021, Chief Engineer at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Tian Yulong announced that China will continue to export COVID-19 vaccines while ensuring domestic needs are met.⁶⁶³⁵ According to the Foreign Ministry, China has provided vaccine aid to more than 50 countries at the end of February 2021.⁶⁶³⁶

On 12 March 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian announced that China was willing to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to provide vaccines to athletes preparing

⁶⁶²⁷ Mechanism to be put in place supporting long-term infectious disease research, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/09/c_83183.htm

⁶⁶²⁸ Mechanism to be put in place supporting long-term infectious disease research, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/09/c_83183.htm

⁶⁶²⁹ FM calls for expanding cooperation with Poland in post-pandemic era, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202103/10/content_WS60480753c6d0719374afa7ae.html

⁶⁶³⁰ FM calls for expanding cooperation with Poland in post-pandemic era, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202103/10/content_WS60480753c6d0719374afa7ae.html

⁶⁶³¹ Fresh medical team heads for Papua New Guinea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chongqing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/11/c_83199.htm

⁶⁶³² Fresh medical team heads for Papua New Guinea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chongqing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/11/c_83199.htm

⁶⁶³³ Premier Li: China open and cooperative on COVID-19 origin tracing, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/video/202103/11/content_WS6049f54cc6d0719374afaa2e.html

⁶⁶³⁴ Premier Li: China to continue working with WHO on virus source tracing, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/11/content_WS6049e041c6d0719374afa9aa.html

⁶⁶³⁵ China to continue COVID-19 vaccine aid, export, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/15/content_WS604f2042c6d0719374afadd3.html

⁶⁶³⁶ China to continue COVID-19 vaccine aid, export, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/15/content_WS604f2042c6d0719374afadd3.html

to participate in the Olympic Games.⁶⁶³⁷ IOC president Thomas Bach said that the IOC has received an offer from the Chinese Olympic Committee to make vaccine doses available for participants in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and Beijing Winter Games in 2022.⁶⁶³⁸

On 17 March 2021, a Chinese medical aid team set off to the Union of Comoros for a three-month anti-epidemic assistance mission.⁶⁶³⁹ The team consists of 12 medical workers in critical care medicine, respiration, public health, laboratory testing, traditional Chinese medicine and other fields.⁶⁶⁴⁰ China also donated a batch of anti-epidemic materials worth RMB2 million to Comoros, including masks, protective suits and testing kits.⁶⁶⁴¹

On 23 March 2021, China announced an extension of the tax-relief policies launched in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁴² The Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration stated that the extension aims to further support the prevention and control of the epidemic, and to help companies tide over difficulties and pursue growth.⁶⁶⁴³

On 29 March 2021, a senior official with the social development department of the National Development and Reform Commission Sun Zhicheng announced that China planned to build a major center at the national level focusing on the use of traditional Chinese medicine in epidemic prevention and treatment.⁶⁶⁴⁴ The centre will be building a talent pool, formulating technical protocols for epidemic prevention and treatment, and conducting traditional Chinese medicine therapy research and stockpiling relevant medical supplies.⁶⁶⁴⁵ The center will help improve the country's capacity of rapid response, prevention, control and treatment in the face of new or emerging infectious diseases and other major public health events by using traditional Chinese medicine.⁶⁶⁴⁶

On 1 April 2021, China provided the fourth batch of humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19 to Kyrgyzstan.⁶⁶⁴⁷ The aid included artificial lung ventilation devices, masks, and medical protective

⁶⁶³⁷ China to provide vaccines to Olympic Games athletes, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/15/c_83222.htm

⁶⁶³⁸ China to provide vaccines to Olympic Games athletes, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/15/c_83222.htm

⁶⁶³⁹ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁶⁶⁴⁰ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁶⁶⁴¹ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁶⁶⁴² China extends COVID-19 tax-relief policies, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/23/content_WS6059e4c7c6d0719374afb417.html

⁶⁶⁴³ China extends COVID-19 tax-relief policies, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/23/content_WS6059e4c7c6d0719374afb417.html

⁶⁶⁴⁴ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁶⁶⁴⁵ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁶⁶⁴⁶ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁶⁶⁴⁷ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

suits.⁶⁶⁴⁸ The Chinese government has also provided Kyrgyzstan with COVID-19 vaccines and helped Kyrgyzstan carry out work on vaccination.⁶⁶⁴⁹

On 11 April 2021, China delivered a batch of Sinopharm vaccine to Cameroon as a gift of the two countries' friendly relationship.⁶⁶⁵⁰ It is the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arriving from outside the central African country since the outbreak in 2020.⁶⁶⁵¹

On 11 April 2021, an official with the National Health Commission Wu Liangyou said that China encouraged voluntary COVID-19 vaccinations, and had been working on ensuring all people eligible for vaccination have access to it.⁶⁶⁵² Another spokesperson Mi Feng also announced that China has accelerated COVID-19 vaccine rollouts among priority populations, as well as in key regions and cities.⁶⁶⁵³ Chief epidemiologist with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention Wu Zunyou urged people to strictly follow prevention measures, including wearing masks in public, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding mass gatherings.⁶⁶⁵⁴

On 13 April 2021, China donated a batch of vaccines to Mauritius to help boost the country's vaccination campaign against COVID-19.⁶⁶⁵⁵ Minister of Health and Wellness Kailesh Jagutpal and Charge d'Affaires and interim of the Chinese Embassy in Mauritius Gong Yufeng said that China has sent medical supplies and equipment to Mauritius through various channels and tried its best to assist amid the pandemic.⁶⁶⁵⁶

On 16 April 2021, Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Administration's transport department Shang Kejia, directed the public's attention to travel safety guidelines regarding the upcoming Labor Day holiday rush.⁶⁶⁵⁷ She advised travelers to pay attention to epidemic control measures at their

⁶⁶⁴⁸ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

⁶⁶⁴⁹ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

⁶⁶⁵⁰ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, People's Republic of China Government (Yaounde) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/12/content_WS6073b0bac6d0719374afc6e8.html

⁶⁶⁵¹ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, People's Republic of China Government (Yaounde) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/12/content_WS6073b0bac6d0719374afc6e8.html

⁶⁶⁵² China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁶⁶⁵³ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁶⁶⁵⁴ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁶⁶⁵⁵ Mauritius receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/14/content_WS60765858c6d0df57f98d7d4a.html

⁶⁶⁵⁶ Mauritius receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/14/content_WS60765858c6d0df57f98d7d4a.html

⁶⁶⁵⁷ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

destinations and avoid going to areas with medium and high risks.⁶⁶⁵⁸ She also suggested passengers use contact-free services to check-in and board planes.⁶⁶⁵⁹

On 22 April 2021, the National Health Commission and Germany's Federal Ministry of Health held the China-Germany health dialogue.⁶⁶⁶⁰ National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei announced that China is willing to strengthen all-round and multi-field health cooperation with Germany, promote communication and collaboration with the European Union and other regional platforms, maintain global health security and build a global health community for all.⁶⁶⁶¹

On 22 April 2021, the General Office of the State Council announced that China will establish a general support mechanism for covering outpatient medical bills under the employee basic medical insurance to ease people's medical burdens.⁶⁶⁶² The mechanism will cover the general outpatient medical expenses of some chronic and special diseases, as well as frequently occurring diseases and common illnesses, incurring severe health damage and heavy costs.⁶⁶⁶³

On 27 April 2021, Minister Yi hosted a video conference with foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to discuss further cooperation as South Asian countries face a new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁶⁴ They discussed efforts to consolidate anti-coronavirus cooperation including vaccine supply, to boost post-epidemic economic recovery, and to maintain a sound international environment for the development of all countries.⁶⁶⁶⁵ Minister Yi said that China is willing to promote vaccine cooperation through methods such as free aid, commercial procurement, and filling and production of vaccines.⁶⁶⁶⁶ He also stated that China is also willing to establish a China-South Asia emergency supplies reserve following friendly consultations with all parties.⁶⁶⁶⁷

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism stressed the stringent implementation of epidemic control measures at tourist sites nationwide ahead of the Labor Day holiday starting on

⁶⁶⁵⁸ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

⁶⁶⁵⁹ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

⁶⁶⁶⁰ China, Germany ready to further health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/26/c_83576.htm

⁶⁶⁶¹ China, Germany ready to further health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/26/c_83576.htm

⁶⁶⁶² China to improve employee basic medical insurance, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/23/c_83532.htm

⁶⁶⁶³ China to improve employee basic medical insurance, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/23/c_83532.htm

⁶⁶⁶⁴ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁶⁶⁶⁵ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁶⁶⁶⁶ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁶⁶⁶⁷ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

May 1.⁶⁶⁶⁸ It reminded tourist sites to limit the number of visitors in key areas such as core attractions and dining spaces, to optimize tour routes to prevent overcrowding, and to ensure tourists' compliance with COVID-19 containment measures covering transportation, accommodation, catering, shopping and other sectors.⁶⁶⁶⁹

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice requiring schools to keep anti-epidemic measures in place during the holiday.⁶⁶⁷⁰ Schools need to strengthen health guidance for outgoing students and staff and keep track of their health conditions.⁶⁶⁷¹

On 28 April 2021, China announced the establishment of a new central-level disease prevention and control agency, and appointed the vice-minister of the National Health Commission Wang Hesheng as the head of the agency.⁶⁶⁷² The agency is called the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control.⁶⁶⁷³ It will focus on strengthening disease surveillance and early warning capabilities, reforming the country's disease control system, help devise and implement virus-control measures against the disease, and improving treatment networks.⁶⁶⁷⁴

On 29 April 2021, China donated traditional medicine to Cambodia to help treat COVID-19 patients.⁶⁶⁷⁵ China donated 88,000 boxes of Lianhua Qingwen Capsules, which is a patented traditional Chinese medicine widely used in China to treat symptoms of COVID-19 patients.⁶⁶⁷⁶ The medicine was donated by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia through the Chinese embassy.⁶⁶⁷⁷

On 29 April 2021, senior official at the National Health Commission Wang Bin announced that China will continue to take strict measures to prevent imported COVID-19 infections via people or goods.⁶⁶⁷⁸ The health commission requires all inbound travelers to take nucleic acid tests during and

⁶⁶⁶⁸ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁶⁹ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁷⁰ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁷¹ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁶⁶⁷² New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁶⁶⁷³ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁶⁶⁷⁴ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁶⁶⁷⁵ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁶⁶⁷⁶ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁶⁶⁷⁷ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁶⁶⁷⁸ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

after the 14-day quarantine.⁶⁶⁷⁹ After the quarantine, travelers would have to do a seven-day home health monitoring, take necessary epidemic containment measures when going out and avoid large gatherings, and take nucleic acid tests at the end of their home health monitoring period and one week after.⁶⁶⁸⁰

On 30 April 2021, Minister Yi announced that China is ready to provide support and assistance to help India fight the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁸¹ China will aim to continue encourage and support Chinese enterprises to speed up production and provide India with medical supplies, to facilitate customs clearance and transportation of anti-virus materials purchased by India, and to organize health and infectious disease experts of the two countries to share experience and effective measures in overcoming the epidemic via video link.⁶⁶⁸²

On 4 May 2021, a team of Chinese medical experts and medical materials arrived in Lao capital Vientiane to assist Laos in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁸³ They were welcomed by The Lao Deputy Prime Minister Kikeo Khaykhamphithoune and Chinese Ambassador to Laos Jiang Zaidong.⁶⁶⁸⁴ The team includes experts in infection prevention and control, epidemics, intensive care, and laboratory testing, along with medical supplies, including COVID-19 testing kits, protective clothing, and face masks among others.⁶⁶⁸⁵ It will also help the Lao side in “upgrading the precaution and treatment scheme, improving the technical level and response capabilities, studying the trend of the COVID-19 epidemic” and making recommendations.⁶⁶⁸⁶

On 4 May 2021, China donated over 50,000 face masks to the University of Zambia, Zambia's biggest public university, to help the institution fight against COVID-19.⁶⁶⁸⁷ Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Li Jie added that Chinese enterprises in Zambia have also made donations to help the country deal with the pandemic.⁶⁶⁸⁸

⁶⁶⁷⁹ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

⁶⁶⁸⁰ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

⁶⁶⁸¹ China ready to offer support, assistance to help India fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202105/01/content_WS608cc9d3c6d0df57f98d8ed2.html

⁶⁶⁸² China ready to offer support, assistance to help India fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202105/01/content_WS608cc9d3c6d0df57f98d8ed2.html

⁶⁶⁸³ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁴ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁵ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁶ Chinese medical team arrives in Laos to help fight against COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Vientiane) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/05/content_WS60920e5fc6d0df57f98d90ed.html

⁶⁶⁸⁷ China donates 50,000 face masks to help Zambia’s university fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Lusaka) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202106/05/content_WS60bab223c6d0df57f98dabe9.html

⁶⁶⁸⁸ China donates 50,000 face masks to help Zambia’s university fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Lusaka) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202106/05/content_WS60bab223c6d0df57f98dabe9.html

On 9 May 2021, the Red Cross Society of China offered India “\$1 million in cash” assistance to help the country combat COVID-19.⁶⁶⁸⁹ The organization also donated a batch of anti-pandemic supplies to India, which included 100 oxygen concentrators, 20 non-invasive ventilators and 20 invasive ventilators.⁶⁶⁹⁰

On 11 May 2021, China donated oxygen cylinders to Nepal.⁶⁶⁹¹ China donated a second batch of oxygen cylinders on 16 May 2021.⁶⁶⁹² The Nepali Health Ministry will distribute them to large government-run hospitals in the Kathmandu Valley.⁶⁶⁹³

On 13 May 2021, China “inaugurated a national administration of disease prevention and control, with five major functions including formulating policies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases.”⁶⁶⁹⁴ The administration is a vice-ministerial level agency managed by the National Health Commission, and it will formulate policies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases and for public health supervision.⁶⁶⁹⁵ It will also be responsible for the supervision of public health and infectious disease prevention and control.⁶⁶⁹⁶

On 21 May 2021, the Ministry of Education “urged solid COVID-19 prevention and control measures to be taken during upcoming national exams and other school gatherings.”⁶⁶⁹⁷ It said that the number of people attending major gatherings should be limited, and education departments and universities should follow local vaccination policies and help teachers and students receive vaccines.⁶⁶⁹⁸

⁶⁶⁸⁹ China's Red Cross offers humanitarian support to India's COVID-19 fight, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/10/content_WS60988f30c6d0df57f98d9434.html

⁶⁶⁹⁰ China's Red Cross offers humanitarian support to India's COVID-19 fight, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/10/content_WS60988f30c6d0df57f98d9434.html

⁶⁶⁹¹ Nepal gets more China-donated oxygen cylinders amid oxygen crisis over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/16/content_WS60a10fd2c6d0df57f98d9953.html

⁶⁶⁹² Nepal gets more China-donated oxygen cylinders amid oxygen crisis over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/16/content_WS60a10fd2c6d0df57f98d9953.html

⁶⁶⁹³ Nepal gets more China-donated oxygen cylinders amid oxygen crisis over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/16/content_WS60a10fd2c6d0df57f98d9953.html

⁶⁶⁹⁴ China inaugurates national administration of disease prevention and control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/13/content_WS609cbd08c6d0df57f98d9723.html

⁶⁶⁹⁵ China inaugurates national administration of disease prevention and control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/13/content_WS609cbd08c6d0df57f98d9723.html

⁶⁶⁹⁶ China inaugurates national administration of disease prevention and control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/13/content_WS609cbd08c6d0df57f98d9723.html

⁶⁶⁹⁷ China's education ministry urges epidemic prevention in schools, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/22/content_WS60a86146c6d0df57f98d9e6f.html

⁶⁶⁹⁸ China's education ministry urges epidemic prevention in schools, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/22/content_WS60a86146c6d0df57f98d9e6f.html

On 25 May 2021, the Government of China donated a batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to Sri Lanka to assist the country in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁶⁹⁹ The vaccines arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport and were provided to Sri Lanka's Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi.⁶⁷⁰⁰

On 1 June 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, announced that “the first batch of Chinese vaccines supplied to COVAX officially rolled off the production line.”⁶⁷⁰¹ COVAX is a global vaccine initiative led by the World Health Organization aiming to ensure that developing countries have equal access to appropriate, safe and effective vaccines.⁶⁷⁰² Wang said that China “has always supported COVAX and has decided to provide 10 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to the COVAX cause.”⁶⁷⁰³

On 9 June 2021, Premier Li Keqiang decided on measures to deepen reform of the salary system at public hospitals at the State Council executive meeting.⁶⁷⁰⁴ He hoped to guarantee reasonable salaries for medical workers to ensure their enthusiasm in serving the people.⁶⁷⁰⁵

On 10 June 2021, an official with the National Health Commission Guo Yanhong, announced “that China has established a national supply network for COVID-19 convalescent plasma.”⁶⁷⁰⁶ He stated that the plasma, collected from COVID-19 patients who were recovering from the disease, had proven effective in treating severe COVID-19 patients.⁶⁷⁰⁷

On 12 June 2021, a researcher at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention Shao Yiming announced that researchers are conducting phase-1 and phase-2 clinical trials on a China-made inhaled COVID-19 vaccine.⁶⁷⁰⁸

⁶⁶⁹⁹ Sri Lanka receives another batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, People’s Republic of China Government (Colombo) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202105/27/content_WS60aef124c6d0df57f98da435.html

⁶⁷⁰⁰ Sri Lanka receives another batch of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, People’s Republic of China Government (Colombo) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202105/27/content_WS60aef124c6d0df57f98da435.html

⁶⁷⁰¹ China’s Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to COVAX in production, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202106/02/content_WS60b72f7dc6d0df57f98da9a0.html

⁶⁷⁰² China officially joins COVAX vaccine facility, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 October 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202010/10/content_WS5f81256ac6d0f7257693d42b.html

⁶⁷⁰³ China’s Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to COVAX in production, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202106/02/content_WS60b72f7dc6d0df57f98da9a0.html

⁶⁷⁰⁴ Premier Li urges guaranteeing medical workers’ salaries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202106/11/content_WS60c2b497c6d0df57f98db12a.html

⁶⁷⁰⁵ Premier Li urges guaranteeing medical workers’ salaries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202106/11/content_WS60c2b497c6d0df57f98db12a.html

⁶⁷⁰⁶ China establishes COVID-19 convalescent-plasma supply network, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/10/content_WS60c20770c6d0df57f98db0e5.html

⁶⁷⁰⁷ China establishes COVID-19 convalescent-plasma supply network, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/10/content_WS60c20770c6d0df57f98db0e5.html

⁶⁷⁰⁸ China’s nasal-spray COVID-19 vaccines undergoing clinical trials, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/12/content_WS60c3eb1fc6d0df57f98db203.html

On 16 June 2021, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued a guideline to give full play to the role of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in the prevention and treatment of new outbreaks of infectious diseases.⁶⁷⁰⁹ The National Health Commission will establish a coordination mechanism to dispatch the national TCM emergency medical team, which consists of the national TCM disease prevention and control group and the national TCM emergency medical rescue group.⁶⁷¹⁰

On 18 June 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that it will ensure more support for small businesses to sustain economic recovery after the COVID-19 outbreak.⁶⁷¹¹ Policies such as value-added tax reductions for small businesses, value-added tax rebate and special additional deduction of personal income tax will be sustained.⁶⁷¹²

On 2 July 2021, China donated protective equipment to Myanmar for the fight against COVID-19.⁶⁷¹³ “The donation includes 100,000 pieces of surgical masks, 29,760 pieces of N95 masks, 12,975 pieces of personal protective equipment and 10,000 pieces of medical gloves.”⁶⁷¹⁴

On 7 July 2021, the Chinese embassy in San Salvador, announced that “China will supply El Salvador with the fifth batch of vaccines developed by Chinese laboratory Sinovac against COVID-19.”⁶⁷¹⁵ The batch of vaccines consists of 1.5 million Sinovac vaccines.⁶⁷¹⁶

On 8 July 2021, official with the National Health Commission Xu Shuqiang announced that China will strive to build an integrated medical-service system that provides high-quality services and is efficient in resource allocation and medical-facility management.⁶⁷¹⁷ China will improve public-health prevention and treatment capabilities, facilitate the high-quality development of public hospitals, strengthen health services for key populations and promote the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine.⁶⁷¹⁸

On 12 July 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi pledged more COVID-19 vaccine shots to Nepal to fight against the pandemic as the country has purchased 4 million shots of China-made

⁶⁷⁰⁹ China to promote use of TCM in prevention, treatment of infectious disease outbreaks, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/16/content_WS60c9a08ec6d0df57f98db4c0.html

⁶⁷¹⁰ China to promote use of TCM in prevention, treatment of infectious disease outbreaks, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/16/content_WS60c9a08ec6d0df57f98db4c0.html

⁶⁷¹¹ Some COVID-19 levies going, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/19/content_WS60cd49f3c6d0df57f98db7cd.html

⁶⁷¹² Some COVID-19 levies going, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202106/19/content_WS60cd49f3c6d0df57f98db7cd.html

⁶⁷¹³ China donates more COVID-19 protective equipment to Myanmar, People’s Republic of China Government (Yangon) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/02/content_WS60deff48c6d0df57f98dc52a.html

⁶⁷¹⁴ China donates more COVID-19 protective equipment to Myanmar, People’s Republic of China Government (Yangon) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/02/content_WS60deff48c6d0df57f98dc52a.html

⁶⁷¹⁵ China to send fifth batch of COVID-19 vaccines to El Salvador, People’s Republic of China Government (San Salvador) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/07/content_WS60e50849c6d0df57f98dc833.html

⁶⁷¹⁶ China to send fifth batch of COVID-19 vaccines to El Salvador, People’s Republic of China Government (San Salvador) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202107/07/content_WS60e50849c6d0df57f98dc833.html

⁶⁷¹⁷ China to build quality, integrated medical system: health official, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-07/09/c_84128.htm

⁶⁷¹⁸ China to build quality, integrated medical system: health official, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-07/09/c_84128.htm

vaccine.⁶⁷¹⁹ “The Chinese ambassador noted that China has actively carried out international cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and is committed to ensuring accessibility and affordability of vaccines” in developing countries.⁶⁷²⁰

On 23 July 2021, Deputy Head of the National Health Commission Zeng Yixin urges the World Health Organization (WHO) to treat the novel coronavirus origin-tracing work as a scientific issue, get rid of political interference, and actively and prudently promote tracing work continuously in multiple countries and regions around the globe.⁶⁷²¹ Zeng said that it is important to conduct origin tracing of early cases, molecular epidemiology, and intermediary hosts in multiple countries and regions based on extensive consultations among WHO member states.⁶⁷²²

On 29 July 2021, the Civil Aviation Administration ordered that the sector's key front-line staff members be tested every two days for the coronavirus.⁶⁷²³ Also, workers who have direct contact with international passengers and cargo will be kept separate from those who work with domestic passengers and cargo, and neither group is allowed to have contact with their family members or other outsiders during work hours.⁶⁷²⁴

On 3 August 2021, the deputy head of the Civil Aviation Administration of flight standards department Han Guangzu announced that the Civil Aviation Administration of China will soon issue its eighth guideline on epidemic prevention and control.⁶⁷²⁵ He said that airline crews entering China will be subjected to tighter isolation and health monitoring measures, and the administration will also introduce tougher protocols for suspension of international flights.⁶⁷²⁶ They will also provide more medical guidance to ground service workers, including cabin cleaners, aircraft maintenance workers and porters.⁶⁷²⁷

⁶⁷¹⁹ China to supply more COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal: Chinese ambassador, People’s Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202107/13/content_WS60ece8f7c6d0df57f98dcc4d.html

⁶⁷²⁰ China to supply more COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal: Chinese ambassador, People’s Republic of China Government (Kathmandu) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202107/13/content_WS60ece8f7c6d0df57f98dcc4d.html

⁶⁷²¹ China urges tracing COVID-19 origin in multiple countries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/23/content_WS60fa3450c6d0df57f98dd762.html

⁶⁷²² China urges tracing COVID-19 origin in multiple countries, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/23/content_WS60fa3450c6d0df57f98dd762.html

⁶⁷²³ Civil aviation sector steps up virus control, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/30/content_WS61033a59c6d0df57f98ddced.html

⁶⁷²⁴ Civil aviation sector steps up virus control, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/30/content_WS61033a59c6d0df57f98ddced.html

⁶⁷²⁵ Stricter virus control rules required for aviation sector, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/04/content_WS610a0544c6d0df57f98de069.html

⁶⁷²⁶ Stricter virus control rules required for aviation sector, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/04/content_WS610a0544c6d0df57f98de069.html

⁶⁷²⁷ Stricter virus control rules required for aviation sector, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/04/content_WS610a0544c6d0df57f98de069.html

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that China is stepping up efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in tourism and culture sectors.⁶⁷²⁸ The ministry has urged all travel agencies and online platforms to avoid high and medium-risk areas in their offer of travel services, pay close attention to the COVID-19 situations of tourist destinations, and adjust or cancel ongoing tours accordingly.⁶⁷²⁹ The ministry also asked tourist spots and cultural venues to fully implement epidemic-prevention measures, including limiting tourist numbers, adopting staggered visiting hours, taking visitors' temperatures before allowing them in, and sterilizing public facilities regularly.⁶⁷³⁰

On 5 August 2021, an official from the Ministry of Education Liu Peijun, announced that schools in medium or high COVID-19 outbreak risk areas may postpone the start of the new semester.⁶⁷³¹ He also mentioned that education authorities across the country, in cooperation with medical institutions, will organize vaccinations for students aged between 12 to 17 properly and safely upon informed consent from the students as well as their parents and guardians.⁶⁷³²

On 5 August 2021, the China Film Administration released a circular requiring cinemas across the country to guard against the resurgence of COVID-19 based on local conditions.⁶⁷³³ Movie theaters in medium and high-risk areas should be closed, while attendance rates for those in low-risk areas should remain under 75 percent.⁶⁷³⁴ Cinemas should also make sure that screening rooms, the lobby, rest rooms, seats, and 3D glasses are fully disinfected.⁶⁷³⁵

On 10 August 2021, the State Council interagency task force for COVID-19 response released a guideline on COVID-19 response and announced that vigorous measures should be taken to contain infections at hospitals designated for treating COVID-19 cases.⁶⁷³⁶ The document said that all COVID-19 cases, as well as asymptomatic carriers, should be hospitalized in isolation wards in

⁶⁷²⁸ China curbs COVID-19 spread in tourism, culture sectors, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bcc73c6d0df57f98de187.htm

⁶⁷²⁹ China curbs COVID-19 spread in tourism, culture sectors, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bcc73c6d0df57f98de187.htm

⁶⁷³⁰ China curbs COVID-19 spread in tourism, culture sectors, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bcc73c6d0df57f98de187.htm

⁶⁷³¹ Chinese schools may postpone new semester over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bdc95c6d0df57f98de18e.html

⁶⁷³² Chinese schools may postpone new semester over COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610bdc95c6d0df57f98de18e.html

⁶⁷³³ China tightens containment measures at cinemas amid COVID-19 resurgence, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610beb1cc6d0df57f98de190.html

⁶⁷³⁴ China tightens containment measures at cinemas amid COVID-19 resurgence, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610beb1cc6d0df57f98de190.html

⁶⁷³⁵ China tightens containment measures at cinemas amid COVID-19 resurgence, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/05/content_WS610beb1cc6d0df57f98de190.html

⁶⁷³⁶ China intensifies hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/10/content_WS611272b9c6d0df57f98de45c.html

designated hospitals and kept separate from patients with other diseases.⁶⁷³⁷ Also, staff working at isolation wards are required to be fully vaccinated before entering their workplace, and closed-off management should be practiced among the staff.⁶⁷³⁸

On 10 August 2021, the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism announced that China is speeding up mass nucleic acid testing for COVID-19.⁶⁷³⁹ It announced that mass testing of populations of more than 5 million people should be completed within three days.⁶⁷⁴⁰

On 12 August 2021, the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine that China provided to the COVAX facility was officially provided to Pakistan.⁶⁷⁴¹ A batch of over 970,000 doses of Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine arrived at Islamabad International Airport on August 11 2021, and the Chinese Ambassador said that China will send more vaccines to Pakistan through the COVAX facility in the future.⁶⁷⁴²

On 12 August 2021, the National Health Commission issued an updated version of its guidelines on regular epidemic prevention for key areas, sites and population groups.⁶⁷⁴³ COVID-19 prevention measures are tightened for certain places, including border ports, chess rooms, sightseeing boats, theaters, gyms and educational institutions.⁶⁷⁴⁴ People must take body-temperature tests and have their health codes checked before entering chess rooms, and masks are also required in chess rooms.⁶⁷⁴⁵

On 23 August 2021, China donated 600,000 doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Cambodia.⁶⁷⁴⁶ The new donation included 500,000 doses from China's Ministry of National Defense

⁶⁷³⁷ China intensifies hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/10/content_WS611272b9c6d0df57f98de45c.html

⁶⁷³⁸ China intensifies hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection control, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/10/content_WS611272b9c6d0df57f98de45c.html

⁶⁷³⁹ Country speeds up mass testing for COVID, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/12/content_WS611458aec6d0df57f98de554.html

⁶⁷⁴⁰ Country speeds up mass testing for COVID, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/12/content_WS611458aec6d0df57f98de554.html

⁶⁷⁴¹ First batch of Chinese COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX facility handed over to Pakistan, People's Republic of China Government (Islamabad) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202108/13/content_WS6116128fc6d0df57f98de65e.html

⁶⁷⁴² First batch of Chinese COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX facility handed over to Pakistan, People's Republic of China Government (Islamabad) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202108/13/content_WS6116128fc6d0df57f98de65e.html

⁶⁷⁴³ China updates COVID-19 guidelines for key areas, groups, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/13/content_WS61165f41c6d0df57f98de691.html

⁶⁷⁴⁴ China updates COVID-19 guidelines for key areas, groups, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/13/content_WS61165f41c6d0df57f98de691.html

⁶⁷⁴⁵ China updates COVID-19 guidelines for key areas, groups, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/13/content_WS61165f41c6d0df57f98de691.html

⁶⁷⁴⁶ China donates more COVID-19 vaccines to Cambodia, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international exchanges/202108/24/content_WS61242aa7c6d0df57f98df06a.html

to Cambodia's Ministry of National Defense and 100,000 doses from the Red Cross Society of China to the Cambodian Red Cross.⁶⁷⁴⁷

On 23 August 2021, China donated 300,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia.⁶⁷⁴⁸ In total, China has provided a total of 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ethiopia over the pandemic.⁶⁷⁴⁹

On 27 August 2021, the Chinese embassy of Kyrgyzstan announced that China will strengthen cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in the joint fight against COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁷⁵⁰ The Chinese government will be providing Kyrgyzstan with a new batch of Chinese vaccines.⁶⁷⁵¹

On 30 August 2021, China launched all-in-one platforms on city-specific COVID-19 containment protocols to help people better adapt to local virus control measures when traveling between cities.⁶⁷⁵² The introduction of the column by the General Office of the State Council is aimed at better coordinating COVID-19 control and economic and social development, and informing enterprises and people of virus control policies, according to authorities.⁶⁷⁵³

On 3 September 2021, China donated COVID-19 vaccines and anti-pandemic supplies to Myanmar.⁶⁷⁵⁴ It includes Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, respirators, oxygenators, testing kits, protective masks and clothing.⁶⁷⁵⁵

On 4 September 2021, China's National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm) unveiled a series of newly-developed COVID-19 vaccines and medicines at the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services.⁶⁷⁵⁶ Project chief of Sinopharm Zhu Jingjin announced that they have

⁶⁷⁴⁷ China donates more COVID-19 vaccines to Cambodia, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/24/content_WS61242aa7c6d0df57f98df06a.html

⁶⁷⁴⁸ China donates 300,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/24/content_WS61244136c6d0df57f98df0a3.html

⁶⁷⁴⁹ China donates 300,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/24/content_WS61244136c6d0df57f98df0a3.html

⁶⁷⁵⁰ China, Kyrgyzstan to boost cooperation in fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/28/content_WS612988c1c6d0df57f98df489.html

⁶⁷⁵¹ China, Kyrgyzstan to boost cooperation in fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202108/28/content_WS612988c1c6d0df57f98df489.html

⁶⁷⁵² China launches all-in-one platforms on city-specific COVID-19 control protocols, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/30/content_WS612cb8e5c6d0df57f98df616.html

⁶⁷⁵³ China launches all-in-one platforms on city-specific COVID-19 control protocols, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 30 August 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202108/30/content_WS612cb8e5c6d0df57f98df616.html

⁶⁷⁵⁴ China offers COVID-19 supplies to Myanmar, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202109/04/content_WS6132d5b2c6d0df57f98dfa87.html

⁶⁷⁵⁵ China offers COVID-19 supplies to Myanmar, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202109/04/content_WS6132d5b2c6d0df57f98dfa87.html

⁶⁷⁵⁶ China's Sinopharm debuts new vaccines targeting COVID-19 variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202109/06/content_WS61358190c6d0df57f98dfc3a.html

developed vaccines against coronavirus' Delta and Beta variants.⁶⁷⁵⁷ They will also expand its annual productivity to more than five billion doses in a bid to make China's COVID-19 vaccines global public goods.⁶⁷⁵⁸

On 7 September 2021, National Health Commission official Zheng Zhongwei announced that China has launched multiple research efforts to develop tailored vaccines against emerging COVID-19 variants.⁶⁷⁵⁹ He said that a series of research projects aimed at developing vaccines targeting virus mutations has been rolled out as a precautionary measure, that Chinese vaccine makers have completed preclinical studies on inactivated vaccines designed to tackle the Gamma strain first detected in Brazil and the Delta strain first documented in India.⁶⁷⁶⁰ He added that research into recombinant subunit vaccines designed to ward off different strains is also underway.⁶⁷⁶¹

On 9 September 2021, President Xi Jinping called on BRICS countries to promote global solidarity against COVID-19, uphold true multilateralism and enhance economic cooperation for mutual benefits.⁶⁷⁶² He announced at the summit that China will donate an additional 100 million doses of vaccines to fellow developing countries within this year.⁶⁷⁶³ He also called on BRICS countries to support each other's COVID-19 response, share relevant information and COVID control experience, and uphold a science-based approach to tracing the origins of the virus, and oppose politicization and stigmatization.⁶⁷⁶⁴

China has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by carrying out measures that control the spread of the virus within the country, supporting other countries in fighting the pandemic through “vaccine cooperation,” issuing a digital health certificate for Chinese travellers and also inventing the first COVID-19 detecting regent.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

⁶⁷⁵⁷ China's Sinopharm debuts new vaccines targeting COVID-19 variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202109/06/content_WS61358190c6d0df57f98dfc3a.html

⁶⁷⁵⁸ China's Sinopharm debuts new vaccines targeting COVID-19 variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202109/06/content_WS61358190c6d0df57f98dfc3a.html

⁶⁷⁵⁹ Research aims to prepare for virus variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS61381551c6d0df57f98dfd93.html

⁶⁷⁶⁰ Research aims to prepare for virus variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS61381551c6d0df57f98dfd93.html

⁶⁷⁶¹ Research aims to prepare for virus variants, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202109/08/content_WS61381551c6d0df57f98dfd93.html

⁶⁷⁶² Xi calls for advancing BRICS cooperation to combat virus, uphold multilateralism, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202109/10/content_WS613aad61c6d0df57f98dff6f.html

⁶⁷⁶³ Xi calls for advancing BRICS cooperation to combat virus, uphold multilateralism, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202109/10/content_WS613aad61c6d0df57f98dff6f.html

⁶⁷⁶⁴ Xi calls for advancing BRICS cooperation to combat virus, uphold multilateralism, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202109/10/content_WS613aad61c6d0df57f98dff6f.html

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 25 November 2020, Eurasia Group reported that France contributed EUR123.5 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (Act-A) initiative.⁶⁷⁶⁵ The goal of this contribution is to ensure that all countries, namely developing nations, will be included in the global response against COVID-19.⁶⁷⁶⁶ The purpose of the funding is to help developing countries in producing and advancing vaccines while guaranteeing equity in vaccine distribution.⁶⁷⁶⁷ In addition, the contribution to Act-A is expected to reap economic benefits for France with an estimated gain of EUR8.3 billion in 2020-25.⁶⁷⁶⁸

On 30 November 2020, the High Authority of Health announced a five-step plan vaccination campaign, beginning with vaccinating the elderly in care homes.⁶⁷⁶⁹ The reasoning behind vaccinating the elderly first is to protect the most vulnerable and high-risk members in society against the virus.⁶⁷⁷⁰

On 18 January 2021, Minister of Health Olivier Véran announced that 45 million free Category 1 masks would be sent to seven million French nationals.⁶⁷⁷¹ The aim is to ensure that the French public avoids using ineffective homemade masks or Category 2 masks in order to protect the public against the highly infectious COVID-19 variants.⁶⁷⁷²

On 31 January 2021, France imposed travel restrictions for non-essential travel from outside of the European Union.⁶⁷⁷³ The goal was to prevent the new COVID-19 variants, including the English and South African COVID-19 mutations, from entering France.⁶⁷⁷⁴ Other measures and restrictions that were put in place were; the closure of all non-food shopping centres with a surface area greater than

⁶⁷⁶⁵ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁶ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁷ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁸ France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁶⁷⁶⁹ France unveils five-step COVID-19 vaccination plan, starting with those most at risk, France 24 (Paris) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201130-french-health-authority-outlines-country-s-covid-19-vaccination-plan>

⁶⁷⁷⁰ France unveils five-step COVID-19 vaccination plan, starting with those most at risk, France 24 (Paris) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201130-french-health-authority-outlines-country-s-covid-19-vaccination-plan>

⁶⁷⁷¹ COVID-19: Olivier Véran asks the French "to stop using artisanal masks", France Info (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/masques-sanitaires/covid-19-olivier-veran-demande-aux-francais-de-ne-plus-utiliser-de-masque-artisanal_4267073.html

⁶⁷⁷² COVID-19: Olivier Véran asks the French "to stop using artisanal masks", France Info (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/masques-sanitaires/covid-19-olivier-veran-demande-aux-francais-de-ne-plus-utiliser-de-masque-artisanal_4267073.html

⁶⁷⁷³ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁶⁷⁷⁴ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

20,000 square metres, increased police presence to check non-compliance with the overnight curfews as well as clampdowns on illegal restaurant openings and clandestine parties. Moreover, working-from-home rules were reinforced so that they were encouraged wherever possible.⁶⁷⁷⁵

On 8 February 2021, France began its vaccination strategy for healthcare workers after 270,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in France.⁶⁷⁷⁶ This was done as the AstraZeneca vaccine is not proven to be efficient on those over the age of 65 and it was decided to be used on healthcare workers to protect them against the virus as a vulnerable group.⁶⁷⁷⁷ Minister V eran confirmed that the AstraZeneca vaccine should be administered.⁶⁷⁷⁸

On 11 February 2021, the High Authority for Health permitted saliva tests to be conducted by asymptomatic people, as opposed to only allowing symptomatic people to access saliva tests.⁶⁷⁷⁹ Saliva tests are seen as an easier, less invasive method of screening compared to the widespread Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.⁶⁷⁸⁰ The goal of this initiative is to vastly increase the number of COVID-19 screening tests to a minimum of 200,000 weekly tests to identify hidden positive cases that would not have been identified otherwise, as well as to conduct mass screenings in schools, universities and nursing homes.⁶⁷⁸¹ In addition, this method of testing is proven to be more accessible as it may be done in the laboratory or at home through a collection tube.⁶⁷⁸²

On 25 February 2021, France announced a nighttime curfew between 6PM and 6AM in Metropolitan France, with limited exceptions.⁶⁷⁸³ Those who fail to comply with the curfew may be subjected to a EUR135 fine.⁶⁷⁸⁴ The initiative's goal is to contain the spread of the coronavirus without the need of entering a nationwide lockdown again.⁶⁷⁸⁵

On 15 March 2021, the Health Ministry announced that investigations will be carried out in response to eight cases of a new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, characterized as being more

⁶⁷⁷⁵ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁶⁷⁷⁶ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁶⁷⁷⁷ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁶⁷⁷⁸ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁶⁷⁷⁹ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸⁰ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸¹ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸² Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁶⁷⁸³ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁶⁷⁸⁴ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁶⁷⁸⁵ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

spreadable and undetectable with the PCR test.⁶⁷⁸⁶ The goal of the experiments is to characterize the features of the new variant, including how it works with vaccines and antibodies from previous coronavirus infection.⁶⁷⁸⁷

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that 16 regions in France, including Paris Île-de-France, will go into a four-week lockdown starting on 19 March 2021.⁶⁷⁸⁸ The lockdown entails that people may only leave within 10 kilometres from their homes, they may not leave their region, they must work from home for the majority of the week, and only essential businesses may remain open.⁶⁷⁸⁹ The purpose of the lockdown is to restrain the accelerating third wave of the coronavirus as cases are increasing throughout Europe.⁶⁷⁹⁰

On 30 March 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) and 23 countries, including France, announced their support for the creation of an international treaty that would support the world in future health crises.⁶⁷⁹¹ The aim of this preparedness plan is to better prepare countries to be more robust in the face of global health emergencies “through better alert systems, data sharing, research and the production and distribution of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and personal protective equipment.”⁶⁷⁹²

On 31 March 2021, France announced that the semi-confinement rules originally applied to 19 regions in France will now apply to all regions for a four-week period, starting 3 April 2021.⁶⁷⁹³ Schools will be closed for 3 weeks, non-essential shops will be shut, those who travel more than 10 kilometres from their homes require a form, curfew starting at 7pm will continue, and work from home is highly encouraged.⁶⁷⁹⁴ The purpose of the semi-confinement expansion is to curb the spread of the new variants which have started targeting those below the age of 60, as 44 per cent of those admitted to the intensive care units (ICU) are below the age of 60.⁶⁷⁹⁵ Additionally, France stated its

⁶⁷⁸⁶ France investigating new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210316-france-investigating-new-coronavirus-variant-detected-in-brittany>

⁶⁷⁸⁷ France investigating new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210316-france-investigating-new-coronavirus-variant-detected-in-brittany>

⁶⁷⁸⁸ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁶⁷⁸⁹ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁶⁷⁹⁰ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁶⁷⁹¹ Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France 24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁶⁷⁹² Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France 24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁶⁷⁹³ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁶⁷⁹⁴ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁶⁷⁹⁵ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

desire to avoid a situation where ICUs become full because adequate measures were not undergone earlier.⁶⁷⁹⁶

On 3 April 2021, France announced that seven of their eight military hospitals in mainland France will be turned into permanent vaccination centres.⁶⁷⁹⁷ It is expected that the seven hospitals will be able to administer up to 50,000 doses every week.⁶⁷⁹⁸ The goal is to fast track vaccinations and assist the other large vaccination centres set up by the government by taking strain off them.⁶⁷⁹⁹

On 4 April 2021, France enforced that if anyone violates the travel restrictions, set in place on 3 April 2021, they risk a EUR135 fine.⁶⁸⁰⁰ If it is a repeat offense, the fine might increase to EUR200.⁶⁸⁰¹ If you commit three offenses within a month, you might be sentenced to 6 months of jail time, EUR3,750 fine, and community service.⁶⁸⁰² These penalties are in place to ensure that domestic travel restrictions are being followed in order to decrease the risk of variants spreading.⁶⁸⁰³

On 13 April 2021, France introduced the first drive-in vaccination centre in Saint-Jean-de-Védas.⁶⁸⁰⁴ The goal of this initiative is to increase vaccinations to the country's upcoming goal of 20 million doses in hopes of opening up the country by mid-May after seeing the successful vaccination scheme in the United States.⁶⁸⁰⁵ Since the drive-in will be located outside of the existing centre, they expect it to double the doses conducted and apply drive-ins to the rest of the country.⁶⁸⁰⁶ The goal of this

⁶⁷⁹⁶ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁶⁷⁹⁷ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁶⁷⁹⁸ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁶⁷⁹⁹ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁶⁸⁰⁰ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰¹ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰² COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰³ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁶⁸⁰⁴ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁶⁸⁰⁵ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁶⁸⁰⁶ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

initiative is to provide another accessible means of vaccinating that anyone with a vehicle can take advantage of, as well as help accelerate national vaccination figures.⁶⁸⁰⁷

On 23 April 2021, France was the first country to donate COVID-19 vaccinations to COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, which is ACT-A's vaccination pillar with the goal of providing 30 per cent of the world's population with vaccines by the start of 2022.⁶⁸⁰⁸ France donated 500,000 doses from its own domestic vaccine supply.⁶⁸⁰⁹ The purpose of this contribution is to take the first step to ensure everyone will eventually be able to vaccinate globally and encourage other developed countries to contribute to ACT-A.⁶⁸¹⁰

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs announced updated travel restrictions for any travelers from five countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India and South Africa.⁶⁸¹¹ The restrictions entail that travelers from these countries must present urgent reasons to travel, conduct a PCR test and sworn declaration, and complete a mandatory 10-day quarantine upon arrival with occasional police checks.⁶⁸¹² The purpose for these strict restrictions is to prevent the spread of the new contagious variant discovered in India and other variants.⁶⁸¹³

On 30 April 2021, France announced that it found the first three cases of the Indian variant in France, and that the variant carriers are isolated in hotels and have been contact traced.⁶⁸¹⁴ The purpose of this is to ensure that the dangerous variant does not spread further throughout the country as other variants have, such as the UK variant which is estimated to account for 75 per cent of all cases in France.⁶⁸¹⁵ Additionally, it is to alert the country to not underestimate the Indian strain as many aspects remain unknown, such as the vaccine's efficiency with this variant.⁶⁸¹⁶

On 2 May 2021, France delivered to India 28 tonnes of ready-to-use medical supplies including eight large oxygen plants as part of the first phase of its solidarity mission.⁶⁸¹⁷ The French Embassy said that the supplies were worth more than INR170 million and are proof that the two nations are standing with each other in the fight against COVID-19.⁶⁸¹⁸ Moreover, in Spring 2020, when French

⁶⁸⁰⁷ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁶⁸⁰⁸ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁶⁸⁰⁹ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁶⁸¹⁰ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁶⁸¹¹ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁶⁸¹² Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁶⁸¹³ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁶⁸¹⁴ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁶⁸¹⁵ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁶⁸¹⁶ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁶⁸¹⁷ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

⁶⁸¹⁸ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

hospitals were facing acute shortages, India provided life-saving help through the export of critical medical drugs.⁶⁸¹⁹

On 8 May 2021, France imposed a mandatory 10-day quarantine to all travelers from additional countries, including Qatar, Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the United Arab Emirates.⁶⁸²⁰ Travelers from these countries must present a negative coronavirus test result taken 36 hours prior to arrival and declare where they are staying to quarantine.⁶⁸²¹ Anyone caught breaking these rules is subject to a fine of EUR1000, or EUR1500 if it is a repeated offense.⁶⁸²² The purpose of this restriction is to prevent the spread of the virus due to the accelerating number of cases in these countries.⁶⁸²³

On 11 May 2021, France vowed to allocate five per cent of its total vaccine supply to COVAX.⁶⁸²⁴ This initiative is to ensure that every country has access to vaccines to help end the pandemic globally.⁶⁸²⁵

On 21 May 2021, President Emmanuel Macron promised to donate at least 30 million vaccines by the end of 2021.⁶⁸²⁶ It is predicted that France will allocate approximately EUR500 million to ACT-A between 2021 and 2022.⁶⁸²⁷ The purpose of this funding allocation and vaccine donation is to fulfil the pillars of ACT-A that France committed to in order to provide poor countries with the resources needed to end the pandemic.⁶⁸²⁸

On 28 May 2021, President Emmanuel Macron said that France would “invest in boosting the production of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa” considering the continent’s lack of vaccine supplies.⁶⁸²⁹

⁶⁸¹⁹ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

⁶⁸²⁰ Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²¹ Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²² Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²³ Covid-19: 7 new countries added to France’s quarantine-on-arrival list, The Connexion (Monaco) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Covid-19-7-new-countries-added-to-France-s-quarantine-on-arrival-list>

⁶⁸²⁴ France to Allocate More Than 5% of Its COVID Vaccines to WHO-Backed COVAX Programme, U.S. News and World Report (New York) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-05-11/france-to-allocate-more-than-5-of-its-covid-vaccines-to-who-backed-covax-programme>

⁶⁸²⁵ France to Allocate More Than 5% of Its COVID Vaccines to WHO-Backed COVAX Programme, U.S. News and World Report (New York) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-05-11/france-to-allocate-more-than-5-of-its-covid-vaccines-to-who-backed-covax-programme>

⁶⁸²⁶ France pledges US\$611 million to COVID-19 response at Global Health Summit, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/france-pledges-us611-million-covid-19-response-global-health-summit>

⁶⁸²⁷ France pledges US\$611 million to COVID-19 response at Global Health Summit, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/france-pledges-us611-million-covid-19-response-global-health-summit>

⁶⁸²⁸ France pledges US\$611 million to COVID-19 response at Global Health Summit, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/france-pledges-us611-million-covid-19-response-global-health-summit>

⁶⁸²⁹ Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

He added that France was already making deals with South African pharmaceutical companies.⁶⁸³⁰ He also expressed his support for removing intellectual property rights on vaccines to permit more countries to produce their vaccines locally and called for the regulation of vaccine prices as many African countries were being charged a higher price for vaccines than western countries.⁶⁸³¹ The reason behind France's stance on the vaccine issue in African countries is based on its commitment to provide assistance under ACT-A.⁶⁸³²

On 31 May 2021, France imposed travel restrictions on British tourists allowing only essential travel.⁶⁸³³ British travellers are also required to self-isolate for a week upon their arrival to France.⁶⁸³⁴ This is a new response to the spread of the Indian variant in the United Kingdom.⁶⁸³⁵

On 3 June 2021, France donated 184,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Senegal under the COVAX initiative.⁶⁸³⁶ The purpose of this donation is to fulfil the goals of COVAX to provide poor countries with vaccines that will protect them against the pandemic.⁶⁸³⁷

On 9 June 2021, France introduced a colour-coded system, also known as the traffic light system, to classify countries around the world and each of their entry requirements into France.⁶⁸³⁸ Each country is classified under either green, orange, or red.⁶⁸³⁹ The green countries include Australia, South Korea, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand and Singapore, and all the countries in Europe, excluding the United Kingdom.⁶⁸⁴⁰ Green country vaccinated travelers can enter France without taking a PCR test; however, unvaccinated travelers must take a PCR test prior to their arrival.⁶⁸⁴¹ The orange countries include the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada.⁶⁸⁴² Vaccinated travelers

⁶⁸³⁰ Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁸³¹ Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁸³² Macron says France will help Africa make more COVID-19 vaccines locally, Euronews (Lyon) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁸³³ Covid: France bans non-essential travel from UK, British Broadcasting Company (London) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57256859>

⁶⁸³⁴ Covid: France bans non-essential travel from UK, British Broadcasting Company (London) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57256859>

⁶⁸³⁵ Covid: France bans non-essential travel from UK, British Broadcasting Company (London) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57256859>

⁶⁸³⁶ Covid-19 - France donates 184,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Senegal, L'Indépendant (Perpignan) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.lindependant.fr/2021/06/03/covid-19-la-france-fait-don-au-senegal-de-184000-doses-de-vaccin-astrazeneca-9584607.php>

⁶⁸³⁷ Covid-19 - France donates 184,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to Senegal, L'Indépendant (Perpignan) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.lindependant.fr/2021/06/03/covid-19-la-france-fait-don-au-senegal-de-184000-doses-de-vaccin-astrazeneca-9584607.php>

⁶⁸³⁸ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸³⁹ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁰ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴¹ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴² Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

can enter France but must complete a PCR test less than 72 hours prior to their arrival.⁶⁸⁴³ Unvaccinated travelers from these countries will only be permitted to enter France under urgent conditions.⁶⁸⁴⁴ They must present a negative PCR test and complete a 7-day quarantine.⁶⁸⁴⁵ Red countries include India, Turkey and Brazil.⁶⁸⁴⁶ Both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers from these countries cannot enter France, unless it is for compelling reasons.⁶⁸⁴⁷ They are also required to present a negative PCR test and self-isolate for seven days if they are vaccinated and ten days if they are not.⁶⁸⁴⁸ France implemented this traffic light system in order to effectively manage people entering France from different countries once its borders have reopened, while making it generally simpler for vaccinated individuals to enter.⁶⁸⁴⁹

On 9 June 2021, the Government of France launched the health pass to allow people to access crowded events or places.⁶⁸⁵⁰ The health pass comes in both paper and digital form, and shows either proof of vaccination, proof of recovery from coronavirus, or proof of a negative coronavirus test.⁶⁸⁵¹ Events that bring in more than 1000 people will require the attendees to present their health pass, such as sport festivals.⁶⁸⁵² The reason for the health pass is to “revive economic activity as quickly as possible while avoiding an epidemic resumption.”⁶⁸⁵³ It is also a tool to encourage French residents to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others.⁶⁸⁵⁴

⁶⁸⁴³ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁴ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁵ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁶ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁷ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁸ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁴⁹ Covid-19. A color code to sort travelers who wish to enter France according to their country, Ouest France (Rennes) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/ue/covid-19-un-code-couleur-pour-trier-les-voyageurs-qui-souhaitent-entrer-en-france-selon-leur-pays-940d528a-c4fc-11eb-aec1-d3b57750ff4c>

⁶⁸⁵⁰ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵¹ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵² The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵³ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁵⁴ The health pass, a controversial tool to get out of the Covid-19 crisis, France 24 (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210517-le-pass-sanitaire-un-outil-controvers%C3%A9-pour-sortir-de-la-crise-du-covid-19>

On 17 June 2021, France moved Afghanistan, the Maldives and Paraguay to its red travel list.⁶⁸⁵⁵ This is due to the high number of cases in these countries.⁶⁸⁵⁶

On 23 June 2021, government spokesman Gabriel Attal announced that Russia was going to be added to the red list.⁶⁸⁵⁷ This decision has come about as a result of the increased cases of the Delta variant, especially in Moscow, partly due to the slow vaccine distributions; Seychelles and Namibia were also added to this list.⁶⁸⁵⁸

On 27 June 2021, France sent a humanitarian plane to Sudan carrying three tones of “face masks, gloves, medical protective clothing, oxygen generators, medical devices, accurate COVID-19 test equipment, tents and medical kits for disposable vaccination centres.”⁶⁸⁵⁹ The purpose is to provide the Sudanese government with the resources that it needs to open mobile vaccination and screening centres in rural areas to help reduce virus transmission.⁶⁸⁶⁰

On 5 July 2021, France extended the mandatory quarantine to all travelers from the same seven countries announced on 8 May 2021.⁶⁸⁶¹ This is because of the high number of cases in these countries and to prevent the mutations from entering France.⁶⁸⁶²

On 5 July 2021, France donated and delivered 228,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Zambia under COVAX.⁶⁸⁶³ The reason behind this donation is to accelerate the vaccination campaign in Zambia where cases and deaths have increased due to the third wave.⁶⁸⁶⁴ Furthermore, it will help protect high-risk members in their society, including health care workers and vulnerable segments of society.⁶⁸⁶⁵

⁶⁸⁵⁵ France upgrades Turkey to amber travel list and red list is expanded, The Connexion (Monaco) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-upgrades-Turkey-to-amber-travel-list-and-red-list-is-expanded>

⁶⁸⁵⁶ France upgrades Turkey to amber travel list and red list is expanded, The Connexion (Monaco) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-upgrades-Turkey-to-amber-travel-list-and-red-list-is-expanded>

⁶⁸⁵⁷ France adds Russia to Covid 'red' list, UK still 'orange', Radio France Internationale (Paris) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210624-france-adds-russia-to-covid-red-list-uk-still-orange-travel-tourism-delta-variant-quarantine-europe-us>

⁶⁸⁵⁸ France adds Russia to Covid 'red' list, UK still 'orange', Radio France Internationale (Paris) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210624-france-adds-russia-to-covid-red-list-uk-still-orange-travel-tourism-delta-variant-quarantine-europe-us>

⁶⁸⁵⁹ France provides grant to Sudan to combat COVID-19, ReliefWeb (New York City) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/france-provides-grant-sudan-combat-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁶⁰ France provides grant to Sudan to combat COVID-19, ReliefWeb (New York City) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/france-provides-grant-sudan-combat-covid-19>

⁶⁸⁶¹ France extends quarantine to travelers from seven countries, including Turkey, France24 (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210507-la-france-%C3%A9tend-la-quarantaine-aux-voyageurs-de-sept-pays-dont-la-turquie>

⁶⁸⁶² France extends quarantine to travelers from seven countries, including Turkey, France24 (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210507-la-france-%C3%A9tend-la-quarantaine-aux-voyageurs-de-sept-pays-dont-la-turquie>

⁶⁸⁶³ COVID-19 vaccines shipped by COVAX arrive in Zambia – donation by France, UNICEF (New York) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zambia/press-releases/covid-19-vaccines-shipped-covax-arrive-zambia-donation-france>

⁶⁸⁶⁴ COVID-19 vaccines shipped by COVAX arrive in Zambia – donation by France, UNICEF (New York) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zambia/press-releases/covid-19-vaccines-shipped-covax-arrive-zambia-donation-france>

⁶⁸⁶⁵ COVID-19 vaccines shipped by COVAX arrive in Zambia – donation by France, UNICEF (New York) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zambia/press-releases/covid-19-vaccines-shipped-covax-arrive-zambia-donation-france>

On 9 July 2021, Île-de-France continued to set up free screening test tents at major railway stations in the region.⁶⁸⁶⁶ These tents have been installed since November 2020 and the results are ready in 20 minutes.⁶⁸⁶⁷ This initiative is a way to increase COVID-19 testing by providing fast and accessible tests at no charge.⁶⁸⁶⁸

On 9 July 2021, Caen-Carpique Airport opened a screening centre on the airport's first floor.⁶⁸⁶⁹ No prior appointments are necessary, and all travelers, airport staff and residents may access this centre to take a test.⁶⁸⁷⁰ The purpose of this screening centre is to provide accessible testing options to travelers who need to be tested prior to arriving at their destination, and residents.⁶⁸⁷¹

On 12 July 2021, President Emmanuel Macron announced that vaccines will become obligatory for healthcare workers.⁶⁸⁷² Initially, French authorities predicted that they could convince people to vaccinate voluntarily.⁶⁸⁷³ However, due to the slow vaccination rates and high number of cases because of the new Delta variant, it was decided that all health workers must get vaccinated by 15 September 2021.⁶⁸⁷⁴

On 13 July 2021, Government of France's spokesman Gabriel Attal announced that Tunisia, Indonesia, Mozambique and Cuba will be added to the country's red list.⁶⁸⁷⁵ The reason behind this decision is the high number of cases and variants in Indonesia, Mozambique and Cuba, and the high death rate in Tunisia, due to lack of vaccines.⁶⁸⁷⁶

On 13 July 2021, France's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) was approved by the European Council. It outlines the recovery investments for which France is seeking European

⁶⁸⁶⁶ Covid-19: rapid tests near major stations in Île-de-France with the Region, Ile-de-France Region (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.iledefrance.fr/covid-19-decouvrez-les-centres-de-tests-rapides-antigeniques-pres-des-gares>

⁶⁸⁶⁷ Covid-19: rapid tests near major stations in Île-de-France with the Region, Ile-de-France Region (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.iledefrance.fr/covid-19-decouvrez-les-centres-de-tests-rapides-antigeniques-pres-des-gares>

⁶⁸⁶⁸ Covid-19: rapid tests near major stations in Île-de-France with the Region, Ile-de-France Region (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.iledefrance.fr/covid-19-decouvrez-les-centres-de-tests-rapides-antigeniques-pres-des-gares>

⁶⁸⁶⁹ Covid-19: a screening center opens this Saturday, July 10 at Caen-Carpique airport, France Info (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/calvados/caen/covid-19-un-centre-de-depistage-ouvre-ce-samedi-10-juillet-a-l-aeroport-de-caen-carpique-2174053.html>

⁶⁸⁷⁰ Covid-19: a screening center opens this Saturday, July 10 at Caen-Carpique airport, France Info (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/calvados/caen/covid-19-un-centre-de-depistage-ouvre-ce-samedi-10-juillet-a-l-aeroport-de-caen-carpique-2174053.html>

⁶⁸⁷¹ Covid-19: a screening center opens this Saturday, July 10 at Caen-Carpique airport, France Info (Paris) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/calvados/caen/covid-19-un-centre-de-depistage-ouvre-ce-samedi-10-juillet-a-l-aeroport-de-caen-carpique-2174053.html>

⁶⁸⁷² France makes Covid shot mandatory for health workers, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/12/france-makes-covid-shot-mandatory-for-health-workers.html>

⁶⁸⁷³ France makes Covid shot mandatory for health workers, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/12/france-makes-covid-shot-mandatory-for-health-workers.html>

⁶⁸⁷⁴ France makes Covid shot mandatory for health workers, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/12/france-makes-covid-shot-mandatory-for-health-workers.html>

⁶⁸⁷⁵ Travel and Covid: 4 countries, including Tunisia, added to the red list, HuffPost (New York) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/voyage-et-covid-4-pays-dont-la-tunisie-ajoutes-a-la-liste-rouge_fr_60ed9797e4b0a771e7fddb19

⁶⁸⁷⁶ Travel and Covid: 4 countries, including Tunisia, added to the red list, HuffPost (New York) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. https://www.huffingtonpost.fr/entry/voyage-et-covid-4-pays-dont-la-tunisie-ajoutes-a-la-liste-rouge_fr_60ed9797e4b0a771e7fddb19

funding.⁶⁸⁷⁷ This NRRP was formally submitted in late April 2021 to the EU Commission which was welcomed with a positive assessment. As a result, of the EUR672.5 billion that was allocated by the Member States for the European Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), EUR39.4 billion will be allocated to France in grants. France will be the member state to receive the third largest funds, after Spain and Italy.⁶⁸⁷⁸

On 18 July 2021, France donated and delivered 324,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Tunisia under COVAX.⁶⁸⁷⁹ France plans to send another shipment of 800,000 vaccines to Tunisia shortly.⁶⁸⁸⁰ France will also send millions of masks, gloves, oxygen supplies, and medical equipment to protect people globally from the virus, reduce fatalities, and gradually return to regular life.⁶⁸⁸¹ In addition, France is complying with its ACT-A commitment.⁶⁸⁸²

On 21 July 2021, France announced that the health pass must now be presented in cultural and tourist establishments, such as museums and cinemas.⁶⁸⁸³ The health pass will also be required in areas and events where there are more than 50 people.⁶⁸⁸⁴ These additional restrictions were imposed because of the acceleration of Delta variant cases throughout France.⁶⁸⁸⁵

On 21 July 2021, President Emmanuel Macron announced that the health pass will be mandated to cafés, shopping centres and restaurants in August after lawmakers vote on this extension.⁶⁸⁸⁶ The health pass will likely be used for planes, trains and buses for long-distance trips.⁶⁸⁸⁷

On 26 July 2021, the Parliament passed a law requiring the health pass to be used in restaurants, museums, cinemas and during domestic travel through planes and trains, starting in the beginning of

⁶⁸⁷⁷ France's national recovery and resilience plan (London) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8159936a-7be7-4d7b-ad6a-d6a2f05ba8ab>

⁶⁸⁷⁸ France's national recovery and resilience plan (London) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=8159936a-7be7-4d7b-ad6a-d6a2f05ba8ab>

⁶⁸⁷⁹ France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸⁰ France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸¹ France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸² France donates a batch of vaccines to Tunisia via the COVAX initiative, UNICEF (New York) 18 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/la-france-fait-don-%C3%A0-la-tunisie-dun-lot-de-vaccins-linitiative-covax>

⁶⁸⁸³ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁴ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁵ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁶ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

⁶⁸⁸⁷ Covid-19 'health pass' comes into force for access to French cultural venues, France 24 (Paris) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210721-france-introduces-covid-19-health-passes-to-access-cultural-venues>

August.⁶⁸⁸⁸ Every adult must present either proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test result.⁶⁸⁸⁹ While this rule will initially apply to adults, those over the age of 12 must present the health pass starting 30 September 2021.⁶⁸⁹⁰ The reason the Parliament passed this law was “to protect vulnerable populations and hospitals” since cases are increasing, while also reducing the chances of entering a new lockdown.⁶⁸⁹¹

On 8 August 2021, French Health Minister Olivier Véran “appealed for volunteer doctors and nurses to travel to the overseas territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique.”⁶⁸⁹² This is due to the current wave of cases and low vaccination rates that are causing hospitals to get full.⁶⁸⁹³ This initiative aims to help the overwhelmed hospitals and reduce the number of fatalities in the overseas French regions.⁶⁸⁹⁴

On 9 August 2021, France donated 108,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Somalia.⁶⁸⁹⁵ The reason behind this donation is to boost Somalia’s low vaccination rate by protecting vulnerable people and frontline workers from the virus, as a part of the bigger picture to ensure equitable access to vaccines worldwide.⁶⁸⁹⁶ The donation was done at a strategic time when cases were increasing rapidly daily.⁶⁸⁹⁷

On 18 August 2021, France announced that people either selling or buying fake health passes will be subject to large fines.⁶⁸⁹⁸ The counterfeiters may receive fines up to EUR150,000 and up to five years

⁶⁸⁸⁸ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁸⁹ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁹⁰ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁹¹ French parliament approves law requiring Covid pass for restaurants, travel starting in August, France 24 (Paris) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210725-french-parliament-approves-law-requiring-restaurant-covid-pass-vaccine-rules>

⁶⁸⁹² France asks medical staff for help treating Covid-19 on Guadeloupe and Martinique, France 24 (Paris) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210808-france-asks-medical-staff-for-help-treating-covid-19-on-guadeloupe-and-martinique>

⁶⁸⁹³ France asks medical staff for help treating Covid-19 on Guadeloupe and Martinique, France 24 (Paris) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210808-france-asks-medical-staff-for-help-treating-covid-19-on-guadeloupe-and-martinique>

⁶⁸⁹⁴ France asks medical staff for help treating Covid-19 on Guadeloupe and Martinique, France 24 (Paris) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210808-france-asks-medical-staff-for-help-treating-covid-19-on-guadeloupe-and-martinique>

⁶⁸⁹⁵ 108 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia, ReliefWeb (New York City) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/108-000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-arrive-somalia>

⁶⁸⁹⁶ 108 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia, ReliefWeb (New York City) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/108-000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-arrive-somalia>

⁶⁸⁹⁷ 108 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia, ReliefWeb (New York City) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/108-000-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-arrive-somalia>

⁶⁸⁹⁸ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

in prison, while those caught using counterfeit health passes can get up to three years in prison.⁶⁸⁹⁹ The counterfeiters are selling these fake passes via social media networks, such as Snapchat and Facebook, and advertising that they can send the counterfeit health passes in eight to ten hours.⁶⁹⁰⁰ The reason authorities have decided to penalize those selling and using fake health passes is to ensure the effectiveness of the health pass and protect vulnerable segments of society.⁶⁹⁰¹

On 18 August 2021, France sent “medical personnel and oxygen supplies” to the French islands Guadeloupe and Martinique.⁶⁹⁰² The distribution of medical supplies and personnel happened because of the wave of Delta variant cases and deaths that are overwhelming hospitals on the islands.⁶⁹⁰³ Additionally, 98 per cent of patients admitted in the intensive care units in Guadeloupe are unvaccinated as vaccination rates are very low compared to mainland France.⁶⁹⁰⁴

On 21 August 2021, France added both Morocco and Algeria to the red list.⁶⁹⁰⁵ This decision has come about as a result of the new spike of coronavirus cases in both countries, which caused authorities in Rabat to extend the nighttime curfew and restrict domestic travel.⁶⁹⁰⁶ French authorities also want to prevent more cases entering the country, given the recent spike of emergency room cases in France.⁶⁹⁰⁷

On 25 August 2021, France announced that it was extending the lockdown measures in Martinique and Guadeloupe.⁶⁹⁰⁸ The islands went into lockdown because of the spike of cases due to the Delta

⁶⁸⁹⁹ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

⁶⁹⁰⁰ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

⁶⁹⁰¹ Black market for fake Covid health passes flourishes in France, France 24 (Paris) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210818-black-market-for-fake-covid-health-passes-flourishes-in-france>

⁶⁹⁰² France sends aid to Guadeloupe and Martinique, the islands struggling with COVID-19 surge, Euronews (Lyon) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/19/france-sends-aid-to-guadeloupe-and-martinique-the-islands-struggling-with-covid-19-surge>

⁶⁹⁰³ France sends aid to Guadeloupe and Martinique, the islands struggling with COVID-19 surge, Euronews (Lyon) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/19/france-sends-aid-to-guadeloupe-and-martinique-the-islands-struggling-with-covid-19-surge>

⁶⁹⁰⁴ France sends aid to Guadeloupe and Martinique, the islands struggling with COVID-19 surge, Euronews (Lyon) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/08/19/france-sends-aid-to-guadeloupe-and-martinique-the-islands-struggling-with-covid-19-surge>

⁶⁹⁰⁵ France adds Algeria, Morocco to list of high-risk Covid countries, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210819-france-adds-algeria-morocco-to-list-of-high-risk-covid-countries>

⁶⁹⁰⁶ France adds Algeria, Morocco to list of high-risk Covid countries, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210819-france-adds-algeria-morocco-to-list-of-high-risk-covid-countries>

⁶⁹⁰⁷ France adds Algeria, Morocco to list of high-risk Covid countries, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210819-france-adds-algeria-morocco-to-list-of-high-risk-covid-countries>

⁶⁹⁰⁸ France extends Covid-19 lockdown measures in Caribbean territories, France 24 (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210825-france-extends-covid-19-lockdown-measures-in-caribbean-territories>

variant.⁶⁹⁰⁹ The lockdown measures were extended to protect residents from the worsening number of cases, considering the islands have low vaccination rates compared to mainland France.⁶⁹¹⁰

On 27 August 2021, France delivered 218,400 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Sudan through COVAX.⁶⁹¹¹ The reason for France's donation is to fulfil its pledge for equitable distribution of vaccines to all countries regardless of their wealth.⁶⁹¹² In addition, this donation helps fully vaccinate more people who have only taken the first dose so far, which will help curb the spread of the coronavirus.⁶⁹¹³ The donation was also done at a strategic time when cases were increasing daily “while the country is preparing to re-open schools after three years of numerous interruptions.”⁶⁹¹⁴

On 29 August 2021, France added Turkey, Iran and Georgia to the red list.⁶⁹¹⁵ This decision is due to the increase of coronavirus cases in these countries.⁶⁹¹⁶

On 31 August 2021, France announced that it was donating 10 million Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines to Africa through COVAX and the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust to fulfil its pledge to donate at least 60 million vaccines worldwide.⁶⁹¹⁷ In addition to complying to its ACT-A commitment, France's reason behind this donation is to ensure the “equitable access” of vaccines worldwide and help put a collective end to the coronavirus by vaccinating every person.⁶⁹¹⁸

On 10 September 2021, France raised the bird flu alert level from “negligible” to “moderate” because a severe form of the virus was spotted in a private farm in the Ardennes region.⁶⁹¹⁹ The birds have

⁶⁹⁰⁹ France extends Covid-19 lockdown measures in Caribbean territories, France 24 (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210825-france-extends-covid-19-lockdown-measures-in-caribbean-territories>

⁶⁹¹⁰ France extends Covid-19 lockdown measures in Caribbean territories, France 24 (Paris) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210825-france-extends-covid-19-lockdown-measures-in-caribbean-territories>

⁶⁹¹¹ Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹² Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹³ Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹⁴ Sudan receives over 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccination from France, UNICEF (New York) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/sudan-receives-over-200000-doses-covid-19-vaccination-france>

⁶⁹¹⁵ Covid-19: Turkey, Georgia and Iran placed on the red list from Sunday by France, Le Parisien (Paris) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.leparisien.fr/societe/covid-19-la-turquie-la-georgie-et-liran-places-sur-liste-rouge-des-dimanche-par-la-france-27-08-2021-YNID5GZVMFHHLFVRDBZO5CXYPYA.php>

⁶⁹¹⁶ Covid-19: Turkey, Georgia and Iran placed on the red list from Sunday by France, Le Parisien (Paris) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.leparisien.fr/societe/covid-19-la-turquie-la-georgie-et-liran-places-sur-liste-rouge-des-dimanche-par-la-france-27-08-2021-YNID5GZVMFHHLFVRDBZO5CXYPYA.php>

⁶⁹¹⁷ France donates 10 million doses to Africa through COVAX and AU, ReliefWeb (New York City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/france-donates-10-million-doses-africa-through-covax-and-au>

⁶⁹¹⁸ France donates 10 million doses to Africa through COVAX and AU, ReliefWeb (New York City) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/france-donates-10-million-doses-africa-through-covax-and-au>

⁶⁹¹⁹ France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

been euthanized to prevent additional cases of this strain.⁶⁹²⁰ All poultry and birds have been quarantined in high risk areas and all poultry is being kept in shelters.⁶⁹²¹ The reason that France is taking these precautions is to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.⁶⁹²²

On 21 September 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex has announced that the country's authorities are preparing a bill to extend the Health Pass requirement.⁶⁹²³ The extension of the bill was in response to the suggestion of President Emmanuel Macron. The "health pass" was introduced in June by the country's authorities after the Parliament approved a draft law.⁶⁹²⁴

France has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering a robust vaccination policy, conducting saliva tests and enacting curfews and social distancing policies.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rawan Barakat

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 26 November 2020, Germany adopted the Health Care and Long-Term Care Improvement Act.⁶⁹²⁵ It comprises a number of measures to provide supplementary funding for statutory health insurance.⁶⁹²⁶ Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn reportedly said that "The pandemic is also a burden on the statutory health insurance companies, due to lower income and higher expenditure. This burden should not be balanced by the contributors alone."⁶⁹²⁷ The Act also funds 20,000 additional nursing assistant and geriatric care jobs, as well as extends the Care Support Allowance, which is a wage replacement benefit for individuals who have taken over home care due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁹²⁸

On 7 December 2020, Minister Spahn announced changes to the Medical Devices Dispensing Ordinance which began allowing teachers to obtain and use rapid COVID-19 tests at day-care

⁶⁹²⁰ France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁹²¹ France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁹²² France raises bird flu alert level after severe form of virus detected, Euronews (Lyon) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/28/us-safrica-france-vaccination>

⁶⁹²³ France to Extend Health Pass Requirement, Bill Is Underway (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/news/france-to-extend-health-pass-requirement-bill-is-underway/>

⁶⁹²⁴ France to Extend Health Pass Requirement, Bill Is Underway (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info.com/news/france-to-extend-health-pass-requirement-bill-is-underway/>

⁶⁹²⁵ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁶⁹²⁶ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁶⁹²⁷ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁶⁹²⁸ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

centres and schools.⁶⁹²⁹ Rapid tests would allow students to stay in school once receiving a negative test, rather than staying home for the compulsory five-day quarantine following a COVID exposure.⁶⁹³⁰

On 15 December 2020, the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union reached a preliminary agreement with the European Parliament on the EU4Health program for 2021-2027.⁶⁹³¹ This program has a budget of EUR5.1 billion and provides a solid basis for EU action in the health sector based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁹³² It promotes measures to supplement national stocks of essential products in times of crisis at the EU level, as well as supports measures that enable the mobilization of healthcare workers to crisis areas.⁶⁹³³

On 16 December 2020, the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control published a new guideline on federal funding of production facilities for point-of-care antigen testing.⁶⁹³⁴ The funding is intended to support companies building antigen-testing production capabilities in Germany.⁶⁹³⁵ Up to EUR200 million is available for investment in new production facilities or expansion of existing facilities, with the goal of allowing Germany to rely on the domestic market for COVID-19 testing.⁶⁹³⁶

On 21 December 2020, Minister Spahn presented the Coronavirus Vaccination Ordinance.⁶⁹³⁷ The ordinance specifies the order of priority for vaccinations.⁶⁹³⁸ The three priority groups outlined in the ordinance include people over the age of 80 and healthcare workers, people over the age of 70 and those with chronic health conditions, and people over the age of 60 and essential employees, including public servants and teachers.⁶⁹³⁹

⁶⁹²⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³¹ Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁶⁹³² Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁶⁹³³ Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁶⁹³⁴ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁶⁹³⁵ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁶⁹³⁶ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁶⁹³⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹³⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

On 31 January 2020, the Federal Cabinet adopted a new Coronavirus entry regulation.⁶⁹⁴⁰ The regulation requires that anyone entering Germany from a risk area be able to prove within 48 hours of entry that they are not infected with the coronavirus.⁶⁹⁴¹ Minister Spahn emphasized the need to protect Germany from emerging coronavirus variants.⁶⁹⁴² Additionally, all travelers entering Germany will receive an SMS on their mobile device informing them of current COVID-19 regulations in place.⁶⁹⁴³

On 19 January 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health issued the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance.⁶⁹⁴⁴ The ordinance obliges laboratories and facilities carrying out sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 to transmit the genome sequence data to the Robert Koch Institute.⁶⁹⁴⁵ The goal of this ordinance is to ensure that data pertaining to the evolution of viruses and new variants is collected and evaluated at a central point.⁶⁹⁴⁶ This demonstrates Germany's efforts for early detection of COVID-19 variants.

On 19 February 2021, Germany committed EUR1.5 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT) and the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), which Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged at the Virtual G7 leaders meeting.⁶⁹⁴⁷ The ACT Accelerator aims to develop, produce and ensure the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments.⁶⁹⁴⁸ COVAX is the vaccine pillar of the ACT Accelerator and is led by the WHO, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.⁶⁹⁴⁹ These three entities are working to ensure that vaccines are accessible and affordable for all countries, especially developing ones.⁶⁹⁵⁰

On 11 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs extended the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until April 30, 2021.⁶⁹⁵¹ The ordinance is in place to

⁶⁹⁴⁰ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴¹ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴² Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴³ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁴ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁵ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁶ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁶⁹⁴⁷ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁴⁸ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁴⁹ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁵⁰ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁶⁹⁵¹ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

ensure the protection of employees' health as well as prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.⁶⁹⁵² It mandates at least 1.5-meter distance from others when possible, as well as the use of medical face masks when indoors.⁶⁹⁵³ Regular ventilation must be guaranteed and in companies with more than ten employees, these must be divided into small working groups when possible.⁶⁹⁵⁴

On 25 March 2021, Chancellor Merkel offered a statement before the beginning of the European Council.⁶⁹⁵⁵ She emphasized her support for the joint procurement and licensing of vaccines within the European Union, as well as the importance of the independent production of vaccines in Europe.⁶⁹⁵⁶ Chancellor Merkel advocated for a regionalized approach to opening, allowing municipalities to determine the severity of COVID-19 precautions.⁶⁹⁵⁷

On 26 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet amended the Coronavirus Entry Ordinance.⁶⁹⁵⁸ A general testing obligation for all air travelers was introduced, requiring a negative test result not older than 48 hours for travelers before departure.⁶⁹⁵⁹

On 27 March 2021, Germany passed a law on “The continued validity of regulations concerning the epidemic situation of national scope,” which determined that the epidemic situation in Germany remained of national importance.⁶⁹⁶⁰ This extended the public health regulations such as the Coronavirus Testing Regulation, the Coronavirus Vaccination Regulation and the Coronavirus Entry Regulation beyond their initial end date of 31 March.⁶⁹⁶¹ The law also strengthened the legal framework for vaccination priorities by including health conditions for priority vaccinations.⁶⁹⁶²

On 31 March 2021, the Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) presented a revised draft of its COVID-19 vaccination recommendation.⁶⁹⁶³ In it, the STIKO recommends the use of the vaccine from AstraZeneca for people over 60 years of age.⁶⁹⁶⁴ The STIKO's recommendations are based on

⁶⁹⁵² Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁶⁹⁵³ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁶⁹⁵⁴ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁶⁹⁵⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁵⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶¹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶² The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶³ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

findings showing very rare but very serious cases of blood clotting in people vaccinated with AstraZeneca.⁶⁹⁶⁵

On 8 April 2021, Development Minister Gerd Muller emphasized the need for nature conservation on the occasion of World Health Day.⁶⁹⁶⁶ He noted that 75 per cent of newly emerging infectious diseases arise from animals.⁶⁹⁶⁷ “Where rainforests burn and wild animals are wiped out, viruses lose their original host and jump more easily to humans,” Minister Muller wrote in an article for the Rheinische Post.⁶⁹⁶⁸ Minister Muller also called on the international community to support coronavirus vaccinations in developing countries.⁶⁹⁶⁹

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet extended the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance until 28 April 2021.⁶⁹⁷⁰ The Ordinance requires that persons entering the country take a coronavirus test no more than 48 hours before entry.⁶⁹⁷¹ In virus variants areas, the test must be taken no more than 12 hours before departure.⁶⁹⁷²

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted an amendment to the Infection Protection Act, which requires that if the number of new infections with the coronavirus per 100,000 inhabitants exceeds 100 in a set district or city on three consecutive days, additional measures will come into place the following day.⁶⁹⁷³ These measures are in place to reduce contacts and include closing leisure and sports facilities.⁶⁹⁷⁴

On 21 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance.⁶⁹⁷⁵ As of 20 April, employers are obligated to offer their employees that cannot work at home coronavirus tests at least once a week.⁶⁹⁷⁶ Risk groups are offered tests twice a week.⁶⁹⁷⁷ “In this way we can prevent chains of infection, protect health and ultimately avoid company closures. This new obligation has become necessary so that really all workers in the company receive an offer of testing,” explained Federal Labour Minister Hubertus Heil.⁶⁹⁷⁸ The cost

⁶⁹⁶⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁶⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷¹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷² The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷³ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁷⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

of tests must be borne by employers, however employees are not obliged to accept the offer of the test.⁶⁹⁷⁹ The amendment extends Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until 30 June 2021.⁶⁹⁸⁰

On 10 May 2021, Minister Spahn said that the Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines will be made available to all adults after the advice of their doctor.⁶⁹⁸¹ Even though, cases of a rare blood clotting appeared in US adults who received the dose, Europe's drug regulator backed the two vaccines. The decisions reflect Germany's progress in vaccinating its people and Minister Spahn added that any senior who wanted to get vaccinated could do so by late May or early June.⁶⁹⁸²

On 12 May 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted regulations that will incorporate a transport ban from "areas of variant concern" into the COVID-19 Immigration Regulations.⁶⁹⁸³

On 19 May 2021, the Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the virtual Research Summit of German industry in which she advocated retaining a high level of research and development spending even after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁹⁸⁴

On 21 May 2021, Angela Merkel attended the Global Health Summit, after which she announced that Germany will supply 30 million vaccine doses by the end of the year and a total of EUR2.2 billion to support ACT-Accelerator.⁶⁹⁸⁵ Of the EUR2.2 billion, EUR980 million will be available to the COVAX Facility to help developing countries procure vaccines.⁶⁹⁸⁶

On 26 May 2021, Angela Merkel discussed the impact of the pandemic on people engaged in voluntary work with volunteers from various aid organizations at the online citizen's dialogue.⁶⁹⁸⁷

On 2 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet set in place regulations that will ensure regular pay according to tariff for nursing care staff.⁶⁹⁸⁸ This involves increased relief according to the length of nursing care required.⁶⁹⁸⁹ The Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn stated that "We are reducing the burden on

⁶⁹⁷⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁸⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁶⁹⁸¹ Germany to make J&J's COVID-19 vaccine available to all (Berlin) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/germany-to-make-jjs-covid-19-vaccine-available-to-all-adults/articleshow/82518880.cms>

⁶⁹⁸² Germany to make J&J's COVID-19 vaccine available to all (Berlin) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/germany-to-make-jjs-covid-19-vaccine-available-to-all-adults/articleshow/82518880.cms>

⁶⁹⁸³ Immigration exemptions after vaccination or recovery, the Federal Government (Berlin). 12 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-19-immigration-regulations-1913692>

⁶⁹⁸⁴ Emerging from the crisis thanks to research, The Federal Government (Berlin). 19 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/research-summit-1915634>

⁶⁹⁸⁵ Germany supports global efforts to fight the pandemic, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/chancellor-global-health-summit-1916604>

⁶⁹⁸⁶ Global immunisation campaign offers a way out of the crisis, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 21 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/development-policy/covid-19-pandemic/global-immunisation-campaign>

⁶⁹⁸⁷ The Chancellor talks with citizens engaged in voluntary work, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 May 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/citizens-dialogue-voluntary-work-1916384>

⁶⁹⁸⁸ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

⁶⁹⁸⁹ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

care patients and their families by around EUR3 billion.”⁶⁹⁹⁰ The Federal Cabinet has also decided that the additional federal contribution to the statutory health insurance companies should be increased by EUR7 billion in 2022.⁶⁹⁹¹

On 17 June 2021, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller, visited the Institut Pasteur de Dakar to discuss the future production of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa.⁶⁹⁹² Germany has stated it will provide funding of EUR20 million.⁶⁹⁹³

On 18 June 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance released a report on the Financial Development in Statutory Health Insurance including Agricultural Health Insurance in the 1st Quarter of 2021.⁶⁹⁹⁴ The statutory health insurance companies stated a deficit of EUR148 million in the first quarter.⁶⁹⁹⁵ The Federal Cabinet is waiting on the data for the first half of the year to decide whether the supplementary federal subsidy of EUR7 billion for 2022 will have to be adjusted in order to keep the average additional contribution stable.⁶⁹⁹⁶

On 21 June 2021, Angela Merkel engaged in discussion with Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Draghi in preparation for the upcoming European Council.⁶⁹⁹⁷ The discussion was based on the consequences of the pandemic, the recovery plan and improved coordination in terms of entry regulations.⁶⁹⁹⁸

On 23 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet adjusted the COVID-19 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation “so that from 1 July 2021 workers will no longer need to work from home.”⁶⁹⁹⁹ Requirements to offer tests and the general rules of social distancing, hygiene, face coverings and ventilation are to remain in place.⁷⁰⁰⁰

⁶⁹⁹⁰ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

⁶⁹⁹¹ Improvements for nursing staff and care patients, The Federal Government (Berlin). 2 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cabinet-nursing-care-1923636>

⁶⁹⁹² Minister Müller and Institut Pasteur fire starter pistol for the establishment of COVID-19 vaccine production capacity in Africa, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/establishment-vaccine-production-capacity-in-africa-84350>

⁶⁹⁹³ Minister Müller and Institut Pasteur fire starter pistol for the establishment of COVID-19 vaccine production capacity in Africa, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/establishment-vaccine-production-capacity-in-africa-84350>

⁶⁹⁹⁴ Financial development of the statutory health insurance in the 1st quarter of 2021, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/2-quartal/gkv-1-quartal-2021.html>

⁶⁹⁹⁵ Financial development of the statutory health insurance in the 1st quarter of 2021, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/2-quartal/gkv-1-quartal-2021.html>

⁶⁹⁹⁶ Financial development of the statutory health insurance in the 1st quarter of 2021, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/2-quartal/gkv-1-quartal-2021.html>

⁶⁹⁹⁷ Focus on the pandemic and migration, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/merkel-receives-draghi-1934488>

⁶⁹⁹⁸ Focus on the pandemic and migration, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/merkel-receives-draghi-1934488>

⁶⁹⁹⁹ Obligation to work from home to be lifted from 1 July, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-health-safety-regulation-1936424>

⁷⁰⁰⁰ Obligation to work from home to be lifted from 1 July, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-health-safety-regulation-1936424>

On 23 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet amended the Testing Ordinance to allow for greater control of testing and billing after several cases of individual testing providers committing fraud.⁷⁰⁰¹ “The ordinance will come into force on 1 July 2021.”⁷⁰⁰² The Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians are in charge of reviewing the invoices and will be granted access to advanced review methods with increased cooperation between the association and the Public Health Service.⁷⁰⁰³ Remuneration will be standardized, simplified and reduced.⁷⁰⁰⁴ “Costs for materials will be covered with a lump sum based on current market prices.”⁷⁰⁰⁵ The amended ordinance also provides that in addition to rapid antigen tests, supervised self-tests can also be carried out in test centres or doctor’s offices.⁷⁰⁰⁶

On 25 June 2021, an Advisory Board made up of representatives from hospitals, statutory and private health insurance companies and renowned scientists released a report on the impact of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Hospitals Relief Act on the economic situation of hospitals.⁷⁰⁰⁷ According to the COVID-19 Hospitals Relief Act, clinics received a flat rate for each free bed kept for the treatment of COVID-19 patients from 16 March to 30 September 2020.⁷⁰⁰⁸ In its report, the Advisory Board comes to the conclusion that the income situation of the hospitals did not deteriorate on average from January to May 2020, taking into account the compensation payments.⁷⁰⁰⁹ A continuation of the flat fee was therefore deemed not necessary.⁷⁰¹⁰ In the future, hospitals with corona-related revenue shortfalls and additional costs will be able to agree on individual compensation with the payers.⁷⁰¹¹

On 24 June 2021, the Federal Foreign Office stated that Germany will dispense 30 million vaccine doses from its own supply.⁷⁰¹² Germany will support 100 countries and launched three major

⁷⁰⁰¹ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰² Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰³ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁴ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁵ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁶ Greater control for test centres, The Federal Government (Berlin). 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-testing-ordinance-1936432>

⁷⁰⁰⁷ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰⁰⁸ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰⁰⁹ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰¹⁰ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰¹¹ Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the impact of COVID-19 - Krankenhausentlastungsgesetzes, The Federal Ministry of Health. 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/bericht-expertenbeirat.html>

⁷⁰¹² Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany is contributing 2.2 billion euro to global efforts to fight the pandemic, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 24 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>

packages, 1400 ventilators, 24 million KN95 masks, 197 million surgical masks and EUR450 million for humanitarian aid.⁷⁰¹³

On 21 July 2021, the Federal Cabinet decided to extend and adapt the quarantine rules under the Coronavirus Immigration Regulations which are to come into force on 28 July 2021.⁷⁰¹⁴

On 28 July 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health conducted departmental research to provide important findings and information of effective and practical projects to teach people about health.⁷⁰¹⁵

On 30 July 2021, the Government of Germany decided to extend the testing requirement for those entering the country.⁷⁰¹⁶ Those who are fully vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19, or under 12 are exempt from the test requirements.⁷⁰¹⁷

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Germany delivered the first portion of COVID-19 vaccines produced by AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson through COVAX.⁷⁰¹⁸ Afghanistan will receive 213,600 vaccine doses, Ethiopia 271,200, Sudan 357,600, Tajikistan 100,800 and Uzbekistan 355,200.⁷⁰¹⁹

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Germany agreed on the 3G Rule, which will provide visiting access to hospitals, nursing and care homes, assisted living facilities for the disabled, indoor cafes, restaurants, indoor events, celebrations, personal care services, indoor sports and overnight accommodation only to those who are vaccinated, recovered, tested person with a rapid antigen test or PCR test or under the age of six.⁷⁰²⁰ The states of Germany have the power to suspend the 3G Rule.⁷⁰²¹

On 10 August 2021, the Government of Germany will stop free public testing for all citizens coming into effect from 11 October 2021, except for those who cannot be vaccinated and for whom there is no general vaccination recommendation.⁷⁰²²

⁷⁰¹³ Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany is contributing 2.2 billion euro to global efforts to fight the pandemic, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 24 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>

⁷⁰¹⁴ Coronavirus immigration regulations extended, The Federal Government (Berlin). 21 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/quarantine-rules-changed-1944540>

⁷⁰¹⁵ Practice-oriented research on health literacy, The Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/praxisorientierte-forschung.html>

⁷⁰¹⁶ The following applies to travellers as of 1 August, The Federal Government (Berlin) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/faq-travel-1947564>

⁷⁰¹⁷ The following applies to travellers as of 1 August, The Federal Government (Berlin) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/faq-travel-1947564>

⁷⁰¹⁸ Developing countries receive first tranche of vaccine, The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/vaccines-developing-countries-1949570>

⁷⁰¹⁹ Developing countries receive first tranche of vaccine, The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/vaccines-developing-countries-1949570>

⁷⁰²⁰ "A contribution to the community that every individual can make", The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-regional-consultations-1949646>

⁷⁰²¹ "A contribution to the community that every individual can make", The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-regional-consultations-1949646>

⁷⁰²² "A contribution to the community that every individual can make", The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/federal-regional-consultations-1949646>

On 21 August 2021, the Government of Germany sent 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Ukraine.⁷⁰²³

On 1 September 2021, the Government of Germany updated the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to include that effective 10 September 2021 companies are to give their employees time off to get vaccinated.⁷⁰²⁴

On 6 September 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research proposed funding of EUR150 million to the development of medications to treat COVID-19.⁷⁰²⁵ This funding is for projects that are already at an early stage of advanced clinical development and will continue through to final approval.⁷⁰²⁶

Germany has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by contributing to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, by issuing the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance and the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance. Germany has also supported German research for companies engaging in antigen production testing capabilities.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Liva Zemitis and Janishan Jeyarajah

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 22 November 2020, India sent teams to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh to support states in their COVID-19 response and management.⁷⁰²⁷ These teams supported national efforts towards prevention, control measures, testing, surveillance, and clinical management of positive cases.⁷⁰²⁸

On 30 November 2020, Minister for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan and the Indian Red Cross Society distributed masks and soaps at Old Delhi Railway Station, in an effort to prevent further COVID-19 outbreaks.⁷⁰²⁹ He reportedly said, “We will soon be completing

⁷⁰²³ Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany donates vaccines, The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussepolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>

⁷⁰²⁴ Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to be adapted, The Federal Government (Berlin) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-health-and-safety-regulation-1956814>

⁷⁰²⁵ Federal Government funds medications to treat COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/medication-research-covid-19-1958022>

⁷⁰²⁶ Federal Government funds medications to treat COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/medication-research-covid-19-1958022>

⁷⁰²⁷ Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁷⁰²⁸ Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁷⁰²⁹ Dr. Harsh Vardhan distributes masks and soaps with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at Old Delhi Railway Station, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677121>

eleven months in our fight against COVID-19, since then, our biggest weapon is mask and sanitizer.”⁷⁰³⁰

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry for Health and Family Welfare issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) on preventive and precautionary measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁰³¹ The SOP sought to protect vulnerable populations, promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviours, and maintain a healthy environment at marketplaces.⁷⁰³²

On 2 December 2020, Minister Vardhan chaired the inaugural session for the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre.⁷⁰³³ This centre seeks to increase collaboration and innovation among the states, in an effort to respond to health crises, including COVID-19.⁷⁰³⁴ Strategic plans emerged from the Joint Working Group to set-up a memorandum of understanding to further increase health cooperation between the two countries.⁷⁰³⁵

On 10 December 2020, at the World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Minister Vardhan announced India is building a digital platform for vaccine registration.⁷⁰³⁶ He also detailed the leveraging of existing digital interventions of India’s ”Mission Indradhanush,” immunization programs.⁷⁰³⁷ India is noted to have been building the advanced Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network digital platform.⁷⁰³⁸ This will allow citizens to self-register for vaccination, monitor their status and be provided with a QR code based electronic vaccination certificate upon completion of the process.⁷⁰³⁹

On 25 December 2020, India began preparation for COVID vaccine rollout.⁷⁰⁴⁰ 2,360 participants were trained in vaccine administration across various states, with more than 7,000 to be trained in the

⁷⁰³⁰ Dr. Harsh Vardhan distributes masks and soaps with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at Old Delhi Railway Station, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677121>

⁷⁰³¹ Health Ministry releases SOP on Preventive Measures in Markets to contain spread of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677644>

⁷⁰³² Health Ministry releases SOP on Preventive Measures in Markets to contain spread of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677644>

⁷⁰³³ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁷⁰³⁴ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁷⁰³⁵ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁷⁰³⁶ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰³⁷ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰³⁸ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰³⁹ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁷⁰⁴⁰ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

upcoming week.⁷⁰⁴¹ As a preparations step for administration of COVID-19 vaccine a dry run was planned in four states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Punjab. Each state will plan it in two districts and preferably in five different session type settings.⁷⁰⁴²

On 26 December 2020, the National Task Force convened to discuss testing, treatment, and surveillance strategies to combat the UK strain of COVID-19.⁷⁰⁴³ This included testing at all points of entry, community surveillance, and prospective surveillance.⁷⁰⁴⁴ Moreover, the National Centre for Disease Control informed India to take note of the reports of mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 from the UK and the response of other affected countries.⁷⁰⁴⁵

On 16 January 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the national COVID-19 vaccine drive.⁷⁰⁴⁶ Over 190,000 individuals were vaccinated on the first day of the program.⁷⁰⁴⁷ The two types of COVID-19 vaccines that were supplied were Covishield vaccine, made by Serum Institute of India Ltd and Covaxin vaccine, made by Bharat Biotech International Ltd.⁷⁰⁴⁸ The vaccines were initially supplied to 12 States. Adequate quantities of vaccines and logistics were ensured at all COVID-19 vaccination session sites.⁷⁰⁴⁹

On 21 January 2021, Minister Vardhan unveiled a poster campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation prevalent throughout certain regions of the State.⁷⁰⁵⁰ Containing factual information from credible government sources such as the Health ministry and Press Information Bureau, the posters aimed to explain the role of vaccines in eliminating disease using historical examples such as Smallpox and Polio.⁷⁰⁵¹

On 5 April 2021, Minister Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform, the revision to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program.⁷⁰⁵² The digital platform will provide real time

⁷⁰⁴¹ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁷⁰⁴² Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁷⁰⁴³ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁷⁰⁴⁴ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁷⁰⁴⁵ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁷⁰⁴⁶ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁴⁷ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁴⁸ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁴⁹ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁷⁰⁵⁰ Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils IEC Campaign to address Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690821>

⁷⁰⁵¹ Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils IEC Campaign to address Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690821>

⁷⁰⁵² Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

data and analytics on 33 infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁷⁰⁵³ Through this program the government looks to locate and prevent disease spread within the nation, in hopes of preventing any potential outbreaks.⁷⁰⁵⁴

On 17 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi tweeted that he had spoken to Swami Avdheshanand Giri of Juna Akhada and advised that the Haridwar Mahakumbh Mela (a religious pilgrimage) be curtailed and be “symbolic.”⁷⁰⁵⁵ Swami Avdheshanand replied by saying, “We support honorable Prime Minister’s appeal and now the Kumbh is symbolic only. No one is saying that Mahakumbh should end. We appeal our emotional devotees to try and not travel to Haridwar in big numbers.”⁷⁰⁵⁶ The Akhada confirmed that COVID-19 precautionary measures must be followed fully, and the number of daily COVID-19 cases reached 2000–2500 per day after the commencement of the Mahakumbh in Haridwar on April 1 compared to the 30–60 cases every day in February in the state of Uttarakhand.⁷⁰⁵⁷

On 19 April 2021, India announced the Phase 3 strategy for its vaccination program.⁷⁰⁵⁸ Beginning 1 May 2021, anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for vaccination.⁷⁰⁵⁹ The government looks to liberalize vaccine pricing and increase coverage by opening the program to the open market.⁷⁰⁶⁰ Under this new program, vaccine manufacturers are required to allocate 50 percent of vaccines to state governments, while the remaining 50 percent will be in the open market.⁷⁰⁶¹ Thus, allowing citizens to purchase privately.⁷⁰⁶²

On 21 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that had started in mid-March.⁷⁰⁶³ He reported a peak of 295,000 new COVID-19 cases,

⁷⁰⁵³ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁷⁰⁵⁴ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁷⁰⁵⁵ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁷⁰⁵⁶ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁷⁰⁵⁷ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁷⁰⁵⁸ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁵⁹ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶⁰ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶¹ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶² Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁷⁰⁶³ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

the highest daily figure since the pandemic began.⁷⁰⁶⁴ Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reported that the country was left with only a "few hours of oxygen" and that, "our healthcare system has reached its limit. It is now in a state of distress. It has not collapsed yet, but it is in distress."⁷⁰⁶⁵

On 23 April 2021, the Chief Ministers of many states had made the demand to the Central Government that they were in dire need of food rations.⁷⁰⁶⁶ The Modi Government responded by announcing to promise to give free rations to poor families, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.⁷⁰⁶⁷ Ration card holders will now be able to take 5 kilograms more rice and wheat per person in the month of May and June. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah added that this will benefit 8 million people of the country.⁷⁰⁶⁸

On 26 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi ordered setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals. These plants will be set up with financial assistance from the Prime Minister Cares fund.⁷⁰⁶⁹ The Prime Minister's Office said, "these plants will be established in identified government hospitals in district headquarters in various States and Union Territories. They are to be operational as soon as possible."⁷⁰⁷⁰

On 27 April 2021, India imported 20 cryogenic tankers to address the shortage of medical oxygen in the country.⁷⁰⁷¹ The tankers will assist in the transportation of medical oxygen to the eastern portion of India.⁷⁰⁷²

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that over 150 million COVID vaccination doses have been administered since the start of the vaccination drive.⁷⁰⁷³ Over 24 million individuals have received their second vaccination dose.⁷⁰⁷⁴

On 4 May 2021, the Government of India revealed its ongoing efforts of allocating global aid through the "Whole of Government approach."⁷⁰⁷⁵ In collaboration with the States and Union

⁷⁰⁶⁴ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷⁰⁶⁵ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷⁰⁶⁶ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁷⁰⁶⁷ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁷⁰⁶⁸ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁷⁰⁶⁹ Prime Minister Narendra Modi orders setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals from PM Cares fund (New Delhi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=415067>

⁷⁰⁷⁰ Prime Minister Narendra Modi orders setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals from PM Cares fund (New Delhi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=415067>

⁷⁰⁷¹ To address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imports 20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocates them to States, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714280>

⁷⁰⁷² To address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imports 20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocates them to States, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714280>

⁷⁰⁷³ India's crosses a major landmark with more than 15 Crore Cumulative Vaccination Coverage, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714778>

⁷⁰⁷⁴ India's crosses a major landmark with more than 15 Crore Cumulative Vaccination Coverage, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714778>

⁷⁰⁷⁵ Effective Allocation by Government of India of COVID -19 supplies received from the Global Community for Fight against the Global Pandemic, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

territories, the Government of India has developed a systematic and streamlined approach to allocating COVID-19 global aid.⁷⁰⁷⁶ The Union government issues faster custom clearances and utilizes road and airways to ensure prompt delivery of aid to states and territories.⁷⁰⁷⁷ Global aid includes medical equipment, medication, and oxygen and oxygen related equipment.⁷⁰⁷⁸

On 5 May 2021, two medical oxygen plants were installed at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and RML hospital in New Delhi.⁷⁰⁷⁹ “The plants were funded through the Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES).”⁷⁰⁸⁰ The fund was established by the Government of India on 27 March 2020, in order to undertake and provide relief measures for public health emergencies.⁷⁰⁸¹ Relief measures include direct support, creating and upgrading healthcare and pharmaceutical facilities, and funding healthcare research.⁷⁰⁸²

On 13 May 2021, the Drugs Controller General of India approved phase II and III of India’s COVID-19 vaccines, COVAXIN’s, clinical trial on children from the ages of 2 to 8.⁷⁰⁸³ The trial will consist of 525 healthy participants.⁷⁰⁸⁴ Participants will be dosed with two intramuscular injections, with the second injection being administered 28 days after the first.⁷⁰⁸⁵

On 17 May 2021, Minister of Defence Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, announced the launch of a new anti COVID-19 drug, 2-DG.⁷⁰⁸⁶ In COVID-19 patients, 2-DG reduces dependence on oxygen sources.⁷⁰⁸⁷ The drug has been clinically trialled in over thirty hospitals prior to the launch and was developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Defence Research and Development Organization, and Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories.⁷⁰⁸⁸

⁷⁰⁷⁶ Effective Allocation by Government of India of COVID -19 supplies received from the Global Community for Fight against the Global Pandemic, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷⁰⁷⁷ Global Aid comprising of Oxygen concentrators, cylinders, generation plants and more than 3 L Remdesivir Vials received and expedited to States/UTs in their fight against COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1717365>

⁷⁰⁷⁸ Effective Allocation by Government of India of COVID -19 supplies received from the Global Community for Fight against the Global Pandemic, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷⁰⁷⁹ Installation of Two High Flow Medical Oxygen Plants funded by PMCARES at AIIMS, New Delhi and RML Hospital completed, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1716089>

⁷⁰⁸⁰ Installation of Two High Flow Medical Oxygen Plants funded by PMCARES at AIIMS, New Delhi and RML Hospital completed, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1716089>

⁷⁰⁸¹ ABOUT PM CARES FUND, PM Cares (Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

https://www.pmcared.gov.in/en/web/page/about_us

⁷⁰⁸² ABOUT PM CARES FUND, PM Cares (Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

https://www.pmcared.gov.in/en/web/page/about_us

⁷⁰⁸³ DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

⁷⁰⁸⁴ DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

⁷⁰⁸⁵ DCGI approves Phase II/III clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

⁷⁰⁸⁶ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

⁷⁰⁸⁷ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

⁷⁰⁸⁸ Anti Covid drug 2-DG launched by Defence Minister and Health Minister, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719393>

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family welfare released an ongoing selection of press releases on debunking COVID-19 vaccination myths, in order to combat misinformation.⁷⁰⁸⁹ The Ministry stated that “India’s Co-Win platform, facilitates registration, appointment scheduling, and certification.”⁷⁰⁹⁰ Citizens will receive a text message with their certification post-vaccination, and if they do not receive it, it is their responsibility to bring it to the attention of the vaccinator who will rectify the issue.⁷⁰⁹¹

On 8 June 2021, the Government of India placed a new order for COVID-19 vaccines in order to achieve universal vaccination.⁷⁰⁹² The Union Ministry placed an order for 25 crore doses of Covishield, and 19 crore doses of Covaxin, which is expected to be administered till December 2021.⁷⁰⁹³ The influx of vaccinations enables all citizens over the age of 18 to receive COVID-19 vaccinations for free at government health facilities.⁷⁰⁹⁴

On 11 June 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family welfare announced that three villages in Maharashtra’s Nandurbar district have achieved 100 per cent vaccination rate for those over the age of 45.⁷⁰⁹⁵ District Administration and elected representatives in Maharashtra had started a public awareness drive to dispel misconceptions of COVID-19 vaccine in order to reduce vaccine hesitancy.⁷⁰⁹⁶ The tribal community in these villages had believed that people could die due to side effects from the vaccine and were initially hesitant to get vaccinated.⁷⁰⁹⁷

On 2 July 2021, the Government of India sent out “COVID-19 control and containment teams to the states of Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Manipur” due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases.⁷⁰⁹⁸ The teams will monitor COVID-19 management, testing, surveillance, and resource availability within the states.⁷⁰⁹⁹

⁷⁰⁸⁹ Busting Myths of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723265>

⁷⁰⁹⁰ Busting Myths of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723265>

⁷⁰⁹¹ Busting Myths of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1723265>

⁷⁰⁹² Fresh Order for Vaccines placed to achieve Universalization of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725339>

⁷⁰⁹³ Fresh Order for Vaccines placed to achieve Universalization of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725339>

⁷⁰⁹⁴ Fresh Order for Vaccines placed to achieve Universalization of Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725339>

⁷⁰⁹⁵ District Administration and People’s representatives join hands to dispel misconceptions and rumours regarding vaccination in tribal-dominated areas: Three villages in Nandurabar district of Maharashtra have successfully achieved the target of 100% vaccination of 45+ age-group., Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726191>

⁷⁰⁹⁶ District Administration and People’s representatives join hands to dispel misconceptions and rumours regarding vaccination in tribal-dominated areas: Three villages in Nandurabar district of Maharashtra have successfully achieved the target of 100% vaccination of 45+ age-group., Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726191>

⁷⁰⁹⁷ District Administration and People’s representatives join hands to dispel misconceptions and rumours regarding vaccination in tribal-dominated areas: Three villages in Nandurabar district of Maharashtra have successfully achieved the target of 100% vaccination of 45+ age-group., Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1726191>

⁷⁰⁹⁸ Centre rushes teams to 6 States for COVID-19 control and containment measures, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732169>

⁷⁰⁹⁹ Centre rushes teams to 6 States for COVID-19 control and containment measures, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1732169>

On 8 July 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II.⁷¹⁰⁰ The scheme will cost INR23,123 crores for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.⁷¹⁰¹ Under this scheme, the Government of India will accelerate healthcare preparedness for early prevention, detection, and management.⁷¹⁰² Further, support will be given to improve paediatric units, improve healthcare access in rural and tribal areas, and improve hospital management.⁷¹⁰³

On 27 July 2021, the Government of India revealed its ongoing initiatives on upgrading existing healthcare infrastructure for effective management of COVID-19.⁷¹⁰⁴ To limit transmission of COVID-19 and ensure the continuity of essential healthcare services, the government of India has created designated COVID-19 facilities including the COVID Care Centre, the Dedicated COVID Healthcare Centre, and the Dedicated COVID Hospital.⁷¹⁰⁵ Further, the central and state governments have been increasing ICU and isolation bed capacities.⁷¹⁰⁶

On 29 July 2021, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare sent a 6-member multi-disciplinary team to Kerala, in response to increasing COVID-19 cases.⁷¹⁰⁷ Working alongside the State Health Departments, the team will evaluate the situation and propose public health measures to contain the cases.⁷¹⁰⁸

On 7 August 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that India had administered over 5 million vaccine doses.⁷¹⁰⁹ The vaccination efforts have led to fewer than 50, 000

⁷¹⁰⁰ Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰¹ Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰² Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰³ Cabinet approves "India COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" at a cost of Rs 23,123 crore, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1733841>

⁷¹⁰⁴ Upgradation of Healthcare System for Effective Management of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739460>

⁷¹⁰⁵ Upgradation of Healthcare System for Effective Management of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739460>

⁷¹⁰⁶ Upgradation of Healthcare System for Effective Management of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷¹⁰⁷ Central Team to support the State in effective public health interventions for COVID19 management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷¹⁰⁸ Central Team to support the State in effective public health interventions for COVID19 management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1715896>

⁷¹⁰⁹ India's Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage achieved a significant milestone of 50 Cr, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743457>

cases daily over the past 41 days.⁷¹¹⁰ The overall recovery rate of individuals infected with COVID-19 stands at 97.37 per cent.⁷¹¹¹

On 9 August 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that over 90 Lakh telemedicine consultations had occurred using the Government of India's eSanjeevani initiative.⁷¹¹² eSanjeevani provided a user-accessible and practical solution for implementing telemedicine throughout India, with over 60 000 doctors trained to use the program.⁷¹¹³ The program allowed for patients to get timely access to healthcare without leaving their homes.⁷¹¹⁴ Further, in efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission, the Ministry announced that foreign nationals in India were now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹¹⁵

On 13 August 2021, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that it will fast-track the implementation of the 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II (ECRP-II package).⁷¹¹⁶ The package looks to accelerate healthcare preparedness in order to have early prevention, detection, and management.⁷¹¹⁷ Fast tracking the package means that 50 per cent of funding is now available to improve healthcare infrastructure throughout India.⁷¹¹⁸

On 10 September 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that CO-Win platform will now allow employers and certain businesses such as hotels, railways, and airways, to view if an individual has been vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷¹¹⁹ A consent-based system, individuals elect to give businesses their information such as name and phone number to book services.⁷¹²⁰ The CO-Win platform will send the business a numerical code which indicates whether the person is unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or fully vaccinated.⁷¹²¹

⁷¹¹⁰ India's Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage achieved a significant milestone of 50 Cr, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743457>

⁷¹¹¹ India's Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage achieved a significant milestone of 50 Cr, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743457>

⁷¹¹² Health Ministry's eSanjeevani completes 90 Lakh consultations, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744167>

⁷¹¹³ Health Ministry's eSanjeevani completes 90 Lakh consultations, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744167>

⁷¹¹⁴ Health Ministry's eSanjeevani completes 90 Lakh consultations, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744167>

⁷¹¹⁵ Foreign nationals are now eligible for Vaccination in India, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1744146>

⁷¹¹⁶ Implementation of ECRP-II Package on fast track mode, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745541>

⁷¹¹⁷ Implementation of ECRP-II Package on fast track mode, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745541>

⁷¹¹⁸ Implementation of ECRP-II Package on fast track mode, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745541>

⁷¹¹⁹ CoWIN launches new API: KYC-VS: Know Your Customer's/Client's Vaccination Status, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753802>

⁷¹²⁰ CoWIN launches new API: KYC-VS: Know Your Customer's/Client's Vaccination Status, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753802>

⁷¹²¹ CoWIN launches new API: KYC-VS: Know Your Customer's/Client's Vaccination Status, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753802>

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met at their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁷¹²² Following the summit in March, the leaders released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” The statement encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁷¹²³

India has taken some action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response by implementing initiatives such as executing the national vaccination roll out by a digital platform and the disbursement of masks and sanitizer to citizens. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the area of pandemic preparedness.

Thus, India has received a score of 0.

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Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 24 November 2020, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health Abdul Kadir issued a circular regarding the Readiness of Health Service Facilities in the Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination.⁷¹²⁴ The target recipients of vaccination are Indonesians aged 18-59.⁷¹²⁵ Indonesia also announced that it has requested provincial and district officials to begin preparing health facilities to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program when vaccines become available.⁷¹²⁶ Provincial and district health offices were instructed to designate a coordinator in charge of the COVID-19 vaccination program, optimize COVID-19 surveillance activities and develop plans to ensure that the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination does not interfere with other essential health services.⁷¹²⁷

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Health Human Resources Development Agency, held a COVID-19 Vaccination Preparation Workshop aimed at improving health workers understanding and knowledge of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹²⁸ The workshop included instruction on how to address misinformation about the vaccine among the public.⁷¹²⁹ Special Staff

⁷¹²² Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷¹²³ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷¹²⁴ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁵ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁶ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁷ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁷¹²⁸ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁷¹²⁹ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

to the Minister of Health for Human Resources Dr. Mariya Mubarika encouraged medical and health workers to be the spokesperson for the government in conveying and inviting people to vaccinate in due time, and thereby ward off any hesitancy in taking the vaccine.⁷¹³⁰

On 13 January 2021, Chairman of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency Penny Lukito officially issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹³¹ From the results of the third clinical trial of the vaccine in Indonesia, Turkey and Brazil the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency said that Sinovac had greater than 50 per cent efficacy in the three countries and had met all the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).⁷¹³² Indonesia, therefore launched its public vaccination program, with President Joko Widodo being the first citizen to be vaccinated along with several other high-ranking government officials to set examples for others and remove any vaccine hesitancy.⁷¹³³

On 8 March 2021, the National COVID-19 Task Force announced the extension of micro-scale restrictions on community activities from 9 March to 22 March to help control the spread of COVID-19.⁷¹³⁴ The restrictions have also been extended to include three new provinces (in addition to the provinces of Java and Bali) East Kalimantan, North Sumatra, and South Sulawesi.⁷¹³⁵ The restriction is included in the Instruction of the Minister of State (Number 5 of 2021).⁷¹³⁶

On 11 March 2021, Indonesia began the third stage of its national vaccination program, which covers 63.9 million citizens from vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities.⁷¹³⁷ The vaccination program was in line with President Widodo's International Disability Day celebrations when the Indonesian government is planning to issue seven governmental regulations and two presidential regulations for people with disabilities.⁷¹³⁸

On 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Health signed an agreement with the Ministry of Research and Technology to improve detection of new COVID-19 variants through whole genome sequencing (WGS).⁷¹³⁹ It was stated that 17 laboratories across the country have the capacity to conduct WGS to

⁷¹³⁰ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁷¹³¹ Safe, Ready to Implement Vaccinations! Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2301/aman-siap-laksanakan-vaksinasi>

⁷¹³² Safe, Ready to Implement Vaccinations! Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2301/aman-siap-laksanakan-vaksinasi>

⁷¹³³ A New Chapter of COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Begins, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2304/babak-baru-pemulihan-pandemi-covid-19-dimulai>

⁷¹³⁴ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁷¹³⁵ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁷¹³⁶ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁷¹³⁷ Persons with Disabilities with a Jakarta ID Card Receive COVID-19 Vaccination Today, Kompas Daily 11 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/03/11/13233201/penyandang-disabilitas-ber-ktp-dki-jalani-vaksinasi-covid-19-hari-ini>

⁷¹³⁸ Persons with Disabilities with a Jakarta ID Card Receive COVID-19 Vaccination Today, Kompas Daily 11 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/03/11/13233201/penyandang-disabilitas-ber-ktp-dki-jalani-vaksinasi-covid-19-hari-ini>

⁷¹³⁹ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

improve detection.⁷¹⁴⁰ Moreover, the government had regulated access restrictions at the entrance to Indonesia in accordance with the Task Force Circular Letter Number 8 of 2021.⁷¹⁴¹ This circular stipulated the suppression of the transmission of the mutant COVID-19 variant throughout Indonesia.⁷¹⁴²

On 12 March 2021, Indonesia entered a partnership with the WHO and the EU to strengthen the health system in Indonesia in order to prepare for pandemics and health emergencies.⁷¹⁴³ This is part of the South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness program.⁷¹⁴⁴ The EU plans to provide support of over EUR200 million to finance new COVID-19 response and public health programs in Indonesia, and to support the Ministry of Health's efforts to suppress community transmission.⁷¹⁴⁵ Minister Sadikin welcomed the WHO-EU Partnership and expressed appreciation in the implantation of the COVID-19 control approach in Indonesia, including the strengthening of Indonesia's health system ecosystem to be more resilient.⁷¹⁴⁶

On 13 March 2021, the Ministry of Health received over 1 million antigen-detecting rapid diagnosis tests from the WHO to support improvements to COVID-19 testing capacity.⁷¹⁴⁷ The estimated cost of the tests is approximately USD4.9 million.⁷¹⁴⁸ The use of antigen-detecting rapid diagnosis tests is expected to support improvements in COVID-19 testing capacity, especially in areas with limited access to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and high turnaround time for test results.⁷¹⁴⁹

⁷¹⁴⁰ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁷¹⁴¹ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁷¹⁴² The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁷¹⁴³ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁴ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁵ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁶ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁷¹⁴⁷ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁷¹⁴⁸ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁷¹⁴⁹ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

On 7 April 2021, Minister Sadikin, met with UK Foreign Minister Dominic Raab to discuss bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and the UK in controlling the pandemic⁷¹⁵⁰ Both countries agreed to collaborate in sharing vaccine and drug production technology, and capacity-building for research and public health surveillance.⁷¹⁵¹ The UK also committed to supporting Indonesia's genome sequencing capabilities through training and information technology.⁷¹⁵²

On 18 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard to provide data to the public about the progress of vaccinations in the country and promote transparency.⁷¹⁵³ The site also contains information about vaccine facilities and vaccination centers.⁷¹⁵⁴ The data provided on the website is obtained from Indonesia's COVID-19 Handling Committee.⁷¹⁵⁵

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched the Home Care and Home Delivery Vaccination Program, which aims to promote vaccine uptake among the elderly, aged 60 and above.⁷¹⁵⁶ It provides transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccination centers and implements vaccination delivery in nursing homes.⁷¹⁵⁷ The program is currently available in Jakarta.⁷¹⁵⁸

On 23 April 2021, Indonesia announced plans to impose travel restrictions from 6-17 May ahead of Eid al-Fitr, a holiday which results in millions of citizens travelling to their hometowns each year.⁷¹⁵⁹ During this time, those travelling by air, sea, and rail will need to present a negative PCR/antigen or GeNose breathalyzer COVID-19 test 24 hours prior to departure.⁷¹⁶⁰ Those travelling by road will also need to carry proof of a negative test, as police will be stationed at road blocks along major toll

⁷¹⁵⁰ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵¹ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵² Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵³ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparansikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵⁴ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparansikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵⁵ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparansikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁵⁶ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁷¹⁵⁷ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁷¹⁵⁸ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁷¹⁵⁹ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁷¹⁶⁰ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 66 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

routes to conduct random checks.⁷¹⁶¹ The governments hopes to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 with these travel regulations.⁷¹⁶²

On 10 May 2021, the Ministry of Health announced plans to begin recording data on bed capacities in COVID-19 wards across the country, and data on the availability of pharmaceuticals and medical devices needed for COVID-19 treatment.⁷¹⁶³ These were preparatory measures taken in anticipation of increased COVID-19 transmission during Eid.⁷¹⁶⁴ At the time of the initial press release, 23,000 of 70,000 COVID-19-designated beds across the country were occupied.⁷¹⁶⁵

On 12 May 2021, the Indonesian government sent 200 oxygen concentrator units to India to assist with the surge of COVID-19 cases in the country.⁷¹⁶⁶ A symbolic handover of aid was conducted between Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi and Indian Ambassador to Indonesia, Pradeep Kumar Rawat.⁷¹⁶⁷ In a press release issued shortly thereafter, the Ministry of Health communicated its commitment to supporting India and other countries affected by the COVID-19 crisis.⁷¹⁶⁸

On 17 May 2021, the Ministry of Health and the regional government of West Java began a 13-day initiative called the Vaccination Festival aimed at increasing vaccination rates among the elderly.⁷¹⁶⁹ A vaccination clinic was held at the Otista Soreang Hospital, with a bus service organized by the local Bandung Regency government to transport citizens to the clinic.⁷¹⁷⁰

⁷¹⁶¹ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁷¹⁶² Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁷¹⁶³ Anticipating a spike in cases after Lebaran, the Ministry of Health increases the capacity of hospital beds, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051100001/antisipasi-lonjakan-kasus-pasca-lebaran-kemenkes-tambah-kapasitas-tempat-tidur-rs.html>

⁷¹⁶⁴ Anticipating a spike in cases after Lebaran, the Ministry of Health increases the capacity of hospital beds, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051100001/antisipasi-lonjakan-kasus-pasca-lebaran-kemenkes-tambah-kapasitas-tempat-tidur-rs.html>

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⁷¹⁶⁶ Indonesia Sends 200 Oxygen Concentrators to India, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051200003/indonesia-kirim-200-oxygen-concentrators-ke-india.html>

⁷¹⁶⁷ Indonesia Sends 200 Oxygen Concentrators to India, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051200003/indonesia-kirim-200-oxygen-concentrators-ke-india.html>

⁷¹⁶⁸ Indonesia Sends 200 Oxygen Concentrators to India, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051200003/indonesia-kirim-200-oxygen-concentrators-ke-india.html>

⁷¹⁶⁹ Increasing the Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination for the Elderly in West Java, Minister of Health Launches Vaccination Festival, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051900001/tingkatkan-cakupan-vaksinasi-covid-19-lansia-di-jabar-menkes-launching-gebyar-vaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁷⁰ Increasing the Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination for the Elderly in West Java, Minister of Health Launches Vaccination Festival, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 21 May 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051900001/tingkatkan-cakupan-vaksinasi-covid-19-lansia-di-jabar-menkes-launching-gebyar-vaksinasi.html>

On 28 May 2021, the Ministry of Health released a press statement addressing misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷¹⁷¹ The Ministry clarified that the vaccine does not contain a magnetic microchip, which was a narrative spreading quickly on social media platforms.⁷¹⁷² This communication was meant to address and avoid further vaccine hesitancy.⁷¹⁷³

On 18 June 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a website to facilitate public disclosure of COVID-19-related data, including daily case numbers, hospitalizations, deaths, and the community transmission rate.⁷¹⁷⁴ Data is obtained from local Health Offices and informs policy-making about the control of COVID-19.⁷¹⁷⁵

On 21 June 2021, the Minister of Health, Budi Gunadi Sadikin, announced new COVID-19 restrictions following a spike in infections after Eid.⁷¹⁷⁶ The government tightened the implementation of Micro-scale Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM), which limit mobility and community interaction from 22 June 2021 to 5 July 2021.⁷¹⁷⁷ Alongside these restrictions, the government announced strengthening of its testing capacity and prioritization of testing for families where an individual has tested positive for COVID-19.⁷¹⁷⁸

On 1 July 2021, the Ministry of Health announced the implementation of a new telemedicine program to treat COVID-positive patients with mild symptoms self-isolating at home or in a centralized isolation center.⁷¹⁷⁹ This was done in an effort to reduce the burden on hospitals and to prioritize hospital services for moderate and severely ill patients.⁷¹⁸⁰ The Health Minister

⁷¹⁷¹ HOAX: COVID-19 Vaccine Contains Magnetic Microchips, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21052800002/hoax-vaksin-covid-19-mengandung-mikrocip-magnetis.html>

⁷¹⁷² HOAX: COVID-19 Vaccine Contains Magnetic Microchips, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21052800002/hoax-vaksin-covid-19-mengandung-mikrocip-magnetis.html>

⁷¹⁷³ HOAX: COVID-19 Vaccine Contains Magnetic Microchips, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21052800002/hoax-vaksin-covid-19-mengandung-mikrocip-magnetis.html>

⁷¹⁷⁴ Monitoring Pandemic Developments, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Dashboard, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21061900001/pantau-perkembangan-pandemi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁷⁵ Monitoring Pandemic Developments, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Dashboard, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21061900001/pantau-perkembangan-pandemi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁷⁶ Micro PPKM Tightened, Community Mobility in Red Zone Areas Restricted to 100%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21062200001/ppkm-mikro-diperketat-mobilitas-masyarakat-daerah-zona-merah-dibatasi-hingga-100-.html>

⁷¹⁷⁷ Micro PPKM Tightened, Community Mobility in Red Zone Areas Restricted to 100%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21062200001/ppkm-mikro-diperketat-mobilitas-masyarakat-daerah-zona-merah-dibatasi-hingga-100-.html>

⁷¹⁷⁸ Micro PPKM Tightened, Community Mobility in Red Zone Areas Restricted to 100%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21062200001/ppkm-mikro-diperketat-mobilitas-masyarakat-daerah-zona-merah-dibatasi-hingga-100-.html>

⁷¹⁷⁹ Ministry of Health Prepares Telemedicine Services for Self-Isolating Patients, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200005/kemenkes-siapkan-layanan-telemedicine-untuk-pasien-isolasi-mandiri.html>

⁷¹⁸⁰ Ministry of Health Prepares Telemedicine Services for Self-Isolating Patients, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200005/kemenkes-siapkan-layanan-telemedicine-untuk-pasien-isolasi-mandiri.html>

communicated that the telemedicine service will include regular consultations with health care staff and medicinal treatment where necessary.⁷¹⁸¹

On 1 July 2021, the Ministry of Health launched PeduliLindung, a COVID-19 application for contact tracing.⁷¹⁸² The application is integrated with national COVID-19 test result data and notifies those who have come into close contact with an infected individual over the last 14 days.⁷¹⁸³ The application can also be used to track the density of individuals in indoor spaces, such as shopping centers, and to check for necessary COVID-19 travel documents.⁷¹⁸⁴ The Ministry states that user data collected by the application is kept strictly confidential.⁷¹⁸⁵

On 3 July 2021, the Ministry of Health set maximum retail prices for 11 commonly-used COVID-19 therapeutics, including Remdesivir and Oseltamivir.⁷¹⁸⁶ This was done in an effort to prevent retailers from inflating the price of critical drugs needed during the pandemic.⁷¹⁸⁷ The Ministry announced that it will be coordinating with the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the National Police and the Attorney General's Office to enforce the new regulations.⁷¹⁸⁸

On 2 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would be prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations for pregnant women as they are at high risk of experiencing severe symptoms from infection.⁷¹⁸⁹ This new policy is contained within Circular HK.02.01/I/2007/2021 entitled COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women and Screening Adjustments in the Implementation of COVID-

⁷¹⁸¹ Ministry of Health Prepares Telemedicine Services for Self-Isolating Patients, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200005/kemenkes-siapkan-layanan-telemedicine-untuk-pasien-isolasi-mandiri.html>

⁷¹⁸² Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸³ Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸⁴ Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸⁵ Ministry of Health Launches QR Code for Care to Protect Applications, Strengthens COVID-19 Tracking and Contact Tracing COVID, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070200002/kemenkes-luncurkan-qr-code-untuk-aplikasi-pedulilindungi-perkuat-tracking-dan-contact-tracing-covid-.html>

⁷¹⁸⁶ Minister of Health Sets Highest Retail Price for COVID-19 Therapy Drugs, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070400001/menkes-tetapkan-harga-eceran-tertinggi-obat-terapi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁸⁷ Minister of Health Sets Highest Retail Price for COVID-19 Therapy Drugs, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070400001/menkes-tetapkan-harga-eceran-tertinggi-obat-terapi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁸⁸ Minister of Health Sets Highest Retail Price for COVID-19 Therapy Drugs, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21070400001/menkes-tetapkan-harga-eceran-tertinggi-obat-terapi-covid-19.html>

⁷¹⁸⁹ High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

19 Vaccination.⁷¹⁹⁰ The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be delivered in the second trimester of pregnancy and the second dose will be delivered in accordance with the recommended interval for each type of vaccine.⁷¹⁹¹ The government also plans to monitor vaccinated, pregnant individuals for any adverse effects of the vaccine.⁷¹⁹²

On 3 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that those individuals living in Indonesia who do not have a population identification number (NIK) can now be vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷¹⁹³ The NIK is used to verify the identity of Indonesian citizens, including their name, address, and date of birth, and has also recently been used to collect COVID-19 vaccination data.⁷¹⁹⁴ However, the NIK is no longer required for COVID-19 vaccination, and the Ministry plans to coordinate the tracking of vaccinations for individuals without an NIK with the Population and Civil Registry Office.⁷¹⁹⁵

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would be collaborating with the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Directorate General of Postal and Informatics, the Ministry of Communications and Informatics and BPJS Health, to improve the utilization of population data for pandemic control and vaccination services.⁷¹⁹⁶ This collaboration allows the Ministry of Health to have access to population data collected by these various governmental institutions.⁷¹⁹⁷ This data will be used for the registration of COVID-19 vaccination and issuance of COVID-19 digital vaccine certificates.⁷¹⁹⁸

⁷¹⁹⁰ High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

⁷¹⁹¹ High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

⁷¹⁹² High risk of experiencing severe symptoms, the Ministry of Health Allows the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant Women, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300001/berisiko-tinggi-alami-gejala-berat-kemenkes-izinkan-pemberian-vaksinasi-covid-19-pada-ibu-hamil.html>

⁷¹⁹³ Residents who don't have a NIK can be vaccinated, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300005/warga-tak-punya-nik-bisa-divaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁹⁴ Residents who don't have a NIK can be vaccinated, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300005/warga-tak-punya-nik-bisa-divaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁹⁵ Residents who don't have a NIK can be vaccinated, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080300005/warga-tak-punya-nik-bisa-divaksinasi.html>

⁷¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Health Agrees to Cooperate on Utilization of Population Data for COVID-19 Control and Vaccination, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080600003/kemenkes-sepakati-kerja-sama-pemanfaatan-data-kependudukan-untuk-penanggulangan-covid-19-dan-vaksina.html>

⁷¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Health Agrees to Cooperate on Utilization of Population Data for COVID-19 Control and Vaccination, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080600003/kemenkes-sepakati-kerja-sama-pemanfaatan-data-kependudukan-untuk-penanggulangan-covid-19-dan-vaksina.html>

⁷¹⁹⁸ Ministry of Health Agrees to Cooperate on Utilization of Population Data for COVID-19 Control and Vaccination, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080600003/kemenkes-sepakati-kerja-sama-pemanfaatan-data-kependudukan-untuk-penanggulangan-covid-19-dan-vaksina.html>

On 6 August 2021, the Government of Indonesia announced that it is scheduled to receive 700 oxygen cylinders and accompanying supplies from the World Health Organization (WHO).⁷¹⁹⁹ The supplies arrived at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and were distributed to hospitals and intensive care units for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.⁷²⁰⁰

On 12 August 2021, the Government of Indonesia released the results of an independent study on the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccination, primarily with the Sinovac vaccine, conducted by the Health Research and Development Agency of the Indonesian Ministry of Health.⁷²⁰¹ The study, which was conducted using data from 71,455 health care workers in Jakarta from January to June 2021, demonstrated that the COVID-19 vaccine is effective in reducing the risk of being infected with COVID-19, as well as reducing complications and death from infection among healthcare workers.⁷²⁰²

On 13 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it received eight million doses of the Moderna vaccine from the COVAX initiative.⁷²⁰³ The government affirmed that these vaccines would be used to provide a third booster shot to healthcare workers at high risk of contracting COVID-19 and to members of the public, particularly pregnant individuals and those with comorbidities, who have not yet received the vaccine.⁷²⁰⁴

On 14 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would accelerate the vaccination of disability groups in the provinces of Banten, West Java, Central Java, DI Yogyakarta, East Java, and Bali to reach 225,000 people by October 2021.⁷²⁰⁵ Persons with disabilities living in Java and Bali will be given the Sinopharm vaccine, recently obtained through a partnership with the United Arab Emirates in the amount of 450,000 doses.⁷²⁰⁶

On 16 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it has reduced the price of real-time chain polymerase reaction (RT-PCR) tests for COVID-19 to IDR495 thousand for Java and Bali and

⁷¹⁹⁹ WHO Sends 700 Oxygen Concentrators and Other Essential Supplies as Indonesia Continues to Race to contain the spread of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080900003/who-kirim-700-konsentrator-oksigen-dan-pasokan-penting-lainnya-saat-indonesia-terus-berlomba-untuk-m.html>

⁷²⁰⁰ WHO Sends 700 Oxygen Concentrators and Other Essential Supplies as Indonesia Continues to Race to contain the spread of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21080900003/who-kirim-700-konsentrator-oksigen-dan-pasokan-penting-lainnya-saat-indonesia-terus-berlomba-untuk-m.html>

⁷²⁰¹ Recent Study: COVID-19 Vaccine Effectively Prevents Treatment and Death, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081200002/studi-terbaru-vaksin-covid-19-efektif-mencegah-perawatan-dan-kematian.html>

⁷²⁰² Recent Study: COVID-19 Vaccine Effectively Prevents Treatment and Death, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081200002/studi-terbaru-vaksin-covid-19-efektif-mencegah-perawatan-dan-kematian.html>

⁷²⁰³ Ministry of Health Affirms Moderna Vaccine Only for Healthcare Boosters and the Public Who Have Never Received a COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081300003/kemenkes-tegaskan-vaksin-moderna-hanya-untuk-booster-nakes-dan-publik-yang-belum-pernah-menerima-vak.html>

⁷²⁰⁴ Ministry of Health Affirms Moderna Vaccine Only for Healthcare Boosters and the Public Who Have Never Received a COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 21 August 2021.

<https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081300003/kemenkes-tegaskan-vaksin-moderna-hanya-untuk-booster-nakes-dan-publik-yang-belum-pernah-menerima-vak.html>

⁷²⁰⁵ Government Accelerates Vaccination of Disability Groups, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081400001/pemerintah-percepat-vaksinasi-kelompok-disabilitas.html>

⁷²⁰⁶ Government Accelerates Vaccination of Disability Groups, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081400001/pemerintah-percepat-vaksinasi-kelompok-disabilitas.html>

IDR595 thousand across the rest of the country, reducing the total cost by 45 per cent.⁷²⁰⁷ This cost applies only to individuals seeking tests on their own accord, and does not apply to contact tracing activities or referrals for COVID-19 tests from hospitals, where operations receive financial assistance from the government.⁷²⁰⁸ The price reduction has been implemented to ensure the public can request COVID-19 tests at a reasonable price.⁷²⁰⁹

On 19 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced an update to its COVID-19 data tracking website (the COVID-19 Vaccination One Data Information System), which was established earlier in the year to provide the public with access to information about COVID-19 infection and vaccination rates.⁷²¹⁰ The website now also includes information about the availability of COVID-19 vaccine stock at the provincial and local levels.⁷²¹¹ Data is sourced through the Electronic Immunization and Logistics Monitoring System (SMILE), which is used to track real-time data about vaccine supply, and entry and exit of vaccines through healthcare facilities across the country.⁷²¹² Data collected and recorded in SMILE will be used to update the COVID-19 Vaccination One Data Information System website once a day at 17:00 WIB.⁷²¹³

On 19 August 2021, over 1.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrived in Indonesia through a direct purchase scheme.⁷²¹⁴ On 21 August 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that these doses would be prioritized for those who have not yet received a dose of the vaccine.⁷²¹⁵ An additional 4.6 million

⁷²⁰⁷ The Government Lowers the Price of RT-PCR Examination by 45%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081600001/pemerintah-menurunkan-harga-pemeriksaan-rt--pcr-sebesar-45-.html>

⁷²⁰⁸ The Government Lowers the Price of RT-PCR Examination by 45%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081600001/pemerintah-menurunkan-harga-pemeriksaan-rt--pcr-sebesar-45-.html>

⁷²⁰⁹ The Government Lowers the Price of RT-PCR Examination by 45%, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21081600001/pemerintah-menurunkan-harga-pemeriksaan-rt--pcr-sebesar-45-.html>

⁷²¹⁰ Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹¹ Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹² Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹³ Ministry of Health Releases Vaccination Dashboard Update, Community Can Monitor Vaccine Stock in Real Time, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082000001/kemenkes-rilis-pembaruan-dashboard-vaksinasi-masyarakat-bisa-pantau-stock-vaksin-secara-real-time.html>

⁷²¹⁴ Initial Pfizer Vaccine Intended for the General Public in Jabodetabek, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082100001/vaksin-pfizer-tahap-awal-diperuntukan-untuk-masyarakat-umum-di-jabodetabek.html>

⁷²¹⁵ Initial Pfizer Vaccine Intended for the General Public in Jabodetabek, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082100001/vaksin-pfizer-tahap-awal-diperuntukan-untuk-masyarakat-umum-di-jabodetabek.html>

doses of the Pfizer vaccine are expected to arrive in Indonesia over the coming weeks through the COVAX initiative.⁷²¹⁶

On 24 August 2021, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin advised regional governments to avoid maintaining an extra stockpile of vaccines at the local level.⁷²¹⁷ The minister reiterated that should a region begin to run out of doses, more will be arranged for delivery by the central government.⁷²¹⁸ The minister also expects more doses of vaccines to arrive in the country in September to be distributed to regions in need.⁷²¹⁹

On 1 September 2021, the Government of Indonesia reduced the highest allowed price of the Rapid Diagnostic Test Antigen (RDT-Ag) from IDR250,000 to IDR99,000 for Java and Bali and IDR109,000 outside of Java and Bali.⁷²²⁰ RDT-Ag is a method used to detect COVID-19 and can be used for contact tracing and diagnostic purposes.⁷²²¹ The highest price applies to anyone who wants to be tested for COVID-19 but has not been required to get a COVID-19 test by a public health office.⁷²²² All health facilities, such as hospitals and laboratories, are required to comply with the highest allowed price of testing.⁷²²³

On 2 September 2021, the Government of Indonesia announced that it received an additional 1.2 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine.⁷²²⁴ This delivery is the second phase of a total of 54.6 million doses the government will acquire over the coming months.⁷²²⁵

On 2 September 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that PT. Biofarma, a local pharmaceutical company, developed a new COVID-19 diagnostic tool called BioSaliva.⁷²²⁶ The test involves

⁷²¹⁶ Initial Pfizer Vaccine Intended for the General Public in Jabodetabek, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 August 2021. Access Date: 22 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082100001/vaksin-pfizer-tahap-awal-diperuntukan-untuk-masyarakat-umum-di-jabodetabek.html>

⁷²¹⁷ Minister of Health Budi asks Local Government Not to Keep Vaccine Stock, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082500002/menkes-budi-minta-pemerintah-daerah-tidak-simpan-stok-vaksin.html>

⁷²¹⁸ Minister of Health Budi asks Local Government Not to Keep Vaccine Stock, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082500002/menkes-budi-minta-pemerintah-daerah-tidak-simpan-stok-vaksin.html>

⁷²¹⁹ Minister of Health Budi asks Local Government Not to Keep Vaccine Stock, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21082500002/menkes-budi-minta-pemerintah-daerah-tidak-simpan-stok-vaksin.html>

⁷²²⁰ Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²¹ Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²² Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²³ Government Lowers Tariffs for Testing RDT Antigen, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200001/pemerintah-turunkan-tarif-pemeriksaan-rdt-antigen.html>

⁷²²⁴ Indonesia Receives Additional 1.2 Million Pfizer Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200005/indonesia-dapat-tambahan-1-2-juta-vaksin-pfizer.html>

⁷²²⁵ Indonesia Receives Additional 1.2 Million Pfizer Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090200005/indonesia-dapat-tambahan-1-2-juta-vaksin-pfizer.html>

collecting saliva samples and is a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test with a sensitivity of up to 95 per cent.⁷²²⁷ Biofarma is conducting testing of BioSaliva in three university laboratories across the country.⁷²²⁸

Indonesia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection and response. It has taken steps to advance its capabilities in testing, detection, and contact tracing, and has taken several measures to make COVID-19 vaccinations accessible. Indonesia has been proactive in implementing measures to control surges in community transmission around religious holidays. It has also supported other countries in the fight against COVID-19.

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amandeep Saini

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 3 December 2020, Italy approved a new decree which required all travelers from the European Union and United Kingdom to either present a test completed in the last 48 hours or be tested upon arrival.⁷²²⁹ All travelers will also be subject to quarantining for two weeks.⁷²³⁰ Those exempt from the quarantine requirement include, flight crew, cross-border workers, healthcare staff, people transiting through Italy for 36 hours or less, those travelling for urgent reasons and people travelling from the United States on special “COVID-tested flights.”⁷²³¹

On 27 December 2020, Italy administered the first doses of the vaccine to health personnel on “vaccine day.”⁷²³² During phase one of the vaccination program, the vaccine will be given to health care officials and seniors residing in long term care facilities.⁷²³³ Since 20 September, 470,000 doses of

⁷²²⁶ BioSaliva PCR Test Tool with Gargle Method, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090300002/biosaliva-alat-tes-pcr-dengan-metode-kumur.html>

⁷²²⁷ BioSaliva PCR Test Tool with Gargle Method, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090300002/biosaliva-alat-tes-pcr-dengan-metode-kumur.html>

⁷²²⁸ BioSaliva PCR Test Tool with Gargle Method, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21090300002/biosaliva-alat-tes-pcr-dengan-metode-kumur.html>

⁷²²⁹ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁷²³⁰ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁷²³¹ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁷²³² Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³³ Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine were distributed every week, throughout Italy in order to ease administration.⁷²³⁴

On 14 January 2021, Italy signed a new decree-law to contain the spread of COVID-19.⁷²³⁵ The decree law extended the state of emergency until 30 April 2021. The decree also reaffirmed the ban on regional movement, introduced a new regulation which allowed a maximum of two people to visit another private home, and banned travelers from non-European countries.⁷²³⁶ It also included provisions for restaurants and workplaces.⁷²³⁷

On 26 January 2021, as president of the G20, Italy established a High-Level Independent Panel on financing global commons for pandemic preparedness and response. This “intends to integrate the lessons learned from the current pandemic in the design of future national and international policies, as part of the update of the G20 Action Plan in 2021. In this context, the Italian Presidency decided to propose this Panel to assess the current financing systems and propose viable solutions for the longer term. In particular, the G20 High Level Independent Panel is tasked with: Identifying the gaps in the financing system for the global commons for pandemic prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response; And proposing actionable solutions to meet these gaps on a systematic and sustainable basis, and to optimally leverage resources from the public, private and philanthropic sectors and the International Financial Institutions.”⁷²³⁸

On 1 February 2021, Italy secured medical supplies from the US.⁷²³⁹ Soldiers from US Army Garrison Italy helped deliver roughly USD500,000 worth of medical supplies to Italian hospitals in Vicenza, Pisa and Livorno. This delivery was just one small part of the larger USD10 million financial aid package of US Department of Defense-funded supplies. The partnership with US European Command and the US Embassy in Rome helped facilitate the delivery of surgical gowns and face masks.⁷²⁴⁰

On 1 March 2021, Italy unveiled its new vaccine acceleration program to speed up the rollout of vaccines.⁷²⁴¹ Italy aims to administer 56 million doses by June 2021, which would cover just under

⁷²³⁴ Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁵ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁶ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁷ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²³⁸ The G20 establishes a High Level Independent Panel on financing the Global Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

<https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-G20-establishes-a-High-Level-Independent-Panel-on-financing-the-Global-Pandemic-Preparedness-and-Response-00001/>

⁷²³⁹ US Army Delivers COVID-19 Medical Supplies to Italian Hospitals, US Army Garrison Italy (Vicenza) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021 https://www.army.mil/article/242916/u_s_army_delivers_covid_19_medical_supplies_to_italian_hospitals

⁷²⁴⁰ US Army Delivers COVID-19 Medical Supplies to Italian Hospitals, US Army Garrison Italy (Vicenza) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021 https://www.army.mil/article/242916/u_s_army_delivers_covid_19_medical_supplies_to_italian_hospitals

⁷²⁴¹ '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

half of Italy's population.⁷²⁴² Italy plans to increase the number of vaccination sites across Italy, which are expected to be functional by April 2021.⁷²⁴³

On 2 March 2021, Italy signed a new decree to combat and control the spread of COVID-19.⁷²⁴⁴ The decree reinforced the division of Italy into coloured zones based upon the number of COVID-19 cases in each region.⁷²⁴⁵ The decree also confirmed a ban on travel between regions and confirmed a curfew from 10pm to 5am.⁷²⁴⁶ The decree also introduced measures outlining the health guidelines for cinemas, schools, businesses, private homes and museums.⁷²⁴⁷ According to this decree, gyms, swimming pools, spas, and ski resorts remain closed.⁷²⁴⁸

On 12 March 2021, Italy introduced a lockdown in half of Italy's 20 regions to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁷²⁴⁹ The lockdown will be in effect from 15 March to 6 April 2021, with the entire country being in a lockdown over the Easter weekend.⁷²⁵⁰ In red zoned regions people will only be allowed to leave home for work or health related reasons and in orange zoned regions, restaurants will be allowed to carry out delivery functions.⁷²⁵¹

On 12 March 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency approved the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines.⁷²⁵² The vaccines would be used for people over 18 and would be available at the expense of the National Health Emergency.⁷²⁵³

On 17 March 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza provided an update before the Social Affairs Committees of the Chamber and Health of the Senate.⁷²⁵⁴ Minister Speranza provided an update on the vaccination campaign, explaining that it was divided into quarters.⁷²⁵⁵ He also

⁷²⁴² '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁷²⁴³ '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁷²⁴⁴ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁵ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5354>

⁷²⁴⁶ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁷ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁸ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁴⁹ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁷²⁵⁰ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁷²⁵¹ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁷²⁵² AIFA Approves the Janssen Vaccine, Italian Medicines Agency. 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aifa.gov.it/web/guest/-/aifa-approva-il-vaccino-janssen>

⁷²⁵³ AIFA Approves the Janssen Vaccine, Italian Medicines Agency. 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aifa.gov.it/web/guest/-/aifa-approva-il-vaccino-janssen>

⁷²⁵⁴ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁷²⁵⁵ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

discussed the plan for the future of the Italian healthcare which is presented in five different axes.⁷²⁵⁶ The first axis concerns the integrated approach to reduce inequalities, the second axis concerns the connection between animals and the environment, the third looks at hospitals, the fourth concerns the widespread use of technologies in the health sector, and the last axis aims toward innovation in the health care sector.⁷²⁵⁷

On 26 April 2021, Italy banned entry to those who had travelled to India in the last fourteen days.⁷²⁵⁸ Those who are returning to Italy as residents or citizens must undergo testing and strict isolation and must be referred to a trustee for a period of ten days.⁷²⁵⁹

On 28 April 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance banning entry to travelers from Bangladesh and India in the last fourteen days.⁷²⁶⁰ The ordinance also strengthened the quarantine measures for Italians authorized to return.⁷²⁶¹

On 29 April 2021, Italy issued an ordinance that would prohibit entry to those who had visited Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the last fourteen days with the exception of Italian citizens.⁷²⁶² Italians who had visited these countries in the last 14 days are required to undergo mandatory testing upon arrival at the airport, isolate in a hotel and must complete another test after the isolation period is completed.⁷²⁶³

On 3 May 2021, Italy sent to India a team of experts, from the Maxiemergenza group of the Piedmont Region, a doctor from the Lombardy region, a representative of the Ministry of Health and an oxygen generation plant and 20 ventilators to assist the country in its fight against a devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.⁷²⁶⁴

On 21 May 2021, Italy hosted the Global Health Summit alongside the European Union. At this summit, the participants adopted the Rome Declaration. The Rome Declaration is a set of 16 principles and guiding commitments that “serve as voluntary orientation for current and future action for global health to support the financing, building, and sustaining of effective health system capabilities and capacities and Universal Health Coverage to improve preparedness, early warning of,

⁷²⁵⁶ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁷²⁵⁷ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁷²⁵⁸ Ministerial Order of April 25, 2020, Ministry of Health. 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80073>

⁷²⁵⁹ Ministerial Order of April 25, 2020, Ministry of Health. 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80073>

⁷²⁶⁰ COVID-19: Hope Signs New Ordinance for Bangladesh and India, Ministry of Health. 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁶¹ COVID-19: Hope Signs New Ordinance for Bangladesh and India, Ministry of Health. 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁷²⁶² Further Urgent Measures Regarding the Containment and Management of the Epidemiological Emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health. 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80154&>

⁷²⁶³ Further Urgent Measures Regarding the Containment and Management of the Epidemiological Emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health. 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80154&>

⁷²⁶⁴ COVID-19: Italy sends team of experts; oxygen generation plant (New Delhi) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-italy-sends-team-of-experts-oxygen-generation-plant-11620052142087.html>

prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.⁷²⁶⁵

On 12 June 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that it would reserve the AstraZeneca vaccine for people over the age of 60.⁷²⁶⁶ People who are younger than 60 and who have already received one dose of AstraZeneca will complete their vaccination with the Pfizer, or the Moderna vaccine.⁷²⁶⁷

On 18 June 2021, the G20 member decided to move forward with the COVID-19 Green Certificate, which would make it easier to attend public events in Italy, to enter nursing homes, and to travel within Italy.⁷²⁶⁸ The document is available in digital and printable format, and includes information about an individual's vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test result, and information on recovery from COVID-19.⁷²⁶⁹

On 22 June 2021, the European Commission adopted a positive assessment of Italy's recovery and resilience plan.⁷²⁷⁰ The EU will be disbursing EUR68.9 billion in grants and EUR122.6 billion in loans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). This financing will play a key role in enabling Italy to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷²⁷¹

On 26 July 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a decree that would extend measures that restrict entry from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Brazil.⁷²⁷² The 10-day quarantine for non-European countries has been reduced to 5 days.⁷²⁷³

On 11 August 2021, Government of Italy's special COVID Commissioner, Francesco Paolo Figliuolo wrote a letter to Italy's governors, requesting them to ramp up vaccinations for those aged between 12 and 18.⁷²⁷⁴ He urged them to fast-track vaccinations before schools and sports activities resume.⁷²⁷⁵

⁷²⁶⁵ Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

⁷²⁶⁶ Italy Limits Use of AstraZeneca Vaccines to Over 60s, The Local (Rome). 12 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20210612/italy-limits-astrazeneca-vaccination-to-over-60s/>

⁷²⁶⁷ Italy Limits Use of AstraZeneca Vaccines to Over 60s, The Local (Rome). 12 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20210612/italy-limits-astrazeneca-vaccination-to-over-60s/>

⁷²⁶⁸ Go Ahead for COVID-19 Green Certificate, The Local (Rome). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5531>

⁷²⁶⁹ Go Ahead for COVID-19 Green Certificate, The Local (Rome). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021.

<https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5531>

⁷²⁷⁰ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Italy's €191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126

⁷²⁷¹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Italy's €191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126

⁷²⁷² Hope Extends Ordinance on Measures for Entry into Italy, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5580

⁷²⁷³ Hope Extends Ordinance on Measures for Entry into Italy, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5580

⁷²⁷⁴ Italy to Boost Vaccination of Teenagers Ahead of School Reopening, Reuters (London) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-boost-vaccination-teenagers-ahead-school-reopening-2021-08-11/>

⁷²⁷⁵ Italy to Boost Vaccination of Teenagers Ahead of School Reopening, Reuters (London) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-boost-vaccination-teenagers-ahead-school-reopening-2021-08-11/>

On 27 August 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza, signed an executive order, mandating the wearing of masks outdoors in Sicily.⁷²⁷⁶ The order was signed to curb the number of COVID-19 cases and due to the low number of vaccinations in the region.⁷²⁷⁷

On 1 September 2021, the Italian Government extended the use of the green pass for those travelling on trains, planes, ferries and coaches.⁷²⁷⁸ The green pass serves as an encouragement for people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷²⁷⁹

On 9 September 2021, the Italian Government agreed to extend the COVID-19 health pass to workers in health care settings and schools.⁷²⁸⁰ The 'green pass' will be mandatory for staff working in universities and was implemented to deal with COVID-19 in schools.⁷²⁸¹ Employees in these sectors will be required to show their proof of vaccination, testing, and recovery from COVID-19.⁷²⁸²

Italy has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response by participation in a vaccination campaign, partnering with the US Department of Defense to distribute medical supplies and enacting various decrees to protect its citizens. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the area of detection.

Thus, Italy has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Ujala Iqbal

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide delivered a video speech at the General Debate of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷²⁸³ He was reported to have said that "Japan has been promptly taking multi-layered efforts; first, to overcome the current crisis of the pandemic; second, to strengthen health and medical systems for future crises; and, third, to generate an environment that is resilient to infectious diseases." To support developing countries, Japan implemented the COVID-19 Crisis Response

⁷²⁷⁶ Italy Tightens COVID-19 Curbs in Sicily, Reuters (London) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL1N2PY1WU>

⁷²⁷⁷ Italy Tightens COVID-19 Curbs in Sicily, Reuters (London) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL1N2PY1WU>

⁷²⁷⁸ Italy Extends COVID-19 Green Pass to Trains, Planes, Ferries, and Coaches, Reuters (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-extends-covid-19-green-pass-trains-planes-ferries-coaches-2021-09-01/>

⁷²⁷⁹ Italy Extends COVID-19 Green Pass to Trains, Planes, Ferries, and Coaches, Reuters (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-extends-covid-19-green-pass-trains-planes-ferries-coaches-2021-09-01/>

⁷²⁸⁰ UPDATE: Italy Approves Mandatory COVID 'Green Pass' in More Workplaces, The Local (Stockholm) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210909/italy-set-to-release-roadmap-for-workplace-covid-green-pass/>

⁷²⁸¹ UPDATE: Italy Approves Mandatory COVID 'Green Pass' in More Workplaces, The Local (Stockholm) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210909/italy-set-to-release-roadmap-for-workplace-covid-green-pass/>

⁷²⁸² UPDATE: Italy Approves Mandatory COVID 'Green Pass' in More Workplaces, The Local (Stockholm) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210909/italy-set-to-release-roadmap-for-workplace-covid-green-pass/>

⁷²⁸³ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

Emergency Support Loan of up to USD4.5 billion. Japan affirmed its commitment to provide contributions and supplies for vaccine development and manufacturing under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) program.⁷²⁸⁴ The COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), aims to provide universally safe and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccinations.⁷²⁸⁵

On 7 January 2021, according to Article 32, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (Act No. 31 of 2012), Japan declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa to contain outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus.⁷²⁸⁶ Emergency measures for infection control were set to expire after one month.⁷²⁸⁷

On 18 January 2021, Japan announced preparations for administering COVID-19 vaccines to citizens were underway and said that the vaccination campaign will be launched by late February.⁷²⁸⁸ Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform Taro Kono was appointed to oversee vaccine distribution and administration.⁷²⁸⁹

On 26 January 2021, the House of Representatives approved a supplementary budget of USD185 billion for national COVID-19 response.⁷²⁹⁰ An additional USD763 million was allocated towards international pandemic response initiatives, including COVAX, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Unitaid.⁷²⁹¹

On 16 February 2021, Japan commenced its mass COVID-19 inoculation program.⁷²⁹² The first stage of the program targeted highly vulnerable populations, including healthcare workers and elderly citizens.⁷²⁹³

On 19 February 2021, Japan contributed an additional USD79 million to the ACT-A partnership, directed towards COVAX vaccine development and manufacturing.⁷²⁹⁴ Funding also went towards

⁷²⁸⁴ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁷²⁸⁵ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁷²⁸⁶ Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (January 7), Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html

⁷²⁸⁷ Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (January 7), Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html

⁷²⁸⁸ Press Conference by the Prime Minister on Novel Coronavirus Vaccines, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00010.html

⁷²⁸⁹ Press Conference by the Prime Minister on Novel Coronavirus Vaccines, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00010.html

⁷²⁹⁰ Japan's 3rd Extra Budget for FY 2020 Clears Parliament, Jiji Press (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021012801113/>

⁷²⁹¹ Japan's 3rd Extra Budget for FY 2020 Clears Parliament, Jiji Press (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021012801113/>

⁷²⁹² Past Ministerial Conference (COVID-19), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00096.html

⁷²⁹³ Past Ministerial Conference (COVID-19), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00096.html

⁷²⁹⁴ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>

Unitaid, an international initiative aimed towards tackling current and future health threats in low- and middle-income countries.⁷²⁹⁵

On 5 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide announced at a press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters the reinforcement of routine inspections to ensure individuals and businesses are complying with public health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷²⁹⁶ Domestic surveillance measures include contact tracing via mobile phones, nationwide testing for COVID-19 variants, and monitoring of asymptomatic individuals.⁷²⁹⁷

On 9 March 2021, Japan implemented new travel restrictions and quarantine guidelines.⁷²⁹⁸ Foreign nationals from 152 countries specified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are denied entry to Japan, while those from approved countries must present negative COVID-19 test results prior to departure.⁷²⁹⁹ Upon entering Japan, travellers must complete a 14-day quarantine period in a designated facility.⁷³⁰⁰

On 12 March 2021, Japan joined the Quad Vaccine Partnership with the United States, India, and Australia.⁷³⁰¹ The partnership is aimed towards strengthening vaccination efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, expanding global COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution, coordinating with international pandemic response initiatives, and assisting in health workforce preparedness and training.⁷³⁰²

On 1 April 2021, Japan implemented priority measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 infections in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures.⁷³⁰³ Drinking and dining establishments within these regions were required to shorten operating hours.⁷³⁰⁴ Ongoing inspections are carried out by designated authorities to enforce preventative measures and penalize non-compliance.⁷³⁰⁵

On 16 April 2021, Japan attended the virtual Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment One World Protected Event concerning international cooperation to ensure equitable access to COVID-

⁷²⁹⁵ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>

⁷²⁹⁶ Press Conference by Prime Minister Regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202103/_00005.html

⁷²⁹⁷ Press Conference by Prime Minister Regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202103/_00005.html

⁷²⁹⁸ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷²⁹⁹ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³⁰⁰ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³⁰¹ Leaders of US, Japan, India, and Australia to meet in first-ever 'Quad' summit, CNN (Tokyo) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/09/asia/first-ever-quad-leaders-summit-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷³⁰² Leaders of US, Japan, India, and Australia to meet in first-ever 'Quad' summit, CNN (Tokyo) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/09/asia/first-ever-quad-leaders-summit-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁷³⁰³ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁷³⁰⁴ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁷³⁰⁵ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

19 vaccines.⁷³⁰⁶ Japan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the supply and distribution of effective vaccines and medical resources in low and middle-income countries.⁷³⁰⁷

On 23 April 2021, Japan held a Strategic Dialogue with the World Health Organization to discuss strengthening cooperation in COVID-19 prevention and response efforts.⁷³⁰⁸ Japan reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to global pandemic prevention and response via its cooperation with the COVAX vaccine procurement facility.⁷³⁰⁹

On 25 April 2021, Japan declared a state of emergency in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures in response to surges in COVID-19 infections.⁷³¹⁰ Japan further announced the enactment of priority preventative measures in Ehime prefecture, and the extension of priority preventative measures in Miyagi, Okinawa, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Aichi prefectures.⁷³¹¹ Emergency and priority measures are set to expire on 11 May 2021.⁷³¹²

On 30 April 2021, Japan updated border enforcement measures for the prevention of COVID-19 transmission and spread. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs identified 152 countries and regions as sites of community transmission of COVID-19 variants of concern.⁷³¹³ Foreign nationals who have entered these designated regions within a 14-day period prior to travel are subject to denial of entry upon landing in Japan.⁷³¹⁴

On 30 April 2021, Japan provided emergency medical supplies to India in response to a recent surge in COVID-19 infections.⁷³¹⁵ Supplies included 300 oxygen concentrators and 300 ventilators.⁷³¹⁶

On 12 May 2021, the Health Ministry confirmed that 200 oxygen concentrators will be sent to India as a part of the emergency assistance from Japan in response to the current surge of COVID-19 infections in India.⁷³¹⁷ During the previous week External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a virtual

⁷³⁰⁶ Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000281.html

⁷³⁰⁷ Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000281.html

⁷³⁰⁸ Minister Tamura/Deputy Minister Yamamoto and WHO Secretary-General Tedros hold a meeting – Japan and WHO agree to strengthen cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_18230.html

⁷³⁰⁹ Minister Tamura/Deputy Minister Yamamoto and WHO Secretary-General Tedros hold a meeting – Japan and WHO agree to strengthen cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_18230.html

⁷³¹⁰ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁷³¹¹ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁷³¹² COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁷³¹³ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³¹⁴ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁷³¹⁵ Emergency Assistance to India in Response to the Current Surge of COVID-19 Infections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000288.html

⁷³¹⁶ Emergency Assistance to India in Response to the Current Surge of COVID-19 Infections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000288.html

⁷³¹⁷ COVID-19: Japan to send 200 oxygen concentrators to India (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-japan-to-send-200-oxygen-concentrators-to-india-101620739674942.html>

meeting with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi and the later conveyed that Japan is ready to provide grant assistance of up to USD50 million to India, based on its needs.⁷³¹⁸

On 13 May 2021, Japan International Cooperation Agency enacted a Grant Agreement with Guinea to extend aid of up to USD2 million for preventing the future spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and Ebola virus.⁷³¹⁹ The grant includes financing for the construction of medical facilities; the installation of essential medical equipment; and the development of improved infrastructure for disease tracing, surveillance, and diagnosis.⁷³²⁰

On 14 May 2021, the Government of Japan granted an additional USD18.5 million in emergency funding to India in response to surges of COVID-19 outbreaks and infections.⁷³²¹ The grant included 800 ventilators and oxygen concentrators to address oxygen shortages in hospitals.⁷³²²

On 2 June 2021, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide together with Gavi Board Chair José Manuel Barroso hosted the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Summit, which procured approximately USD2.4 billion in funding from donor governments worldwide.⁷³²³ It further pledged USD800 million to the COVAX program.⁷³²⁴

On 25 June 2021, the Government of Japan provided USD9.3 million in emergency funding and aid towards combating COVID-19 spread in India, particularly for strengthening cold chain vaccine storage and transportation.⁷³²⁵ The contribution included medical equipment and vaccine storage facilities.⁷³²⁶

On 8 July 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced that the Olympic games would take place without spectators in Tokyo.⁷³²⁷ Moreover, Japan was forced to declare a state of emergency throughout the event as the new delta variant was spreading and becoming the source of a new wave of infections.⁷³²⁸

⁷³¹⁸ COVID-19: Japan to send 200 oxygen concentrators to India (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-japan-to-send-200-oxygen-concentrators-to-india-101620739674942.html>

⁷³¹⁹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Guinea: Contributing to the prevention of infectious diseases including COVID-19 and Ebola virus, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210518_en_21.html

⁷³²⁰ Signing of Grant Agreement with Guinea: Contributing to the prevention of infectious diseases including COVID-19 and Ebola virus, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210518_en_21.html

⁷³²¹ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to COVID-19 in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press24e_000031.html

⁷³²² Emergency Grant Aid in Response to COVID-19 in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press24e_000031.html

⁷³²³ World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Tokyo/Geneva) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-unite-commit-global-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>

⁷³²⁴ World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Tokyo/Geneva) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-unite-commit-global-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>

⁷³²⁵ Support for Cold Chain System Building in response to COVID-19 pandemic in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000304.html

⁷³²⁶ Support for Cold Chain System Building in response to COVID-19 pandemic in India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000304.html

⁷³²⁷ Tokyo bans Olympic spectators as Japan declares COVID-19 state of emergency (Tokyo) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8012643/tokyo-bans-olympic-spectators-as-japan-declares-covid/>

⁷³²⁸ Tokyo bans Olympic spectators as Japan declares COVID-19 state of emergency (Tokyo) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8012643/tokyo-bans-olympic-spectators-as-japan-declares-covid/>

On 16 July 2021, the Government of Japan extended an emergency grant of USD4.66 million to cover logistical costs for the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations in cooperation with the COVAX facility.⁷³²⁹ The inoculation programs will target low-income countries worldwide.⁷³³⁰

On 23 July 2021, Japan donated over 11 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to the Gavi COVAX initiative.⁷³³¹ The vaccines were set to be distributed and administered in Cambodia, Iran, and Bangladesh.⁷³³²

On 30 July 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Kanagawa, Osaka, Saitama, and Chiba, in response to surging cases of COVID-19.⁷³³³ Prime Minister Suga extended the state of emergency for Tokyo and Okinawa prefectures for 1 month, and enacted priority prevention measures in the prefectures of Hyogo, Kyoto, Hokkaido, Ishikawa, and Fukuoka.⁷³³⁴ The announcement occurred in response to rising cases of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) SARS-CoV-2 variant, which was identified as approximately 1.5 times more infectious than the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) SARS-CoV-2 strain.⁷³³⁵

On 3 August 2021, Japan committed to donating approximately USD2.5 million worth of medical equipment for the containment of COVID-19 to Thailand and Laos.⁷³³⁶ 775 oxygen concentrators were designated for Thailand, while an additional 100 oxygen concentrators, 100 suction pumps, and 100 patient monitors were designated for Laos.⁷³³⁷ Japan further provided 600 thousand doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Laos via the COVAX facility.⁷³³⁸

⁷³²⁹ Emergency Grant Aid for logistical support including transportation of vaccines manufactured in Japan to be donated through COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000311.html

⁷³³⁰ Emergency Grant Aid for logistical support including transportation of vaccines manufactured in Japan to be donated through COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000311.html

⁷³³¹ First doses donated by Japan to COVAX reach lower-income countries, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/first-doses-donated-japan-covax-reach-lower-income-countries>

⁷³³² First doses donated by Japan to COVAX reach lower-income countries, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/first-doses-donated-japan-covax-reach-lower-income-countries>

⁷³³³ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202107/_00017.html

⁷³³⁴ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202107/_00017.html

⁷³³⁵ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202107/_00017.html

⁷³³⁶ Provision of Oxygen Concentrators and Other Equipment in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand and Laos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000224.html

⁷³³⁷ Provision of Oxygen Concentrators and Other Equipment in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand and Laos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000224.html

⁷³³⁸ Provision of Oxygen Concentrators and Other Equipment in Response to COVID-19 in Thailand and Laos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000224.html

On 4 August 2021, Japan committed to providing 1.6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Nepal via the COVAX facility, in response to dire outbreaks and limited vaccine uptake throughout the country.⁷³³⁹

On 17 August 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Tochigi, Gunma, Ibaraki, Kyoto, Hyogo, Fukuoka, and Shizuoka in response to rising COVID-19 outbreaks.⁷³⁴⁰ Further, Prime Minister Suga enacted priority prevention measures in Miyagi, Toyama, Gifu, Mie, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kagawa, Ehime, Yamanashi, and Kagoshima prefectures, effective until 12 September 2021.⁷³⁴¹ The remaining prefectures were required to maintain a state of emergency or priority measures until this expiry date.⁷³⁴² Prime Minister Suga announced steps toward improving remote and in-home medical services, as well as improving systems for oxygen administration within hospitals and other facilities.⁷³⁴³ On behalf of the Japanese government, Prime Minister Suga called for a 50 per cent capacity reduction in commercial establishments and public areas, along with a return to teleworking to avoid congregations in workplaces.⁷³⁴⁴

On 18 August 2021, Japan donated 110,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Samoa via the COVAX facility, in order to achieve global immunization targets for containing the virus.⁷³⁴⁵ Japan committed to providing a total of 3 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Samoa and other Pacific Island countries by the end of 2021, accompanied by cold chain equipment and facilities for vaccine storage and transportation.⁷³⁴⁶

On 25 August 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced an expansion of remote medical services, including telephone doctor's consultations and at-home symptom monitoring for those infected with the COVID-19 virus.⁷³⁴⁷ The National Hospital Organization supplied an additional 200 hospital beds to COVID-19 patients in Tokyo, while the government of Japan committed to increasing the

⁷³³⁹ The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal throughout the COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000225.html

⁷³⁴⁰ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴¹ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴² Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴³ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴⁴ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁷³⁴⁵ The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to the Independent State of Samoa through the COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000230.html

⁷³⁴⁶ The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to the Independent State of Samoa through the COVAX facility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000230.html

⁷³⁴⁷ Press conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00013.html

number of temporary field hospitals across the country.⁷³⁴⁸ To pre-emptively combat COVID-19 outbreaks in educational facilities, the government distributed 800,000 antigen testing kits to schools for early detection, and established 700 vaccination venues at university campuses.⁷³⁴⁹

On 9 September 2021, the Japanese Government announced a pandemic exit strategy. This will ease restrictions on travel, dining and public events for vaccinated people.⁷³⁵⁰ With the hope to reignite the economy, restore public morale and incentivize inoculations the plan will start on an experimental basis on October and will be in full swing by November.⁷³⁵¹

On 18 September 2021, Japan's Digital Agency announced that digitized certificates for people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 will be issued by the end of this year.⁷³⁵² Digitalized infrastructure is also being built so that restaurants and hotels can access inoculation data records of clients.⁷³⁵³

On 21 September 2021, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announced that it would give booster shots to people who are above the age of 65 and have gone at least eight months since receiving their second dose early next year.⁷³⁵⁴ Medical personnel are expected to get their booster shots within this year.⁷³⁵⁵

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met at their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁷³⁵⁶ Following the summit in March, the quartet released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” This statement encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁷³⁵⁷

Japan has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by enacting quarantine guidelines, entering a Quad Vaccine Partnership and administering a robust vaccination strategy.

⁷³⁴⁸ Press conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00013.html

⁷³⁴⁹ Press conference by the Prime Minister regarding the novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00013.html

⁷³⁵⁰ Japan sets out pandemic exit strategy after emergency extended (Osaka) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/09/national/covid-19-exit-strategy-emergency-extension/>

⁷³⁵¹ Japan sets out pandemic exit strategy after emergency extended (Osaka) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/09/national/covid-19-exit-strategy-emergency-extension/>

⁷³⁵² Digitized vaccination certificates to start within the year in Japan (Tokyo) 18 September 2021. Access Date 25 September 2021. <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0007788761>

⁷³⁵³ Digitized vaccination certificates to start within the year in Japan (Tokyo) 18 September 2021. Access Date 25 September 2021. <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0007788761>

⁷³⁵⁴ Japan's elderly to get COVID-19 booster shots in early 2022 (Tokyo) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/21/national/kono-coronavirus-boosters-elderly-2022/>

⁷³⁵⁵ Japan's elderly to get COVID-19 booster shots in early 2022 (Tokyo) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/09/21/national/kono-coronavirus-boosters-elderly-2022/>

⁷³⁵⁶ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷³⁵⁷ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 23 November 2020, President Moon Jae-in has pledged to the G20 economies that Korea will cooperate with the international community to guarantee fair access to vaccines against COVID-19.⁷³⁵⁸ “He said Korea actively supports the roles of international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Vaccine Institute, adding that the country will help supply vaccines to developing countries.”⁷³⁵⁹

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Welfare co-hosted the “2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum.”⁷³⁶⁰ Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neunghoo proposed that the participants reinforce solidarity to end COVID-19, including sharing experiences in “3T (Test, Trace, and Treat),” Korea’s key strategy for COVID-19 response, and stressed the importance of joint efforts in fostering medical personnel, promoting cooperation in information communications and technology, and digital health and medical care, and ensuring a fair distribution of vaccines and treatments.⁷³⁶¹

On 25 November 2020, Korea announced it would contribute USD3 million in 2020 to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which leads global efforts for the development of vaccines for infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁷³⁶² CEPI is a global health partnership launched in 2017 with the aim to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.⁷³⁶³ With regard to COVID-19, it is aiming to support the development of a total of nine vaccine candidates, including those under development by Moderna and AstraZeneca.⁷³⁶⁴

On 26 November 2020, the five member states of MIKTA (Korea, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Australia) held the 1st MIKTA Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM).⁷³⁶⁵ The MIKTA Foreign Affairs and Health SOM leaders stressed that it is an urgent matter to improve and reinforce the current global health system, which is led by the WHO and the International Health Regulations, in order to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for similar health

⁷³⁵⁸ President Moon urges fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 23 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192059&pageIndex=6>

⁷³⁵⁹ President Moon urges fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 23 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192059&pageIndex=6>

⁷³⁶⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁷³⁶¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁷³⁶² ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁷³⁶³ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁷³⁶⁴ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁷³⁶⁵ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

crises, and agreed to step up cooperation in relevant discussions of the international community as well as in the overall areas of infectious diseases and health and medical care.⁷³⁶⁶

On 2 December 2020, Director-General for Development Cooperation Cho Yeongmoo and Unitaïd’s Executive Director Philippe Duneton held a virtual signing ceremony during which they signed the memorandum of understanding outlining Korea’s support.⁷³⁶⁷ Korea will contribute USD1 million to support the Diagnostic Partnership of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. This is on top of the contribution of USD5 million made through the Global Disease Eradication Fund.⁷³⁶⁸

On 15 December 2020, the member states of the “Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security” led by Korea, together with co-chairs of the “Global Preparedness Monitoring Board” made up of prominent figures in infectious disease response, held a high-level meeting assessing the COVID-19 response so far in terms of health security and discussed the way forward.⁷³⁶⁹ The participants agreed on the necessity of continued investment in domestic and global health response systems; decisive and responsible leadership and civic engagement; strengthening social security system including universal access to medical care; and response based on multilateralism including partnerships with international financial institutions in order to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 and health security threats in the future.⁷³⁷⁰

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the second virtual meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS).”⁷³⁷¹ Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn underscored the need to continue strengthening the momentum for implementing the initiative of NEACHS amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and presented ways forward, including seeking out and implementing substantive cooperation projects, cooperating with non-participating countries in a flexible and open manner when needed, and establishing a sustainable institutional framework.⁷³⁷²

On 28 April 2021, Korea announced it will provide India with oxygen concentrators, COVID-19 diagnostic kits and other aid items.⁷³⁷³

On 29 April 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong-moon attended the 77th Session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which took place from 26 to 29 April.⁷³⁷⁴ In his statement, Vice Minister Jong-moon proposed the way forward for regional

⁷³⁶⁶ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁷³⁶⁷ Korean Government Contributes US\$1 Million to Unitaïd to Increase Access to COVID-19 Diagnostics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 4 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321412

⁷³⁶⁸ Korean Government Contributes US\$1 Million to Unitaïd to Increase Access to COVID-19 Diagnostics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 4 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321412

⁷³⁶⁹ Korea-led “Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security” Holds High-level Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321458

⁷³⁷⁰ Korea-led “Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security” Holds High-level Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321458

⁷³⁷¹ 2nd Virtual Meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security” Held on Mar. 30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 31 March 2021. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321611

⁷³⁷² 2nd Virtual Meeting on “Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security” Held on Mar. 30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 31 March 2021. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321611

⁷³⁷³ The Korean Government to provide support to India in its fight against COVID-19, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of India (New Delhi) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/in-en/brd/m_22090/view.do?seq=761427

⁷³⁷⁴ Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jongmoon Attends 77th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 April 2021. Access date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320612

cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era and expressed Korea's commitment to make contributions and that Korea will continuously contribute to recovering from COVID-19 crisis and shaping an inclusive Asia-Pacific region in the post-COVID-19 era.⁷³⁷⁵

On 12 May 2021, a consignment of medical equipment including 200 oxygen concentrators from Korea reached India as it battles against the second wave of the COVID-19 crisis.⁷³⁷⁶ In addition to this it has already sent another consignment of 230 oxygen concentrators and 100 negative pressure isolation stretchers. India has received outpouring of support from several countries including the US, UK and Russia.⁷³⁷⁷

On 14 May 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yeo Si-jae (Future Consensus Institute) co-hosted a webinar with global health strategy experts from the US and Korea who monitored ways that the two countries can help mitigate future pandemics.⁷³⁷⁸

On 21 May 2021, on the occasion of President Moon Jae-in's visit to the United States from 19 May to 23 May 2021, the KORUS Global Vaccine Partnership was established to speed up the production and global supply of COVID-19 vaccines, which include the United States' vaccine development technologies, supply raw materials, and the ROK's vaccine manufacturing capabilities.⁷³⁷⁹

On 3 June 2021, the Global Vaccine Production Hub Task Force was launched as an interdepartmental initiative.⁷³⁸⁰ The Task Force will operate programs under the KORUS Global Vaccine Partnership.⁷³⁸¹ It is an interdepartmental team led by the Minister of Health and Welfare, and comprises ten departments, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.⁷³⁸²

⁷³⁷⁵ Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jongmoon Attends 77th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 April 2021. Access date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320612

⁷³⁷⁶ COVID-19: Consignment of medical equipment from South Korea (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/covid-19-consignment-of-medical-equipment-from-south-korea-reaches-india/articleshow/82565590.cms>

⁷³⁷⁷ COVID-19: Consignment of medical equipment from South Korea (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/covid-19-consignment-of-medical-equipment-from-south-korea-reaches-india/articleshow/82565590.cms>

⁷³⁷⁸ Webinar on Strengthening the Global Rapid Response System for the Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321686&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=10&titleNm=

⁷³⁷⁹ The Establishment of ROK-US Global Vaccine Partnership, Ministry of Health and Welfare, (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=365768

⁷³⁸⁰ Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 7 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

⁷³⁸¹ Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 7 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

⁷³⁸² Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 7 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

On 4 June 2021, Minister Kwon participated in the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting and discussed measures to overcome COVID-19 and future pandemics.⁷³⁸³ The ministers discussed “integrating pandemics surveillance systems based on the One Health approach, utilizing digital technology, supporting developing countries, and realizing sustainable” investment and financing.⁷³⁸⁴

On 4 August 2021, the Government of Korea recommended all foreigners residing in Korea to receive COVID-19 vaccine shots as they will undergo the same application and vaccination process as Korean nationals.⁷³⁸⁵ The government stated that all foreigners residing long-term are eligible to receive free COVID-19 vaccinations regardless of their visa status.⁷³⁸⁶ The announcement also specified that illegal or undocumented long-term residents can also receive vaccinations by visiting community health centers available nationwide.⁷³⁸⁷

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea hosted the 4th virtual meeting on Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS).⁷³⁸⁸ NEACHS is a regional cooperative initiative to strengthen joint response capacity for transboundary health security issues, including COVID-19 and other new infectious diseases.⁷³⁸⁹

On 22 September 2021, the Government of Korea announced that it will donate more than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Vietnam in October.⁷³⁹⁰ This donation will constitute as its first cross-border sharing of its vaccine stockpiles.⁷³⁹¹

On 25 September 2021, the Korea Disease Control Prevention Agency announced that it will begin administering COVID-19 vaccine doses to pregnant women and younger women in order to expand its

⁷³⁸³ Minister Kwon participates in G7 Health Ministers' Meeting (6.4.), Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366060

⁷³⁸⁴ Minister Kwon participates in G7 Health Ministers' Meeting (6.4.), Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 11 June 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366060

⁷³⁸⁵ Korea urges foreigners to quickly get free COVID-19 vaccines, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210804008900315>

⁷³⁸⁶ Korea urges foreigners to quickly get free COVID-19 vaccines, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210804008900315>

⁷³⁸⁷ Korea urges foreigners to quickly get free COVID-19 vaccines, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210804008900315>

⁷³⁸⁸ Fourth Virtual Meeting on Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security Held on August 31, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321832&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=

⁷³⁸⁹ Fourth Virtual Meeting on Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security Held on August 31, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 September 2021. Access date: 11 September 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321832&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=

⁷³⁹⁰ S. Korea to donate 1 mln COVID-19 vaccine doses to Vietnam in October, Reuters (London) 22 September 2021.

Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-donate-1-mln-covid-19-vaccine-doses-vietnam-october-2021-09-22/>

⁷³⁹¹ S. Korea to donate 1 mln COVID-19 vaccine doses to Vietnam in October, Reuters (London) 22 September 2021.

Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-donate-1-mln-covid-19-vaccine-doses-vietnam-october-2021-09-22/>

vaccination campaign.⁷³⁹² As of 25 September 2021, a total of 27.13 million people received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, or 72.3 per cent of the country's population.⁷³⁹³

Korea has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by participating in the 3T (Test, Trace, Treat) program with Latin America, contributing USD6 million to Unitaaid and to fund vaccine equity and providing support to CEPI and demonstrating other public health initiatives.

Thus, Korea has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sydney Grad

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 21 December 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced the expansion of hospital capacity in Mexico City to care for COVID-19 patients.⁷³⁹⁴ He mentioned the creation of a newly built and fully equipped 120 bed hospital in Mexico City.⁷³⁹⁵ He added that the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of Defense are managing the expansion of spaces, the acquisition of equipment, and the hiring of doctors to tend to COVID-19 patients.⁷³⁹⁶

On 22 December 2020, President López Obrador announced the arrival of the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine.⁷³⁹⁷ He stated that vaccines will be universally available and free for the population.⁷³⁹⁸ Vaccines will be distributed through a priority system, where health personnel and elderly/vulnerable populations are prioritized.⁷³⁹⁹

On 19 January 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced Mexico reached agreements with several pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer, Astrazeneca, and CanSino for vaccination doses.⁷⁴⁰⁰

⁷³⁹² Korea to start vaccinating pregnant women, younger children next month, The Korea Times (Seoul) 25 September 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/09/113_315991.html

⁷³⁹³ Korea to start vaccinating pregnant women, younger children next month, The Korea Times (Seoul) 25 September 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/09/113_315991.html

⁷³⁹⁴ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁷³⁹⁵ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁷³⁹⁶ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁷³⁹⁷ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁷³⁹⁸ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁷³⁹⁹ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁷⁴⁰⁰ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

Mexico is to receive over 21 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine during the first quarter of 2021.⁷⁴⁰¹ This will aim to vaccinate approximately 14 million people.⁷⁴⁰²

On 3 March 2021, the Foreign Ministry and the National Autonomous University of Mexico announced a partnership that would administer a centralized laboratory to measure immunity against COVID-19.⁷⁴⁰³ The capacities of this lab will be essential in developing vaccines for COVID-19 and any future pandemics. The partnership is also a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which is a member of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access group, a facility that seeks equitable vaccine distribution.⁷⁴⁰⁴

On 9 March 2021, President López Obrador and Foreign Secretary Ebrard announced that Mexico will be receiving an additional 22 million doses of China's Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines against COVID-19.⁷⁴⁰⁵ Foreign Secretary Ebrard also added that, with the input of local authorities, Mexico's consulates in Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Sacramento and Saint Paul are vaccinating the Mexican community in the US against COVID-19.⁷⁴⁰⁶

On 13 April 2021, President López Obrador announced the development of the Mexican COVID Vaccine Patria.⁷⁴⁰⁷ The National Council of Science and Technology, the Mexican Agency of International Development and the Ministry of Exterior Relations invested a total of MXN150 million for vaccine development.⁷⁴⁰⁸ The Patria vaccine would assist in ensuring the welfare of the population and reduce national cost of vaccine imports.⁷⁴⁰⁹

On 10 May 2021, the Monitoring Committee of Mexico City downgraded the traffic light status from orange to yellow.⁷⁴¹⁰ This allowed for face-to-face interaction to resume in the office space as along as capacity was at 20 per cent. In addition to this companies that bring employees back on site must strictly adhere to sanitizing procedures and must conduct at their own expense a COVID-19 test on

⁷⁴⁰¹ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁷⁴⁰² Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁷⁴⁰³ Mexico to play a leading role in developing vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-enhance-its-capabilities-and-play-a-leading-role-in-developing-vaccines>

⁷⁴⁰⁴ Mexico to play a leading role in developing vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-enhance-its-capabilities-and-play-a-leading-role-in-developing-vaccines>

⁷⁴⁰⁵ Mexico accelerates National Vaccination Plan; will receive 22 million additional doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-accelerates-national-vaccination-plan-will-receive-22-million-additional-doses-of-sinovac-and-sinopharm-vaccines-266424>

⁷⁴⁰⁶ Mexico accelerates National Vaccination Plan; will receive 22 million additional doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-accelerates-national-vaccination-plan-will-receive-22-million-additional-doses-of-sinovac-and-sinopharm-vaccines-266424>

⁷⁴⁰⁷ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁷⁴⁰⁸ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁷⁴⁰⁹ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁷⁴¹⁰ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

20 per cent of their staff.⁷⁴¹¹ It was also announced to the public that employees must be aware of the Administrative Verification Institute which along with Mexico City will carry out supervision and surveillance activities ensuing that protocols are being abided by. In absence of these measures' fines and partial or total suspension may be ordered for a period of 15 days.⁷⁴¹²

On 11 May 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico will host the Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax Vaccine.⁷⁴¹³ Following approval from the Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (Cofepris), 6000 volunteers will be administered the vaccine in order to test its safety and efficacy.⁷⁴¹⁴ Ebrard further stated that Mexico is finalizing details surrounding the administration of Russia's Sputnik Light Vaccine in Mexico.⁷⁴¹⁵

On 18 May 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico will double its supply of COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁴¹⁶ Mexico has received approximately 35 million doses.⁷⁴¹⁷ It is expected to receive over 68 million more doses by the end of June.⁷⁴¹⁸ Ebrard stated that this was possible due to the President's Vaccine strategy, which saw Mexico packaging the active ingredient of vaccines in return for establishing contact with foreign entities.⁷⁴¹⁹

On 15 June 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced that 1.35 million doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine had arrived.⁷⁴²⁰ He stated that another shipment has been requested of the same amount to vaccinate the border population within Mexico.⁷⁴²¹ Foreign Secretary Marcelo

⁷⁴¹¹ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁷⁴¹² Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁷⁴¹³ Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax vaccine to take place in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/phase-iii-trials-of-the-chinese-walvax-vaccine-to-take-place-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁴ Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax vaccine to take place in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/phase-iii-trials-of-the-chinese-walvax-vaccine-to-take-place-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁵ Phase III trials of the Chinese Walvax vaccine to take place in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/phase-iii-trials-of-the-chinese-walvax-vaccine-to-take-place-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁶ Mexico to double the supply of vaccines: Secretary Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-double-the-supply-of-vaccines-secretary-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁷ Mexico to double the supply of vaccines: Secretary Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-double-the-supply-of-vaccines-secretary-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁸ Mexico to double the supply of vaccines: Secretary Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-double-the-supply-of-vaccines-secretary-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴¹⁹ COVID-19 vaccine supply ramps up thanks to fill and finish capacity in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/covid-19-vaccine-supply-ramps-up-thanks-to-fill-and-finish-capacity-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁰ 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrive following bilateral agreement with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/bilateral-agreement-with-us-leads-to-the-arrival-of-1-35-million-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-vaccine?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²¹ 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrive following bilateral agreement with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/bilateral-agreement-with-us-leads-to-the-arrival-of-1-35-million-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-vaccine?idiom=en>

Ebrard stated that the shipment was a result of collaboration between Mexico and the United States.⁷⁴²²

On 21 July 2021, the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Martha Delgado, went to Italy to meet with the Director of Italy's Lazzaro Spallanzani National Institute for Infectious disease.⁷⁴²³ Delgado sought cooperation to produce the Institute's GRAD-COV2 vaccine in Mexico.⁷⁴²⁴ The vaccine will soon be undergoing its Phase III trials, and is expected to be authorized for emergency use by the European Medicines Agency.⁷⁴²⁵

On 28 July 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico's final shipment of the Sinovac vaccine had arrived.⁷⁴²⁶ The shipment contained 2.5 million doses of the vaccine, completing the 20 million dose contract.⁷⁴²⁷ Mexico has received over 82 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through the nation's vaccination campaign.⁷⁴²⁸

On 8 August 2021, the Mexican Foreign Ministry announced that passport issuance will be reduced to 30 per cent in states with higher COVID case numbers.⁷⁴²⁹ This is in response to a resurgence of COVID-19 cases within the country.⁷⁴³⁰ The ministry hopes to reduce overall case numbers by preventing transmission within passport offices.⁷⁴³¹ The rest of the states will be monitored, and immediate action will be taken if case numbers rise.⁷⁴³²

On 10 August 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard reported that Mexico will receive 3.5 million doses of Moderna and 5 million doses of the Astrazeneca vaccine from the United States⁷⁴³³ This is

⁷⁴²² 1.35 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrive following bilateral agreement with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/bilateral-agreement-with-us-leads-to-the-arrival-of-1-35-million-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-vaccine?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²³ The Foreign Ministry holds talks in Italy on producing a new Covid-19 vaccine in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-holds-talks-in-italy-on-potential-production-of-new-covid-19-vaccine-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁴ The Foreign Ministry holds talks in Italy on producing a new Covid-19 vaccine in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-holds-talks-in-italy-on-potential-production-of-new-covid-19-vaccine-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁵ The Foreign Ministry holds talks in Italy on producing a new Covid-19 vaccine in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-holds-talks-in-italy-on-potential-production-of-new-covid-19-vaccine-in-mexico?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁶ Final shipment of Sinovac vaccines delivered, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/final-shipment-of-sinovac-vaccines-delivered?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁷ Final shipment of Sinovac vaccines delivered, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/final-shipment-of-sinovac-vaccines-delivered?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁸ Final shipment of Sinovac vaccines delivered, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/final-shipment-of-sinovac-vaccines-delivered?idiom=en>

⁷⁴²⁹ The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁰ The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³¹ The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³² The Foreign Ministry reduces passport service due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-reduces-passport-service-due-to-the-rising-number-of-covid-19-cases?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³³ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

due to the cooperation of Mexican President López Obrador and United States Vice President Kamala Harris.⁷⁴³⁴ Further, it is revealed the Mexican government advocated to the G20 that all countries should utilize WHO authorized emergency vaccines.⁷⁴³⁵

On 7 September 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico has received over a 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁴³⁶ He stated that by the end of 2021, Mexico is on track to achieve its target of 150 million doses.⁷⁴³⁷ Further, Mexico will be sending vaccine shipments to Honduras, Bolivia, Jamaica, Paraguay, Nicaragua, and Belize in the coming months, in order to combat the global spread of COVID-19.⁷⁴³⁸

Mexico has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering the vaccination campaign, becoming a member of the COVAX group and demonstrating other public health initiatives.

Thus, Mexico has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 28 November 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that 1.1 million people have been fined for violating coronavirus rules, including not wearing a mask and gloves, bringing in at least RUB1.7 billion.⁷⁴³⁹ The aim of these fines is to enforce the rules that prevent the spread of the virus and prosecute those who put public health at risk.⁷⁴⁴⁰

On 22 December 2020, Russia temporarily suspended air travel from the United Kingdom.⁷⁴⁴¹ The aim of the flight restrictions is to avoid the new strain of the novel coronavirus from entering the country.⁷⁴⁴²

⁷⁴³⁴ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁵ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁶ Mexico will have received a total of 120 million vaccine doses by early October: Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-have-received-a-total-of-120-million-vaccine-doses-by-early-october-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁷ Mexico will have received a total of 120 million vaccine doses by early October: Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-have-received-a-total-of-120-million-vaccine-doses-by-early-october-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁸ Mexico will have received a total of 120 million vaccine doses by early October: Ebrard, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-have-received-a-total-of-120-million-vaccine-doses-by-early-october-ebrard?idiom=en>

⁷⁴³⁹ Over 1.1 million Russians fined for violating coronavirus restrictions, TASS (Moscow) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/10119985>

⁷⁴⁴⁰ Over 1.1 million Russians fined for violating coronavirus restrictions, TASS (Moscow) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/10119985>

⁷⁴⁴¹ Russia temporarily suspends UK flights, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41178/>

⁷⁴⁴² Russia temporarily suspends UK flights, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41178/>

On 12 February 2021, Russia allocated RUB25.4 billion to fund hospitals.⁷⁴⁴³ The goal of this funding is to alleviate the high financial burden hospitals have faced due to the coronavirus and to allow the healthcare system to fulfil their responsibilities to their patients.⁷⁴⁴⁴

On 18 February 2021, the National International Health Regulations Focal Point for the Russian Federation alerted the World Health Organization (WHO) of the first reported cases of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven humans working in a poultry farm.⁷⁴⁴⁵ There are no reported cases of transmission and chances “of human-to-human transmission remains low.”⁷⁴⁴⁶ The reason for Russia notifying the WHO is to ensure that proper protocols are taken to prevent the spread of a potential virus, and to research and assess the influenza.⁷⁴⁴⁷ The WHO is assisting health officials in Russia to ensure that proper measures are taken to protect public health, and is also assessing virus samples.⁷⁴⁴⁸

On 16 March 2021, Russia announced that it had detected two cases of the South African COVID-19 variant and 28 cases of the UK COVID-19 variant within Russia’s border.⁷⁴⁴⁹ The announcement aimed to alert Russians that the foreign strains have made their way into the country and stay alert of them.⁷⁴⁵⁰

On 25 March 2021, President Vladimir Putin declared the coming week to be a non-working week from 28 March to 5 April 2021, encouraging people to stay home.⁷⁴⁵¹ The aim of this order is to prevent the accelerating spread of COVID-19.⁷⁴⁵²

On 13 April 2021, Russia announced that most flights from and to Turkey and Tanzania would be suspended due to the accelerating COVID-19 cases from 15 April to 1 June 2021.⁷⁴⁵³ Many Russian tourists from these two destinations have contracted COVID-19, with a 80 per cent of COVID-19 cases that came from abroad were from Turkey.⁷⁴⁵⁴

⁷⁴⁴³ Mikhail Mishustin signed an order on the allocation of more than 25.4 billion rubles for additional financing of hospitals and clinics, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41557/>

⁷⁴⁴⁴ Mikhail Mishustin signed an order on the allocation of more than 25.4 billion rubles for additional financing of hospitals and clinics, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41557/>

⁷⁴⁴⁵ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁶ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁷ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁸ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁷⁴⁴⁹ Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁷⁴⁵⁰ Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁷⁴⁵¹ Putin declared the next week non-working, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/25/03/2020/5e7b5c939a7947f15a9150f0>

⁷⁴⁵² Putin declared the next week non-working, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/25/03/2020/5e7b5c939a7947f15a9150f0>

⁷⁴⁵³ Half a Million Russians Shut Out of Turkey After Virus Restricts Travel Again, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/04/13/half-a-million-russians-shut-out-of-turkey-after-virus-restricts-travel-again-a73571>

⁷⁴⁵⁴ Russia Suspends Most Air Travel With Turkey Over COVID Outbreak, BloombergQuint (Mumbai) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.bloombergquint.com/politics/russia-suspends-most-air-travel-with-turkey-until-june-1>

On 13 April 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that they will make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for specific professions, such as doctors and teachers.⁷⁴⁵⁵ This measure will ensure all frontline and vulnerable workers are eventually vaccinated to protect themselves.⁷⁴⁵⁶

On 20 April 2021, Russia announced that starting 1 May 2021, all Russians arriving from abroad must complete two coronavirus tests within 5 days after their arrival, both tests at least one day apart.⁷⁴⁵⁷ Those arriving from Turkey and Tanzania will have to fulfil this requirement starting 21 April 2021.⁷⁴⁵⁸ Rospotrebnadzor employees can conduct selective testing for foreign travelers into Russia.⁷⁴⁵⁹ This measure is intended to ensure most incoming travelers do not carry the virus and carry the risk of spreading it.⁷⁴⁶⁰

On 26 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced that the dates 4 May 2021 until 7 May 2021 would be non-working days.⁷⁴⁶¹ Considering 1 May 2021 to 3 May 2021 and 8 May 2021 to 10 May 2021 are national holidays, Russians will have a total of 10 days off work.⁷⁴⁶² This measure is a part of the Ministry of Health's efforts to ensure that coronavirus cases do not spike due to the May holidays.⁷⁴⁶³

On 13 May 2021, Russia announced its detection its first case of the Indian variant of COVID-19.⁷⁴⁶⁴

On 13 July 2021, Russia was announced that 31 regions throughout the country introduced mandatory vaccinations.⁷⁴⁶⁵ The heads of all these regions in Russia have signed decrees that make it mandatory for certain categories of people to vaccinate, such as those who work within the service sectors.⁷⁴⁶⁶ For instance, the Perm Territory requires a minimum of “60 per cent of employees in the spheres of trade, services, catering, education” and other industries to vaccinate.⁷⁴⁶⁷ Due to the high

⁷⁴⁵⁵ The Ministry of Health will change the rules of vaccination against coronavirus for doctors and teachers, Association of Lawyers of Russia (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://alrf.ru/news/minzdrav-izmenit-pravila-vaktsinatsii-ot-koronavirusa-dlya-medikov-i-uchiteley/>

⁷⁴⁵⁶ The Ministry of Health will change the rules of vaccination against coronavirus for doctors and teachers, Association of Lawyers of Russia (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://alrf.ru/news/minzdrav-izmenit-pravila-vaktsinatsii-ot-koronavirusa-dlya-medikov-i-uchiteley/>

⁷⁴⁵⁷ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁵⁸ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁵⁹ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁶⁰ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁷⁴⁶¹ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁷⁴⁶² The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁷⁴⁶³ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁷⁴⁶⁴ Russia records first cases of COVID variant found in India (New Delhi) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/russia-records-first-cases-of-covid-variant-found-in-india/articleshow/82598450.cms>

⁷⁴⁶⁵ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

⁷⁴⁶⁶ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

⁷⁴⁶⁷ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

number of cases throughout Russia, various regions started to follow Moscow's lead in taking strict measures to ensure the protection of their people.⁷⁴⁶⁸

On 15 July 2021, Russia was announced that over 70 per cent of healthcare workers were already vaccinated against the coronavirus in Moscow.⁷⁴⁶⁹ This comes after Moscow "mandated the shots for many of those employed in health care, education, retail, public transport and hospitality and services sector."⁷⁴⁷⁰ In addition, 66 per cent of education workers and 76 per cent of social workers also got the vaccine.⁷⁴⁷¹ This increase in vaccination came as a result of Moscow's decision to make vaccines obligatory to certain sectors due to the increased number of cases.⁷⁴⁷²

On 19 July 2021, Russia announced that vaccination centers will open at the seaport, central market, shopping centres and the city circus in Sochi.⁷⁴⁷³ So far, 43 per cent of Sochi's residents are vaccinated.⁷⁴⁷⁴ This initiative is supposed to provide its residents with several accessible areas to vaccinate in order to protect everyone from the novel coronavirus and its variants.⁷⁴⁷⁵

On 19 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova, announced that Russia had developed a project known as the "sanitary shield" in which RUB30 billion was going to be allocated to protect Russia against future pandemics and viruses.⁷⁴⁷⁶ The project's goal is to prevent the transfer of dangerous viruses into Russia, prevent potential pandemics from arising, create new testing systems in only four days to detect viruses, develop new vaccines within four months, and create a reliable information source where people can receive updates on the public health situation.⁷⁴⁷⁷ Moreover, existing laboratories will be modernized and new laboratories will be built to further this program.⁷⁴⁷⁸ These goals are to be achieved by the

⁷⁴⁶⁸ Mandatory vaccination introduced in more than 30 regions, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/13/07/2021/60edd92e9a7947759b36f922?>

⁷⁴⁶⁹ Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷⁰ Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷¹ Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷² Official: Nearly 70% of medical workers in Moscow vaccinated, The Associated Press (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-moscow-da5cc58ff54588907ca7daf73d16ea13>

⁷⁴⁷³ In Sochi, vaccination points will be opened in shopping centers, a seaport, a market and a circus, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4908761>

⁷⁴⁷⁴ In Sochi, vaccination points will be opened in shopping centers, a seaport, a market and a circus, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4908761>

⁷⁴⁷⁵ In Sochi, vaccination points will be opened in shopping centers, a seaport, a market and a circus, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4908761>

⁷⁴⁷⁶ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁷⁷ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁷⁸ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

year 2024.⁷⁴⁷⁹ The initiative ensures that Russia is fully capable of dealing with any future health crises and avoiding a catastrophic pandemic.⁷⁴⁸⁰

On 7 August 2021, the Government of Russia announced that they were allocating RUB127 million from the government's reserve fund "to ensure the work of mobile teams for the treatment of patients with coronavirus."⁷⁴⁸¹ Mobile teams, which are used in many territories in the country, allow specialists "from federal medical institutions and specialized universities" to go to regions with extremely high cases to assist colleagues and help patients.⁷⁴⁸² This fund allocation covers the medical professionals' wages and travel costs.⁷⁴⁸³ The reason for this funding is to assist regions facing difficult waves of the coronavirus by sending professionals.⁷⁴⁸⁴

On 7 August 2021, Egypt announced that it received 175,000 Sputnik V coronavirus vaccinations from Russia.⁷⁴⁸⁵ This exchange is a part of the several shipments Egypt expects in order to fully vaccinate its whole population.⁷⁴⁸⁶ The shipment was implemented to help protect people against the coronavirus and avoid deaths, as well as ensure that every country worldwide has access to vaccines.⁷⁴⁸⁷

On 16 August 2021, Russia extended the suspension of travel from and to Tanzania until 2 September 2021 due to the current health situation in Tanzania.⁷⁴⁸⁸ This measure is to help protect Russia from additional coronavirus cases from entering the country.⁷⁴⁸⁹

On 17 August 2021, Russia announced that it is going to create 15 biosafety level laboratories by the year 2024 under Russia's sanitary shield program.⁷⁴⁹⁰ The country also announced that Moscow

⁷⁴⁷⁹ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁸⁰ Golikova announced the allocation of 30 billion rubles. on the "sanitary shield" of Russia, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.rbc.ru/economics/19/07/2021/60f58d8e9a79479b9181263c>

⁷⁴⁸¹ The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸² The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸³ The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸⁴ The government allocated more than 127 million rubles for the work of mobile teams to help patients with coronavirus, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021.

<http://government.ru/docs/42980/>

⁷⁴⁸⁵ Egypt receives 175K Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses, Egypt Today (Giza) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/106700/Egypt-receives-175K-Russian-Sputnik-V-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁴⁸⁶ Egypt receives 175K Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses, Egypt Today (Giza) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/106700/Egypt-receives-175K-Russian-Sputnik-V-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁴⁸⁷ Egypt receives 175K Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses, Egypt Today (Giza) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/106700/Egypt-receives-175K-Russian-Sputnik-V-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁴⁸⁸ Russia extends suspension of flights with Tanzania until September 2, TASS (Moscow) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1326425>

⁷⁴⁸⁹ Russia extends suspension of flights with Tanzania until September 2, TASS (Moscow) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1326425>

⁷⁴⁹⁰ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

would “expand the network of overseas labs cooperating with Russian laboratories.”⁷⁴⁹¹ The reason for these measures is to ensure Russia is prepared and secured in the case of any future health emergencies.⁷⁴⁹² Additionally, expanding the network of foreign labs will help Russia identify potential arising risks.⁷⁴⁹³ The development of these biosafety level laboratories will also help develop “express testing methods to detect various infections within an hour.”⁷⁴⁹⁴

On 3 September 2021, Russia announced that it will have 30 laboratories open by the year 2030 which will function to work with dangerous viruses that may develop to fatal diseases.⁷⁴⁹⁵ These labs will ensure that sufficient research can be done on these viruses to ensure the security of Russians against potentially dangerous health crises.⁷⁴⁹⁶

On 3 September 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers announced that they were allocating RUB2 billion from the government’s reserve fund to open 15 new PCR screening centers in large Russian cities and laboratories, such as mobile laboratories, as well as other measures to ensure the effectiveness of the sanitary shield.⁷⁴⁹⁷ The reason behind this investment is to accelerate “diagnosis of infectious diseases” in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases and to create a sanitary shield around the country.⁷⁴⁹⁸

On 4 September 2021, it was announced that Russia will send 20 million Sputnik V coronavirus vaccinations to Vietnam.⁷⁴⁹⁹ This is due to the fact that only three per cent of Vietnam’s 98 million population has been vaccinated, and the Delta variant has devastated the country despite strict measures to keep the virus under control.⁷⁵⁰⁰ In addition, providing vaccines will help prevent deaths as well as ensure that every country worldwide has access to vaccines.⁷⁵⁰¹

On 6 September 2021, Russia announced that RUB223 million, out of the RUB2 billion fund for curbing the spread of infectious diseases, will be allocated to set up PCR screening centres in regional capitals and large cities throughout Russia, including Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Samara and

⁷⁴⁹¹ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹² Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹³ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹⁴ Russia to set up 15 highest biosafety level labs by 2024 — watchdog chief, TASS (Moscow) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.com/science/1327029>

⁷⁴⁹⁵ In Russia in 2030 there will be 30 laboratories working with dangerous viruses, Kommersant (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4968471>

⁷⁴⁹⁶ In Russia in 2030 there will be 30 laboratories working with dangerous viruses, Kommersant (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4968471>

⁷⁴⁹⁷ The Cabinet of Ministers will direct 2 billion rubles for measures to create a sanitary shield, TASS (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/12297199>

⁷⁴⁹⁸ The Cabinet of Ministers will direct 2 billion rubles for measures to create a sanitary shield, TASS (Moscow) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/12297199>

⁷⁴⁹⁹ Vietnam to get 20 million Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine doses from Russia in 2021, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/vietnam-to-get-20-million-sputnik-v-covid-19-doses-from-russia-in-2021>

⁷⁵⁰⁰ Vietnam to get 20 million Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine doses from Russia in 2021, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/vietnam-to-get-20-million-sputnik-v-covid-19-doses-from-russia-in-2021>

⁷⁵⁰¹ Vietnam to get 20 million Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine doses from Russia in 2021, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 4 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/vietnam-to-get-20-million-sputnik-v-covid-19-doses-from-russia-in-2021>

Omsk.⁷⁵⁰² The funding will come from the government's reserve fund.⁷⁵⁰³ The purpose of this fund allocation is to ensure that sufficient diagnostic measures are set in place to reduce the risk of the fast spread of the coronavirus.⁷⁵⁰⁴

On 7 September 2021, the Government of Russia announced that the rest of the RUB2 billion will go towards funding the creation of four biochemical laboratories.⁷⁵⁰⁵ These laboratories are meant to focus on studying the coronavirus variants and other new infectious diseases.⁷⁵⁰⁶ The laboratories also focus on tracking, identifying and diagnosing viruses.⁷⁵⁰⁷ The reason for funding the creation of these new biochemical laboratories is to ensure the success of the sanitary shield in protecting Russians against the spread of viruses.⁷⁵⁰⁸

On 7 September 2021, the Government of Russia announced that PCR centers were opening in the city of Yekaterinburg following the RUB223 million allocation towards opening PCR centers throughout the country.⁷⁵⁰⁹ The reason behind the opening of this center in Yekaterinburg is to boost diagnostic tests to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.⁷⁵¹⁰

Russia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection and response. Through social distancing and quarantine, it has prevented the spread of infectious diseases, detected COVID-19 variants and concealed viruses, and responded to the health emergency by administering a robust vaccination strategy. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the preparedness area.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Rawan Barakat

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

⁷⁵⁰² The government approves the allocation of 2 billion rubles for measures to combat the spread of infections, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <http://government.ru/docs/43198/>

⁷⁵⁰³ The government approves the allocation of 2 billion rubles for measures to combat the spread of infections, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <http://government.ru/docs/43198/>

⁷⁵⁰⁴ The government approves the allocation of 2 billion rubles for measures to combat the spread of infections, The Russian Government (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <http://government.ru/docs/43198/>

⁷⁵⁰⁵ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkritie_prcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁶ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkritie_prcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁷ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkritie_prcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁸ The government aligned funds for opening a PCR center in Petersburg, 78 (Saint Petersburg) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. https://78.ru/news/2021-09-07/pravitelstvo_videlilo_sredstva_na_otkritie_prcentra_v_peterburge

⁷⁵⁰⁹ The Russian government allocated funds for the creation of a PCR center in Yekaterinburg, Kommersant (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4976391>

⁷⁵¹⁰ The Russian government allocated funds for the creation of a PCR center in Yekaterinburg, Kommersant (Moscow) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4976391>

On 10 December 2020, Saudi Food and Drug Authority approved the registration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, initiating preparations for mass immunization against the novel coronavirus pandemic.⁷⁵¹¹ The Authority will conduct routine checks and analyze samples from each incoming vaccine shipment before using it for quality assurance and adherence to standards. The Ministry of Health also announced the date of the vaccine's arrival and the start of administration after completing import requirements and other checks.⁷⁵¹²

On 2 January 2021, Saudi Arabia implemented new travel guidelines to prevent the spread of the B.1.1.7 novel coronavirus variant.⁷⁵¹³ All non-citizens entering from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and other countries specified at the discretion of the Ministry of Health, are required to produce a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test prior to traveling.⁷⁵¹⁴ Upon entering the country, they are required to complete a seven day home quarantine period, along with a second PCR test on the sixth day of quarantine.⁷⁵¹⁵ Travelers entering from non-specified countries are required to undertake one PCR test and to complete a minimum of three days under home quarantine.⁷⁵¹⁶

On 25 January 2021, Saudi Arabia launched the Remote Clinics Service to provide non-emergency patients with the option of attending virtual medical appointments.⁷⁵¹⁷ The service aims to minimize non-essential hospital visits and to reduce the rate of coronavirus transmission.⁷⁵¹⁸ The Anat and Sehaty digital platforms made especially for COVID-19 ease patients anxiety and connects them remotely with doctors.

On 16 February 2021, the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of Health Dr. Mohammed Al-Abdulaali advised elderly, chronically ill, obese, and immunocompromised individuals to register for obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁵¹⁹ The aforementioned vulnerable populations were given priority for the first stage of inoculations.⁷⁵²⁰ In addition to vulnerable populations, 27 million medical and health-wise consultations via 937 centers were conducted and the total of accurately administered lab tests reached approximately 13 million. Dr. Abdulaali removed any hesitancy in using the vaccine by saying that many of the deaths were misinformation and the vaccines are proving to be very effective.⁷⁵²¹

⁷⁵¹¹ SFDA Approves Registration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2166947>

⁷⁵¹² SFDA Approves Registration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2166947>

⁷⁵¹³ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁴ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁵ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁶ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁷⁵¹⁷ Ministry of Health Launches Remote Clinics Service, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2183487>

⁷⁵¹⁸ Ministry of Health Launches Remote Clinics Service, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2183487>

⁷⁵¹⁹ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

⁷⁵²⁰ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

⁷⁵²¹ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

On 1 March 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Tawfig Al-Rabiah reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), the global coalition for the development and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations, tests, and treatments.⁷⁵²² This was in acknowledgement of the first COVID-19 inoculation campaigns in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, which utilized vaccinations produced by COVAX, the ACT-A's vaccine manufacturing facility.⁷⁵²³

On 2 March 2021, Saudi Arabia committed USD430 million in funding towards United Nations humanitarian relief efforts in Yemen, including programs for COVID-19 pandemic response and containment.⁷⁵²⁴ This was part of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 and will be administered through United Nations agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.⁷⁵²⁵

On 4 March 2021, Saudi Ministry of Health announced the expansion of its COVID-19 inoculation program to provide free vaccinations to all Saudi Arabian citizens.⁷⁵²⁶ Pharmacies across the country were authorized to administer vaccines approved by the Ministry of Health for free.⁷⁵²⁷ Saudi Arabia started its inoculation program on 17 December 2020 and 100 vaccination facilities have opened up throughout the country.⁷⁵²⁸

On 5 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced new restrictions to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁷⁵²⁹ Under new guidelines, events and parties held in public venues are suspended until further notice, while private social gatherings are limited to 20 people.⁷⁵³⁰ Health authorities will increase inspection campaigns to ensure individuals and businesses are in full compliance with emergency regulations.⁷⁵³¹

On 16 March 2021, health authorities in the Eastern region of Saudi Arabia conducted over 724 inspections of private health facilities, hospitals, and pharmacies to ensure full adherence to COVID-19 preventative measures.⁷⁵³² The Ministry of Health reaffirmed that inspection campaigns will continue to oversee the implementation of pandemic-related regulations.⁷⁵³³

⁷⁵²² First COVID-19 COVAX Vaccine Doses Administered in Africa, UNICEF (Geneva/New York/Oslo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/first-covid-19-covax-vaccine-doses-administered-africa>

⁷⁵²³ First COVID-19 COVAX Vaccine Doses Administered in Africa, UNICEF (Geneva/New York/Oslo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/first-covid-19-covax-vaccine-doses-administered-africa>

⁷⁵²⁴ Saudi Arabia Pledges \$430M to UN's Yemen Response, Arab News (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1817931/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁵ Saudi Arabia Pledges \$430M to UN's Yemen Response, Arab News (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1817931/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁶ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁷ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁸ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵²⁹ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁷⁵³⁰ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁷⁵³¹ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁷⁵³² The Eastern Region: 720+ Inspections Conducted to Ensure Precautions Last Week, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-03-16-005.aspx>

⁷⁵³³ The Eastern Region: 720+ Inspections Conducted to Ensure Precautions Last Week, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-03-16-005.aspx>

On 6 April 2021, Saudi Arabia provided a training course for medical practitioners attending to COVID-19 isolation units in Aden, Yemen.⁷⁵³⁴ The course focused on aiding healthcare workers in strengthening necessary skills for treating and containing COVID-19 infections.⁷⁵³⁵

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online service to provide residents and citizens aged 75 years and above with priority access to COVID-19 vaccinations.⁷⁵³⁶ Through the service, designated individuals are able to receive the vaccine at any vaccination site in the country without prior registration or appointment.⁷⁵³⁷

On 16 April 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) virtual summit.⁷⁵³⁸ Saudi Arabia reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to the GAVI COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access initiative to provide equitable global access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁵³⁹ Saudi Arabia also confirmed that it has contributed over USD713 million towards global pandemic relief efforts.⁷⁵⁴⁰

On 20 April 2021, Saudi Arabia established the General Authority of Civil Aviation to advance safety and health measures for air travel to prevent the spread of future virus outbreaks and pandemics.⁷⁵⁴¹ The department will operate in cooperation with international bodies such as the International Air Transport Association and the World Health Organization.⁷⁵⁴²

On 12 May 2021, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan made a phone call to his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar confirming Saudi Arabia's support to India.⁷⁵⁴³ They also

⁷⁵³⁴ Ksrelief Organizes Training Course to Health Practitioners in COVID-19 Isolation Units in Aden, Saudi Press Agency (Aden) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2211877#2211877>

⁷⁵³⁵ Ksrelief Organizes Training Course to Health Practitioners in COVID-19 Isolation Units in Aden, Saudi Press Agency (Aden) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2211877#2211877>

⁷⁵³⁶ MOH Launches 'Awlawia' Service for Vaccinating the Elderly without Prior Appointment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-04-12-007.aspx>

⁷⁵³⁷ MOH Launches 'Awlawia' Service for Vaccinating the Elderly without Prior Appointment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-04-12-007.aspx>

⁷⁵³⁸ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁷⁵³⁹ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁷⁵⁴⁰ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁷⁵⁴¹ GACA: Aviation Medicine Contributes to Achieving Highest Levels of Safety during Flight, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2219895#2219895>

⁷⁵⁴² GACA: Aviation Medicine Contributes to Achieving Highest Levels of Safety during Flight, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2219895#2219895>

⁷⁵⁴³ Prince Faisal: Saudi Arabia stands in solidarity with India in facing COVID-19 challenges (Jeddah) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/606587/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Faisal-Saudi-Arabia-stands-in-solidarity-with-India-in-facing-COVID-19-challenges>

discussed bilateral relations, aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries, and regional and international developments.⁷⁵⁴⁴

On 19 May 2021, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman committed USD1 billion in funding towards combating COVID-19 outbreaks which spread in low-income African countries.⁷⁵⁴⁵

On 23 May 2021, the Ministry of Health's spokesman Dr. Muhammed Al-Abdulaali announced that it will monitor COVID-19 vaccination status for all individuals participating in any commercial, cultural, entertainment, and sporting activities.⁷⁵⁴⁶ Unvaccinated individuals will no longer be permitted to enter government facilities, private educational facilities, and public transportation.⁷⁵⁴⁷

On 7 June 2021, Saudi Arabia's Health Endowment Fund implemented several initiatives to improve pandemic prevention, detection, and response.⁷⁵⁴⁸ The initiatives included: establishing 23 medical research centres specializing in advancing treatments for COVID-19; establishing field hospitals in three governorates; constructing 120 intensive care units; expanding access to medical supplies for healthcare workers; and providing low-income families with personal protective supplies, such as face masks.⁷⁵⁴⁹

On 13 June 2021, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah restricted the annual Hajj pilgrimage to residents and citizens, barring international travellers from participating in the event.⁷⁵⁵⁰ Anyone permitted to participate will be required to show evidence of having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine within 2 weeks of attendance.⁷⁵⁵¹

On 30 June 2021, the Adviser at the Royal Court and General Supervisor of the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Action, Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Rabiah announced that Saudi Arabia will commence plans to become a central regional manufacturer and distributor of COVID-

⁷⁵⁴⁴ Prince Faisal: Saudi Arabia stands in solidarity with India in facing COVID-19 challenges (Jeddah) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/606587/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Faisal-Saudi-Arabia-stands-in-solidarity-with-India-in-facing-COVID-19-challenges>

⁷⁵⁴⁵ Saudi Arabia grants \$1bn to help African countries fight COVID-19, The National News (Riyadh) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-grants-1bn-to-help-african-countries-fight-covid-19-1.1225365>

⁷⁵⁴⁶ MOH: 75% of Newly Detected COVID-19 Cases Attributed to Family Gatherings, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 23 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-05-23-005.aspx>

⁷⁵⁴⁷ MOH: 75% of Newly Detected COVID-19 Cases Attributed to Family Gatherings, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 23 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-05-23-005.aspx>

⁷⁵⁴⁸ HEF Implements 12 Qualitative Initiatives during COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-06-07-006.aspx>

⁷⁵⁴⁹ HEF Implements 12 Qualitative Initiatives during COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-06-07-006.aspx>

⁷⁵⁵⁰ Saudi Arabia restricts Hajj to residents for a second year, The National News (Riyadh) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-restricts-hajj-to-residents-for-a-second-year-1.1239709>

⁷⁵⁵¹ Saudi Arabia restricts Hajj to residents for a second year, The National News (Riyadh) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-restricts-hajj-to-residents-for-a-second-year-1.1239709>

19 vaccines and medical supplies, including ventilators and medical gases.⁷⁵⁵² The initiative is aimed towards combating vaccine shortages across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.⁷⁵⁵³

On 14 July 2021, Saudi Arabia committed an additional USD10 million in support of the WHO's global efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁵⁵⁴ In addition, the country donated medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and COVID-19 vaccinations to Tunisia.⁷⁵⁵⁵

On 17 July 2021, Saudi Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh Issa bin Youssef Al-Duhailan facilitated the donation of medical equipment to Bangladesh in order to aid COVID-19 containment efforts.⁷⁵⁵⁶ The contribution included ventilators and personal protective equipment.⁷⁵⁵⁷

On 27 July 2021, Saudi Arabia set out to impose one of the world's most wide ranging and extensive mandates on vaccination.⁷⁵⁵⁸ This was in the midst of combatting the new delta variant of COVID-19. Saudi citizens will need to show proof on a mobile app that they have received at least one vaccine dose to enter public and private institutions.⁷⁵⁵⁹ Moreover, from 9 August 2021, Saudi citizens will need two doses to travel abroad.⁷⁵⁶⁰

On 1 August 2021, the Ministry of Health enacted regulations requiring all individuals to provide proof of immunization against COVID-19 prior to entering public and private establishments across the country.⁷⁵⁶¹ Citizens have to provide evidence of having received at least one dose of the vaccine in order to participate in any activities or events.⁷⁵⁶² Establishments that fail to adequately enforce these rules will be subject to penalties and closures.⁷⁵⁶³ In addition, individuals must receive two

⁷⁵⁵² Dr. Al Rabeeah Affirms the Kingdom's Readiness to Become a Regional Hub for the Production of COVID-19 Vaccines to Support the Global Supply Chain for Countries in Need, King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (Brindisi) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/329a19a5-5f9d-441f-8436-d84136e25cb5>

⁷⁵⁵³ Dr. Al Rabeeah Affirms the Kingdom's Readiness to Become a Regional Hub for the Production of COVID-19 Vaccines to Support the Global Supply Chain for Countries in Need, King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (Brindisi) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/329a19a5-5f9d-441f-8436-d84136e25cb5>

⁷⁵⁵⁴ Saudi Press: Saudi Arabia Supports Tunisia with Vaccines, Medical and Preventative Equipment Urgently to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2258501>

⁷⁵⁵⁵ Saudi Press: Saudi Arabia Supports Tunisia with Vaccines, Medical and Preventative Equipment Urgently to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2258501>

⁷⁵⁵⁶ Saudi Arabia Hands over Medical Aid to Bangladesh to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Dhaka) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2260714>

⁷⁵⁵⁷ Saudi Arabia Hands over Medical Aid to Bangladesh to Combat COVID-19, Saudi Press Agency (Dhaka) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2260714>

⁷⁵⁵⁸ Saudi Arabia to Impose Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate (Riyadh) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-to-impose-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-11627402754>

⁷⁵⁵⁹ Saudi Arabia to Impose Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate (Riyadh) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-to-impose-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-11627402754>

⁷⁵⁶⁰ Saudi Arabia to Impose Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate (Riyadh) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-to-impose-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-11627402754>

⁷⁵⁶¹ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶² MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶³ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine to qualify for international travel.⁷⁵⁶⁴ On behalf of the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Talal al-Shalhoub announced that travel bans would remain in place for countries that had been identified as high-risk zones for COVID-19 transmission.⁷⁵⁶⁵

On 15 August 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an in-home vaccination service oriented towards those aged 70 years or older, to ensure that disadvantaged or otherwise incapacitated elderly citizens are able to access and receive the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁵⁶⁶ This is a continuation of Saudi Arabia's efforts to bolster vaccine uptake among its most vulnerable populations.⁷⁵⁶⁷

On 22 August 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the use of COVID-19 Vaccine mRNA-1273 (Moderna) for vaccinating children aged 12 to 17 years old.⁷⁵⁶⁸ Additionally, the Ministry released guidance measures targeted towards students and educational faculty members with information to help safeguard against COVID-19 outbreaks upon resuming in-person educational activities.⁷⁵⁶⁹ Students and faculty members must wear face masks during on-campus activities, and must communicate possible symptoms or cases clearly.⁷⁵⁷⁰

On 26 August 2021, Saudi Arabia delivered over 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Tunisia, bolstering the country's initiative to immunize its population against COVID-19.⁷⁵⁷¹ The donation constituted the first part of Saudi's overall commitment to provide a total of 1 million doses to Tunisia.⁷⁵⁷²

On 29 August 2021, Saudi Arabia extended donations to support the National Malaria Control Program in Yemen in its efforts to detect, treat, and prevent the spread of malaria and dengue

⁷⁵⁶⁴ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁵ MOH: Adhering to Preventive Measures and Vaccination Essential for Preventing COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-01-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁶ MOH Launches COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Service for 70+ Years, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-15-008.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁷ MOH Launches COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Service for 70+ Years, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-15-008.aspx>

⁷⁵⁶⁸ SFDA Approves Inoculating 12-17 Age Group with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2276034>

⁷⁵⁶⁹ SFDA Approves Inoculating 12-17 Age Group with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2276034>

⁷⁵⁷⁰ MOH: Delta Variant Most Widespread Worldwide, We Keep Monitoring Pandemic Curves, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-08-22-007.aspx>

⁷⁵⁷¹ Relief Cargo Plane Laden with 608,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Arrives in Tunisia to Help Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2278325>

⁷⁵⁷² Relief Cargo Plane Laden with 608,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Arrives in Tunisia to Help Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2278325>

viruses.⁷⁵⁷³ Saudi provided the program with medical supplies, testing devices, and malaria treatments.⁷⁵⁷⁴

On 1 September 2021, Saudi Arabia delivered over 2,000 oxygen cylinders and auxiliary supplies to Tunisia via the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief).⁷⁵⁷⁵ Medical assistance was deployed to support the treatment and containment of COVID-19.⁷⁵⁷⁶

On 14 September 2021, the National Guard, Ministry of National Guard and Health Affairs and other partners held the Global Medical Biotechnology Summit was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. One of the key topics was vaccine development and manufacturing.⁷⁵⁷⁷ Delegates also discussed opportunities and challenges related to medical biotechnology in Saudi Arabia, investment strategies, and the role of biotechnology in developing medicines, vaccines, and cell and gene therapies.⁷⁵⁷⁸

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by expanding its vaccination campaign, administering social distancing rules and contributing to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to combat COVID-19 by advancing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 3 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the government was putting into motion to fight the possible virus resurgence with the World Health Organization's surge team.⁷⁵⁷⁹ South Africa would be making more capacity available at hospitals and clinics in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape to ensure that a similar rise of infection does not develop in other parts of the country.⁷⁵⁸⁰ South Africa would also be expanding public health interventions such as testing, contact

⁷⁵⁷³ Financed by KSRelief, Equipment, Devices for Inspecting Malaria, Dengue for Health Facilities Distributed in Yemen, Saudi Press Agency (Lahij) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2279080#2279080>

⁷⁵⁷⁴ Financed by KSRelief, Equipment, Devices for Inspecting Malaria, Dengue for Health Facilities Distributed in Yemen, Saudi Press Agency (Lahij) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2279080#2279080>

⁷⁵⁷⁵ Saudi Plane Carrying 1st Batch of Medican Oxygen Arrives in Tunisia, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2280194>

⁷⁵⁷⁶ Saudi Plane Carrying 1st Batch of Medican Oxygen Arrives in Tunisia, Saudi Press Agency (Tunis) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2280194>

⁷⁵⁷⁷ Riyadh to host global summit on medical biotechnology in September (Riyadh) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1920656/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵⁷⁸ Riyadh to host global summit on medical biotechnology in September (Riyadh) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1920656/saudi-arabia>

⁷⁵⁷⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁷⁵⁸⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

tracing, isolation and quarantine, and creating awareness campaigns around public health regulations.⁷⁵⁸¹

On 10 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that it would be launching the COVID South Africa travel system, a digital screening platform that allows travellers to complete the required travel health questionnaire on their personal devices ahead of their arrival at ports of entry.⁷⁵⁸² The system went live on 15 December 2020.⁷⁵⁸³

On 14 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that the Cabinet would be imposing further restrictions on the country starting from 14 December.⁷⁵⁸⁴ It included stricter enforcement of existing alert level 1 restrictions, measures to reduce the risk of super-spreading events and reduce the burden on health care services.⁷⁵⁸⁵

On 15 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority was prepared for the vaccine registration process.⁷⁵⁸⁶ The readiness programme included the establishment of a specialised COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Working Group comprising both external and internal experts specialising in areas of vaccinology, manufacturing, clinical trials, epidemiology, vigilance and other specialisations informing quality, safety and efficacy of the products and this case vaccines.⁷⁵⁸⁷

On 17 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that it launched a festive season campaign to remind the public that COVID-19 was still an everyday reality.⁷⁵⁸⁸ It collaborated with animator Jonas Lekganyane and developed COVID-19 messaging with a more realistic and humorous tone.

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimand, announced that the Department of Science and Innovation will fund the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform with ZAR25 million over the next 12 months to complete the sequencing of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 10,000 genomes in South Africa

⁷⁵⁸¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁷⁵⁸² Health digitises COVID-19 screening at ports, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-digitises-covid-19-screening-ports>

⁷⁵⁸³ Health digitises COVID-19 screening at ports, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-digitises-covid-19-screening-ports>

⁷⁵⁸⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-0>

⁷⁵⁸⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-0>

⁷⁵⁸⁶ Health on SAHPRA commencing review of vaccine application for registration for Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sahpra-commencing-review-vaccine-application-registration-coronavirus-covid-19-15>

⁷⁵⁸⁷ Health on SAHPRA commencing review of vaccine application for registration for Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sahpra-commencing-review-vaccine-application-registration-coronavirus-covid-19-15>

⁷⁵⁸⁸ Health launches COVID-19 festive season campaign, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-launches-covid-19-festive-season-campaign>

and Africa.⁷⁵⁸⁹ The funding will be used to understand the spread of COVID-19 and other virus lineages in the continent and to support the clinical and laboratory investigations of the genomic variation in the country.⁷⁵⁹⁰

On 28 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that several of the level 3 regulations are being strengthened to further limit the potential for transmission.⁷⁵⁹¹ The adjusted restrictions stated that all indoor and outdoor gatherings will be prohibited, the nationwide curfew will be extended from 9pm to 6am and the non-essential establishments will close at 8pm.⁷⁵⁹²

On 29 December 2020, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize announced that the Department of Health would receive more assistance in fighting COVID-19 with the employment of new health workers.⁷⁵⁹³ It included 2367 medical interns and 1693 medical community service practitioners who will participate in the community service workforce from all categories.⁷⁵⁹⁴

On 1 January 2021, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga issued a new set of directions and protocols on the marking of the 2020 matric examinations scripts.⁷⁵⁹⁵ The guidelines served to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the marking process without being anxious about their health.⁷⁵⁹⁶

On 3 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that he had signed amendments of regulations to allow for COVID-19 vaccines and other therapeutics to be part of the prescribed minimum benefits.⁷⁵⁹⁷ He also said that the government was negotiating with manufacturers to make vaccines available sooner.⁷⁵⁹⁸

⁷⁵⁸⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande on the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform and the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to complete the sequencing of Coronavirus COVID-19 genomes, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-funding-kwazulu-natal-research-innovation-and-sequencing-platform>
⁷⁵⁹⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande on the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform and the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to complete the sequencing of Coronavirus COVID-19 genomes, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-funding-kwazulu-natal-research-innovation-and-sequencing-platform>

⁷⁵⁹¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-28-dec-2020>

⁷⁵⁹² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-28-dec-2020>

⁷⁵⁹³ Newly employed health workers to aid fight against COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/newly-employed-health-workers-aid-fight-against-covid-19>

⁷⁵⁹⁴ Newly employed health workers to aid fight against COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/newly-employed-health-workers-aid-fight-against-covid-19>

⁷⁵⁹⁵ Minister Angie Motshekga issues new directions and protocols as marking of matric scripts during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-issues-new-directions-and-protocols-marking-matric-scripts-during>

⁷⁵⁹⁶ Minister Angie Motshekga issues new directions and protocols as marking of matric scripts during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-issues-new-directions-and-protocols-marking-matric-scripts-during>
⁷⁵⁹⁷ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Public briefing statement on South Africa's Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-public-briefing-statement-south-africa-s-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

⁷⁵⁹⁸ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Public briefing statement on South Africa's Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-public-briefing-statement-south-africa-s-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

On 7 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that the government would reach out to medical firms to make a contribution.⁷⁵⁹⁹ The government would ask firms to co-subsidise some members of the public as the government made a push to raise funds to procure vaccine doses as early as February.⁷⁶⁰⁰

On 11 January 2021, President Ramaphosa announced measures to tackle the COVID-19 variant found in November 2020.⁷⁶⁰¹ The plan included slowing the rate of transmission and undertaking a massive program of vaccination to achieve population immunity.⁷⁶⁰²

On 18 January 2021, the National School of Government announced that South Africa and the People's Republic of China teamed up to improve the capacity of public servants on governance as well as the management of disasters and emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶⁰³ South Africa's National School of Government and the China National Academy of Governance will offer courses for senior and middle managers in the public service starting from March 2021.⁷⁶⁰⁴

On 21 January 2021, the Department of Home Affairs temporarily suspended certain activities and services to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁷⁶⁰⁵ It suspended services like applications of smart ID cards and passports.⁷⁶⁰⁶

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Health issued health directions on the management of human remains that died of COVID-19 that prescribed measures to be implemented.⁷⁶⁰⁷ The human remains should only be conveyed to the deceased's home on the day of the burial and viewing is only allowed under a controlled environment.⁷⁶⁰⁸

On 27 January 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that he instructed Higher Health, the agency of the Department of Higher Education and Training, to create a post-school education and training

⁷⁵⁹⁹ Govt turns to medical schemes to co-subsidise vaccine, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 7 January 2021.

Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/govt-turns-medical-schemes-co-subsidise-vaccine>

⁷⁶⁰⁰ Govt turns to medical schemes to co-subsidise vaccine, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 7 January 2021.

Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/govt-turns-medical-schemes-co-subsidise-vaccine>

⁷⁶⁰¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁰² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁰³ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁷⁶⁰⁴ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁷⁶⁰⁵ Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Home Affairs priority services to be offered during Coronavirus COVID-19 adjusted alert level 3 of lockdown, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-home-affairs-priority-services-be-offered-during-coronavirus>

⁷⁶⁰⁶ Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Home Affairs priority services to be offered during Coronavirus COVID-19 adjusted alert level 3 of lockdown, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-home-affairs-priority-services-be-offered-during-coronavirus>

⁷⁶⁰⁷ Health issues directions on management of Coronavirus COVID-19 human remains, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/wrapping-coffins-plastic-27-jan-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁰⁸ Health issues directions on management of Coronavirus COVID-19 human remains, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/wrapping-coffins-plastic-27-jan-2021-0000>

strategy that is aligned with and supports the Department of Health's phased national strategy and coordinate its subsequent roll out.⁷⁶⁰⁹ The strategy will help ensure access to vaccination for the country's students and staff.⁷⁶¹⁰

On 28 January 2021, Department of Health's Acting Chief Operating Officer Milani Wolmarans announced that the government would use an electronic system to keep track of everyone who gets the COVID-19 vaccine.⁷⁶¹¹ The Electronic Vaccine Data System would allow the department to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁷⁶¹²

On 1 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the Department of Health developed an Electronic Vaccine Data System to streamline the vaccine registration and rollout process.⁷⁶¹³ The system allowed the government to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁷⁶¹⁴

On 5 February 2021, the Department of Social Development launched the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Employment Stimulus Relief Grant.⁷⁶¹⁵ The grant was part of the Department's intervention to assist ECD services by cushioning them against the impact of the pandemic. The Social Development will use ZAR496 million to assist the sector.⁷⁶¹⁶

On 7 February 2021, Minister Mkhize assured that there is an Inter-Ministerial Committee in place to oversee the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccines rollout strategy.⁷⁶¹⁷ Minister Mkhize also said the health department will meet with the provinces to assess and discuss their state of readiness of implementing vaccines rollout strategies.⁷⁶¹⁸

⁷⁶⁰⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande addresses Higher Health webinar on managing second wave on Coronavirus COVID-19 within PSET, 27 Jan, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-addresses-higher-health-webinar-managing-second-wave-coronavirus>

⁷⁶¹⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande: Higher Health COVID-19 webinar, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-higher-education-science-and-innovation-dr-blade-nzimande-address-occasion-higher>

⁷⁶¹¹ Government to use online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-use-online-platform-covid-19-vaccination>

⁷⁶¹² Government to use online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-use-online-platform-covid-19-vaccination>

⁷⁶¹³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-response-coronavirus-covid-19-1-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶¹⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-response-coronavirus-covid-19-1-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶¹⁵ Minister Lindiwe Zulu: Update on Social Development interventions during COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-update-social-development-interventions-during-covid-19-26-feb-2021>

⁷⁶¹⁶ Over R400m to assist struggling ECD, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-r400m-assist-struggling-ecds>

⁷⁶¹⁷ Minister Zweli Mkhize briefs Parliament on readiness to implement Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccines Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-7-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶¹⁸ Minister Zweli Mkhize briefs Parliament on readiness to implement Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccines Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-7-feb-2021-0000>

On 12 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the Unemployment Insurance Fund will be extending the COVID-19 temporary employee/employer relief scheme benefits from 16 October 2020 to 15 March 2021 at the State of the Nation Address.⁷⁶¹⁹ This social assistance from the Department of Employment and Labour forms was part of the overall government response to fighting the worst effects of COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶²⁰

On 23 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced the country's support for the launch of the "Recover Better Together" post COVID-19 Campaign.⁷⁶²¹ Global Citizen, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation organized the initiative, which sought to create momentum for global COVID-19 pandemic recovery and a return to the implementation of global goals.⁷⁶²²

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni announced that the government will allocate ZAR10.3 billion for the purchase and delivery of vaccines to fight the spread of COVID-19 in the next two years in his 2021 budget speech.⁷⁶²³ According to the National Treasury, the government already allocated ZAR1.3 billion in 2021 for vaccine purchases.⁷⁶²⁴ Minister Mboweni also announced that the government would avail an additional ZAR8 billion to the health system for the country's COVID-19 pandemic response. It would allocate the fund to provincial health departments for sustaining activities and respond to possible future waves of COVID-19 infection.⁷⁶²⁵

On 26 February 2021, acting Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni stated the country's scientists, researchers and medical experts had led the genomic surveillance of COVID-19 virus which resulted in the discovery of the 501Y.V2 variant in a Post Cabinet media briefing.⁷⁶²⁶ The scientists and researchers managed to recreate the virus for purposes of enhancing research on the treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶²⁷

⁷⁶¹⁹ Employment and Labour on Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS extension, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-work-out-details-extension-covid19-TERS-announced-sona-12-feb>

⁷⁶²⁰ Employment and Labour on Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS extension, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-work-out-details-extension-covid19-TERS-announced-sona-12-feb>

⁷⁶²¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Global Citizen launch of 'Recover Better Together' post COVID-19 Campaign, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-launch-recover-better-together-post-covid-19-campaign-23-feb>

⁷⁶²² President Cyril Ramaphosa virtually addresses launch of 'Recover Better Together' post COVID-19 Campaign, 23 Feb, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtually-addresses-launch-recover-better-together-post-covid-19>

⁷⁶²³ Parliament welcomes 2021 fiscal spending plans to fight Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶²⁴ R9 billion allocated to COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r9-billion-allocated-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out>

⁷⁶²⁵ Health system boosted to respond to COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-system-boosted-respond-covid-19>

⁷⁶²⁶ Cabinet welcomes progress made by scientists, researchers, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cabinet-welcomes-progress-made-scientists-researchers>

⁷⁶²⁷ Cabinet welcomes progress made by scientists, researchers, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cabinet-welcomes-progress-made-scientists-researchers>

On 27 February 2021, the Department of Health announced that South Africa was rapidly rolling out delivery of the early access vaccine to healthcare workers through the Sisonke Program.⁷⁶²⁸ The country vaccinated 63,648 patient-facing healthcare workers in the public and private sector against COVID-19 within just over one week's time.⁷⁶²⁹ The Sisonke Programme also set up 18 vaccination sites from scratch, developed and implemented logistics, trained additional vaccinators, set up an online electronic registration system and ensured the safe and timely vaccination of tens of thousands of healthcare workers.⁷⁶³⁰

On 28 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the number of sites available for vaccination will be expanded from 17 sites to 49 sites.⁷⁶³¹ After the vaccination of healthcare workers has been completed, the government will begin with phase two of the vaccine roll-out in late April or early May for elderly, essential workers, persons living or working in institutional settings and those with co-morbidities.⁷⁶³² The government will be activating many more sites for vaccination in the public and private healthcare sector so that we can reach as many people in the shortest possible time.⁷⁶³³

On 3 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane announced plans for economic recovery after COVID-19 at the online Africa webinar.⁷⁶³⁴ The department will carry out strategic interventions like implementing standards for safe operations to enable safe travel and rebuild traveller confidence.⁷⁶³⁵

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza said that the government had developed an awareness campaign aimed at educating members of the public on the dangers of unregistered COVID-19 vaccine centres.⁷⁶³⁶ There would be webinars and radio programmes to engage various

⁷⁶²⁸ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶²⁹ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³⁰ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁷⁶³² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁷⁶³³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁷⁶³⁴ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: Africa webinar on COVID-19 Coronavirus, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-government-planning-third-wave-coronavirus-covid-19-3-mar-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³⁵ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: Africa webinar on COVID-19 Coronavirus, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-government-planning-third-wave-coronavirus-covid-19-3-mar-2021-0000>

⁷⁶³⁶ Campaign to educate citizens against unregistered vaccine centres, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-afarica/campaign-educate-citizens-against-unregistered-vaccine-centres>

stakeholders on vaccine corruption risks. All registered vaccine centres would also be published on various platforms accessible to all citizens.⁷⁶³⁷

On 9 April 2021, Department of Science and Innovation Director-General Phil Mjwara announced that the government will make a further ZAR25 million to the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to continue with health threats research.⁷⁶³⁸ The government has also coordinated a package of responses across the National System of Innovation to address South Africa's readiness for the impact of COVID-19.⁷⁶³⁹

On 9 April 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that all students, teachers, and school staff should adhere to the COVID-19 regulations and Higher Health protocols and guidelines.⁷⁶⁴⁰ He said that Higher Health has formulated Cluster Outbreak investigation teams, developed screening stations around the affected residences, and stationed Higher Health mobile unit, institutional campus clinic, occupational health, employee wellness teams to offer psychosocial and other health and wellness assistance.⁷⁶⁴¹

On 12 April 2021, the National Treasury, the South African Reserve Bank and the Banking Association South Africa agreed to extend the deadline of the Loan Guarantee Scheme (LGS) by three months.⁷⁶⁴² The LGS was launched on 12 May 2020 as part of the Economic Stimulus Package to support small businesses that were experiencing financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶⁴³ In addition, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority has also provided further support to businesses and individuals by adjusting regulations to support insurance premium relief for policyholders, allowing them to claim while minimising disruptions to the expected income of intermediaries.⁷⁶⁴⁴

On 16 April 2021, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma invited the public to comment on the draft regulations of the COVID-19 Vaccine Injury No-Fault Compensation Scheme.⁷⁶⁴⁵ The purpose of the scheme is to provide expeditious and easy access to compensation for persons who suffer vaccine injury as a consequence of a COVID-19 vaccine being

⁷⁶³⁷ Campaign to educate citizens against unregistered vaccine centres, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/campaign-educate-citizens-against-unregistered-vaccine-centres>

⁷⁶³⁸ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁷⁶³⁹ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁷⁶⁴⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande on post school education and training COVID-19 cluster outbreaks, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister%2%A0blade-nzimande-post-school-education-and-training-covid-19-cluster-outbreaks%2%A0-9>

⁷⁶⁴¹ Minister Blade Nzimande on post school education and training COVID-19 cluster outbreaks, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister%2%A0blade-nzimande-post-school-education-and-training-covid-19-cluster-outbreaks%2%A0-9>

⁷⁶⁴² Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁴³ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁴⁴ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁴⁵ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

administered.⁷⁶⁴⁶ The draft regulations also call for the appointment of a Governance and Oversight Committee, which will be responsible for overseeing policies and advising the Health Minister.⁷⁶⁴⁷

On 16 April 2021, the Department of Health launched the Official South African COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Registration Portal.⁷⁶⁴⁸ It is an electronic vaccination data system that allows all citizens aged 60 years and above to register for vaccination.⁷⁶⁴⁹ It is the first major public health campaign that will be supported by one digital system for all South Africans.⁷⁶⁵⁰ The government will also be using the smartphones and petrol that has been donated by various companies and philanthropic organizations to send out teams to help our vulnerable citizens who do not have access to digital technology.⁷⁶⁵¹

On 5 May 2021, South Africa's Transnet Port Authority said that 14 crew members of a cargo ship that sailed from Durban to India have tested positive for COVID-19.⁷⁶⁵² News of this cargo ship caused widespread concern that the new B.1.617 variant that was causing thousands of deaths in India had reached South African shores.⁷⁶⁵³ Minister Mkhize assured the public that plans are in place to test all arrivals into the country, reminding them that there were all direct flights from India had been cancelled.⁷⁶⁵⁴

On 21 May 2021, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela, launched the #Covid-19 ZA Warriors Campaign in support of a programme of Higher Health and European Union, which is a student programme for the management of COVID-19 within the Post School Education and Training sector.⁷⁶⁵⁵ COVID-19 ZA warriors are student volunteers who will reinforce messaging and prevention measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to advocate for vaccination within campuses and communities.⁷⁶⁵⁶

⁷⁶⁴⁶ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁷⁶⁴⁷ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁷⁶⁴⁸ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁴⁹ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁵⁰ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁵¹ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁷⁶⁵² 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁷⁶⁵³ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁷⁶⁵⁴ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁷⁶⁵⁵ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela launches #Covid-19 ZA Warriors Campaign at Tshwane College in Centurion, 21 May, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-za-warriors-campaign-20-may-2021-0000>

⁷⁶⁵⁶ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela launches #Covid-19 ZA Warriors Campaign at Tshwane College in Centurion, 21 May, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-za-warriors-campaign-20-may-2021-0000>

On 26 May 2021, the Compensation Fund of the Department of Labour called on its pensioners to apply for vaccination, as the Fund together with Rand Mutual Assurance Company Limited and The Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company, have made available ZAR1.35 billion for vaccines.⁷⁶⁵⁷ The funding is anticipated to benefit an estimated three million pensioners.⁷⁶⁵⁸

On 30 May 2021, the National Coronavirus Command Council, Premiers, mayors and traditional leaders in the President's Coordinating Council decided on placing the country at the Adjusted Alert Level 2 on 31 May 2021.⁷⁶⁵⁹ The Adjusted Alert Level 2 includes curfew from 11 PM to 4 AM, restricting non-essential establishments and limiting all gatherings to a maximum of 100 people indoors and 250 people outdoors.⁷⁶⁶⁰

On 13 June 2021, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the G7 summit in Cornwall, UK and urged G7 members to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator to fill the USD16.8 billion funding gap.⁷⁶⁶¹ He said, "We need to address the substantial financing gap for tests, treatments, critical supplies like oxygen and the health systems that enable testing, treatment and vaccination."⁷⁶⁶² He also called on G7 leaders to support the TRIPS waiver on patents for COVID-19 vaccines and engage in negotiations that could help boost vaccine production.⁷⁶⁶³

On 19 June 2021, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga, announced that the vaccination programme will unfold in the Basic Education Sector with immediate effect and that it will continue until 8 July 2021.⁷⁶⁶⁴ The department will vaccinate all staff at all public schools including educators, administrative and support staff.⁷⁶⁶⁵

⁷⁶⁵⁷ Employment and Labour on COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccination for pensioners and workers without medical cover, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccination-pensioners-and-workers-without>

⁷⁶⁵⁸ Employment and Labour on COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccination for pensioners and workers without medical cover, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccination-pensioners-and-workers-without>

⁷⁶⁵⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: National effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 30 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-30-may-2021>

⁷⁶⁶⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: National effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 30 May 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-30-may-2021>

⁷⁶⁶¹ S. Africa's President Ramaphosa urges G7 nations to plug COVID-19 funding gap (Johannesburg) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-president-ramaphosa-urges-g7-nations-plug-covid-19-funding-gap-2021-06-13/>

⁷⁶⁶² S. Africa's President Ramaphosa urges G7 nations to plug COVID-19 funding gap (Johannesburg) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-president-ramaphosa-urges-g7-nations-plug-covid-19-funding-gap-2021-06-13/>

⁷⁶⁶³ S. Africa's President Ramaphosa urges G7 nations to plug COVID-19 funding gap (Johannesburg) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-president-ramaphosa-urges-g7-nations-plug-covid-19-funding-gap-2021-06-13/>

⁷⁶⁶⁴ Minister Angie Motshekga: Basic Education sector's response to the impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 on schooling, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-s-response-impact-coronavirus-covid-19>

⁷⁶⁶⁵ Minister Angie Motshekga: Basic Education sector's response to the impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 on schooling, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-s-response-impact-coronavirus-covid-19>

On 22 June 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa established the Commission on African COVID-19 Response.⁷⁶⁶⁶ The Commission's goal is to support the President in his Championship role in order to enable his continued leadership in guiding the continental response to COVID-19.⁷⁶⁶⁷ Some of the Commission's specific areas of focus include strengthening the public health workforce, continental manufacturing of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics, and strengthening national public health institutions, including Africa CDC.⁷⁶⁶⁸

On 25 June 2021, Minister of Health Mmamoloko Kubayi, announced that the National Department of Health had activated their surge response amid the third wave of the pandemic.⁷⁶⁶⁹ The department developed a guide for provincial health departments, outlining steps to follow on responding to COVID-19 after the second wave.⁷⁶⁷⁰ Ten intervention areas are stated in the document, including governance and leadership, medical supplies, port and Environmental Health, epidemiology and response, facility readiness, case management, risk communication and community engagement, occupational health and safety, and infection Prevention and Control.⁷⁶⁷¹

On 27 June 2021, the Cabinet decided that the country would move to Adjusted Alert Level 4 on 28 June 2021.⁷⁶⁷² It included prohibiting all indoor and outdoor gatherings, curfew from 9 PM to 4 AM, restricting all non-essential establishments to close by 8 PM.⁷⁶⁷³

On 28 June 2021, the Department of Correctional Services announced that it has continued to implement measures to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19 to protect officials, inmates and the general public.⁷⁶⁷⁴ Measures included suspending visits to all correctional and remand detention

⁷⁶⁶⁶ Presidency on appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa as African Union Champion on Coronavirus COVID-19 and establishment of Commission on African COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-appointment-president-cyril-ramaphosa-african-union-champion-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁶⁷ Presidency on appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa as African Union Champion on Coronavirus COVID-19 and establishment of Commission on African COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-appointment-president-cyril-ramaphosa-african-union-champion-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁶⁸ Presidency on appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa as African Union Champion on Coronavirus COVID-19 and establishment of Commission on African COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-appointment-president-cyril-ramaphosa-african-union-champion-coronavirus-covid>

⁷⁶⁶⁹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Coronavirus COVID-19 and vaccination rollout programme, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-coronavirus-covid-19-and-vaccination-rollout-plan-25-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷⁰ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Coronavirus COVID-19 and vaccination rollout programme, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-coronavirus-covid-19-and-vaccination-rollout-plan-25-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷¹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: Coronavirus COVID-19 and vaccination rollout programme, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-coronavirus-covid-19-and-vaccination-rollout-plan-25-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷² President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-27-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-27-jun-2021>

⁷⁶⁷⁴ Measures to mitigate spread of COVID-19 in correctional services continues, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/measures-mitigate-spread-covid-19-correctional-services-continues>

centres across the country, vaccinating inmates and staff, and screening officials, inmates, essential workers and service providers accessing facilities.⁷⁶⁷⁵

On 1 July 2021, Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande, announced that the department would establish isolation and quarantine resources within the higher learning institutional residences.⁷⁶⁷⁶ It has trained and developed over 49, 000 campus-based frontline institutional staff and student volunteers, and it will accelerate daily COVID-19 screenings at residences in order to identify possible outbreaks early.⁷⁶⁷⁷

On 8 July 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr. Blade Nzimande, announced that he has “instructed HIGHER HEALTH to create and coordinate a Post-School Education and Training System vaccination strategy and rollout plan that is aligned with and supports the Department of Health’s phased national strategy.”⁷⁶⁷⁸ The strategy will help to ensure access to vaccination for all the staff, including academia, management, and frontline staff.⁷⁶⁷⁹

On 11 July 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced that the government had decided to “avail the COVID-19 Temporary Employee Relief Scheme to sectors hardest hit by the Adjusted Alert Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions.”⁷⁶⁸⁰ It is a scheme implemented in 2020 which provides money to workers affected by the pandemic.⁷⁶⁸¹

On 23 July 2021, Minister of Health Mmamoloko Kubayi, announced that the government is putting additional systems in place to ensure that they vaccinate at a faster rate.⁷⁶⁸² The department is planning on establishing Mass Vaccination Sites in all metros across the country and moving vaccination sites which will move from one community to the next based on the demand.⁷⁶⁸³ It has

⁷⁶⁷⁵ Measures to mitigate spread of COVID-19 in correctional services continues, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/measures-mitigate-spread-covid-19-correctional-services-continues>

⁷⁶⁷⁶ Isolation, quarantine resources established within university residences, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/isolation-quarantine-resources-established-within-university-residences>

⁷⁶⁷⁷ Isolation, quarantine resources established within university residences, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/isolation-quarantine-resources-established-within-university-residences>

⁷⁶⁷⁸ Minister Blade Nzimande: Covid 19 vaccination roll out plan for post school education and training sector, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-covid-19-vaccination-roll-out-plan-post-school-education-and>

⁷⁶⁷⁹ Minister Blade Nzimande: Covid 19 vaccination roll out plan for post school education and training sector, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-covid-19-vaccination-roll-out-plan-post-school-education-and>

⁷⁶⁸⁰ Government offers UIF COVID-19 TERS to affected sectors, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-offers-uif-covid-19-ters-affected-sectors>

⁷⁶⁸¹ Government offers UIF COVID-19 TERS to affected sectors, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-offers-uif-covid-19-ters-affected-sectors>

⁷⁶⁸² Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: South Africa response to Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-south-africa-response-covid-19-pandemic%2%A0-23-july-2021-23-jul-2021>

⁷⁶⁸³ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: South Africa response to Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-south-africa-response-covid-19-pandemic%2%A0-23-july-2021-23-jul-2021>

also reprogrammed the vaccine schedule system to allow for self-scheduling, so that citizens can choose a vaccination site themselves.⁷⁶⁸⁴

On 25 July 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced a range of measures to support the recovery of the economy and to provide relief to the poor affected by the pandemic.⁷⁶⁸⁵ The President announced that the government was “reinstating the Social Relief of Distress Grant to provide a monthly payment of ZAR350 until the end of March 2022 and expanding the number of people who are eligible for this grant by allowing unemployed caregivers who currently receive a Child Support Grant to apply.”⁷⁶⁸⁶ The government is also contributing ZAR400 million to the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund established by the Solidarity Fund to assist with the immediate needs of affected communities.⁷⁶⁸⁷ The government would also be “expanding the Employment Tax Incentive for a period of four months to include any employee earning below R6 500 and to increase the incentive amount by up to R750 per month, which will encourage employers to hire and retain employees.”⁷⁶⁸⁸

On 2 September 2021, Health Products Regulatory Authority Board Chairperson Professor Helen Rees announced that the board is working to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the new variant.⁷⁶⁸⁹ The board will be testing vaccines against that variant to ensure that they are effective.⁷⁶⁹⁰ They will also be looking at breakthrough infections, and whether people who have been vaccinated are getting hospitalised.⁷⁶⁹¹

On 7 September 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa chaired meetings of the National Coronavirus Command Council and the President’s Coordinating Council to deliberate on developments in the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁶⁹² The councils reflected on the rate of COVID-19 infections and vaccination, assessed the COVID-19 prevention measures in force under Adjusted

⁷⁶⁸⁴ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi: South Africa response to Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-south-africa-response-covid-19-pandemic%C2%A0-23-july-2021-23-jul-2021>

⁷⁶⁸⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's response to Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-25-jul-0>

⁷⁶⁸⁹ SAHPRA monitoring vaccine efficacy as COVID-19 variants emerge, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sahpra-monitoring-vaccine-efficacy-covid-19-variants-emerge>

⁷⁶⁹⁰ SAHPRA monitoring vaccine efficacy as COVID-19 variants emerge, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sahpra-monitoring-vaccine-efficacy-covid-19-variants-emerge>

⁷⁶⁹¹ SAHPRA monitoring vaccine efficacy as COVID-19 variants emerge, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sahpra-monitoring-vaccine-efficacy-covid-19-variants-emerge>

⁷⁶⁹² Government consult political parties and religious sector on developments in COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-consult-political-parties-and-religious-sector-developments-covid-19-response-7>

Level 3 of the national state of disaster, and agreed that the government will hold consultations with political parties and the religious sector on the observance of safety measures.⁷⁶⁹³

On 8 September 2021, Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Covid-19 Vaccines David Mabuza led the launch of the National Campaign “Return to Play – it’s in your hands.”⁷⁶⁹⁴ The campaign aims at encouraging vaccinations towards reaching population immunity by galvanizing support and voice from the country’s sporting and creative industries.⁷⁶⁹⁵

On 10 September 2021, Health Minister Dr. Joe Phaahla announced that the country has commenced the development of a digital certificate to confirm vaccination status.⁷⁶⁹⁶ He said that the certificates may be useful for access to entertainment, sports, and other events, and the government has made sure that this certificate will be protected from fraud and will be uploaded on people’s smartphones as well as printed.⁷⁶⁹⁷

South Africa has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response by administering and expanding COVID-19 vaccination sites, participating in the “Recover Better Together” campaign and creating genomic surveillance technologies of the COVID-19 virus.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 26 November 2020, at the Coronavirus Scientific Committee meeting, the Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca discussed prevention and control measures that Turkey has undertaken to combat COVID-19.⁷⁶⁹⁸ The government began contact tracing, isolating positive cases, increased testing and imposed lockdown measures throughout the state.⁷⁶⁹⁹

⁷⁶⁹³ Government consult political parties and religious sector on developments in COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-consult-political-parties-and-religious-sector-developments-covid-19-response-7>

⁷⁶⁹⁴ Deputy President David Mabuza leads COVID-19 vaccination social mobilisation campaign in Johannesburg , 8 Sept, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-mabuza-leads-vaccination-social-mobilisation-campaign-%C2%A0-johannesburg-8>

⁷⁶⁹⁵ Deputy President David Mabuza leads COVID-19 vaccination social mobilisation campaign in Johannesburg , 8 Sept, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-mabuza-leads-vaccination-social-mobilisation-campaign-%C2%A0-johannesburg-8>

⁷⁶⁹⁶ Government to introduce new digital COVID-19 certificate, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-introduce-new-digital-covid-19-certificate>

⁷⁶⁹⁷ Government to introduce new digital COVID-19 certificate, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-introduce-new-digital-covid-19-certificate>

⁷⁶⁹⁸ "We Have Difficult Days Ahead", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,77198/quotwe-have-difficult-days-aheadquot.html>

⁷⁶⁹⁹ "We Have Difficult Days Ahead", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,77198/quotwe-have-difficult-days-aheadquot.html>

On 13 January 2021, Turkey launched its mass COVID-19 vaccination program.⁷⁷⁰⁰ Minister Koca announced the vaccination program will be delivered in four stages.⁷⁷⁰¹ The first two stages focusing on vaccinating healthcare workers, government officials, and the elderly.⁷⁷⁰² The last two stages will vaccinate the rest of the population. Turkey has 3 million doses of China's Sinovac vaccine to administer and is waiting on a shipment of an extra 50 million doses.⁷⁷⁰³

On 31 January 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology had the first meeting of the COVID-19 Turkey Platform.⁷⁷⁰⁴ Under this platform, 17 projects were established to further study vaccines and immunization.⁷⁷⁰⁵ The COVID-19 Turkey Web portal was created in order to share evidence-based information and cultivate social awareness.⁷⁷⁰⁶ The portal provides open access to articles, datasets, and scientific literature on COVID-19.⁷⁷⁰⁷

On 12 March 2021, Minister Koca announced human vaccine trials of 5 vaccine candidates would begin in Turkey promptly.⁷⁷⁰⁸ This is to support efforts in increasing vaccine quantity and providing safe and effective vaccines to Turkish citizens.⁷⁷⁰⁹ They have provided 130 million doses.⁷⁷¹⁰ After consultation with three more manufacturers a quota of 10 million more doses will be made available to Turkish citizens.⁷⁷¹¹

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Interior announced a nightly curfew in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁷⁷¹² The curfew would occur on weekdays from 9pm to 5am throughout the state.⁷⁷¹³ On weekends, in low and medium risk areas the curfew would remain the same, while high risk and

⁷⁷⁰⁰ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷⁰¹ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁷⁷⁰² Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁷⁷⁰³ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁷⁷⁰⁴ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁵ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁶ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁷ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁷⁷⁰⁸ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷⁰⁹ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷¹⁰ Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷¹¹ Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁷⁷¹² Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁷⁷¹³ "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

very high-risk areas have longer curfew hours.⁷⁷¹⁴ Those who did not comply were subjected to judicial and administrative action.⁷⁷¹⁵

On 26 April 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, announced that Turkey will be under lockdown from April 29 until May 17.⁷⁷¹⁶ The lockdown will consist of a stay-at-home order, the closure of schools, and official approval for domestic travel.⁷⁷¹⁷ These measures were invoked in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and prevent potential deaths.⁷⁷¹⁸

On 14 May 2021, President Erdogan announced that Turkey will continue to remain cautious with its COVID-19 measures and adhere to protocols until the end of May.⁷⁷¹⁹ Turkey will then start easing restrictions from June onwards in a controlled manner. A lockdown began on 29 April and will last until 17 May when the new guidelines will be released.⁷⁷²⁰ Turkey's restrictions over the last three weeks have led to significant decreases in COVID-19 cases in 80 provinces between 1-7 May, according to the latest Health Ministry statistics.⁷⁷²¹

On 24 May 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca, revealed that Turkey will receive 120 million doses of the BioNtech vaccine by September 2021.⁷⁷²² Koca clarified that the vaccine has been tested on 30 variants, including the delta variant, where it has proven to be 25 to 30 per cent more effective.⁷⁷²³ Vaccination has begun for high-risk individuals and those over the age of 55 in Turkey and 84 per cent of individuals over the age of 65 have been vaccinated.⁷⁷²⁴

On 25 June 2021, the Minister of Health announced that “every individual over the age of 18 will be able to book an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine.”⁷⁷²⁵ Koca revealed that the phase III

⁷⁷¹⁴ “Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁷⁷¹⁵ “Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁷⁷¹⁶ “We will enforce a full lockdown from April 29 until May 17,” Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/127727/-we-will-enforce-a-full-lockdown-from-april-29-until-may-17->

⁷⁷¹⁷ COVID: Turkey enters first full lockdown, BBC Turkish (Istanbul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56912668>

⁷⁷¹⁸ “We will enforce a full lockdown from April 29 until May 17,” Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/127727/-we-will-enforce-a-full-lockdown-from-april-29-until-may-17->

⁷⁷¹⁹ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁷⁷²⁰ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁷⁷²¹ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁷⁷²² We Will Receive 120 Million Doses in 4 Months, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83926/quotwe-will-receive-120-million-doses-in-4-monthsquot.html>

⁷⁷²³ We Will Receive 120 Million Doses in 4 Months, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83926/quotwe-will-receive-120-million-doses-in-4-monthsquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁴ We Will Receive 120 Million Doses in 4 Months, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83926/quotwe-will-receive-120-million-doses-in-4-monthsquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁵ We Are On the Verge of Ending the Pandemic with Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84296/quotwe-are-on-the-verge-of-ending-the-pandemic-with-vaccinesquot.html>

clinical trials for Turkey's Turkovac vaccine will be carried out on 40,800 individuals.⁷⁷²⁶ The vaccine will be administered in 29 centres throughout Turkey, Azerbaijan, Hungary, and Kyrgyzstan.⁷⁷²⁷

On 24 July 2021, the Ministry of Family and Social Services provided "approximately TRY10.6 billion to 7 million families in the fight against COVID-19."⁷⁷²⁸ The Epidemic Social Support Program which began in April, is administered in three phases to households with elderly, disabled, or has financial need.⁷⁷²⁹ Households are eligible to receive TRY1000.⁷⁷³⁰

On 6 September 2021, the Government of Turkey introduced new COVID-19 regulations.⁷⁷³¹ Citizens are now required to have proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test if they choose to utilize public transit, airways, or attend large events.⁷⁷³² Further, mandates pertaining to masks and social distancing are to remain in place.⁷⁷³³

On 6 September 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca revealed that over 78 per cent of people in Turkey have received the first dose, and over 60 per cent have received the second dose.⁷⁷³⁴ He noted that 81 per cent of current COVID-19 cases are amongst the unvaccinated.⁷⁷³⁵ In order to reduce transmission within schools, he announced the allocation of TRY650 million to be used for masks, disinfectants, and cleaning supplies for schools across the country.⁷⁷³⁶ Furthermore, all unvaccinated school employees are required to take a COVID-19 test twice a week.⁷⁷³⁷

⁷⁷²⁶ We Are On the Verge of Ending the Pandemic with Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84296/quotwe-are-on-the-verge-of-ending-the-pandemic-with-vaccinesquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁷ We Are On the Verge of Ending the Pandemic with Vaccines, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84296/quotwe-are-on-the-verge-of-ending-the-pandemic-with-vaccinesquot.html>

⁷⁷²⁸ In the process of combating Kovid-19, approximately 7 million families were provided with 10.6 billion liras of support, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kovid-19la-mucadele-surecinde-yaklasik-7-milyon-aileye-10-6-milyar-lira-destek-saglandi/>

⁷⁷²⁹ In the process of combating Kovid-19, approximately 7 million families were provided with 10.6 billion liras of support, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kovid-19la-mucadele-surecinde-yaklasik-7-milyon-aileye-10-6-milyar-lira-destek-saglandi/>

⁷⁷³⁰ In the process of combating Kovid-19, approximately 7 million families were provided with 10.6 billion liras of support, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kovid-19la-mucadele-surecinde-yaklasik-7-milyon-aileye-10-6-milyar-lira-destek-saglandi/>

⁷⁷³¹ Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

⁷⁷³² Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

⁷⁷³³ Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

⁷⁷³⁴ "Get Vaccinated, Protect Yourself and Those Around You", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,85411/quotget-vaccinated-protect-yourself-and-those-around-youquot.html>

⁷⁷³⁵ "Get Vaccinated, Protect Yourself and Those Around You", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,85411/quotget-vaccinated-protect-yourself-and-those-around-youquot.html>

⁷⁷³⁶ "Get Vaccinated, Protect Yourself and Those Around You", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,85411/quotget-vaccinated-protect-yourself-and-those-around-youquot.html>

⁷⁷³⁷ Thousands protest new Turkish vaccine and test rules, Thomson Reuters (Istanbul) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/thousands-protest-new-turkish-vaccine-test-rules-2021-09-11/>

Turkey has taken strong action in advancing global pandemic, prevention, detection, and response by following the strict protocols of the Coronavirus Scientific Committee and launching its mass COVID-19 vaccination campaign. However, Turkey has not demonstrated significant pandemic preparedness.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of 0.

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The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a GBP68 million investment supporting people living independently with disabilities.⁷⁷³⁸ The grant covers over 280,000 households and aims to assist individuals and local councils in making changes and adaptations necessary for households to allow people to live independently in their own homes throughout the pandemic.⁷⁷³⁹

On 14 December 2020, the British Embassy in Cairo announced GBP1 million in funding to support Egypt against COVID-19 in partnership with the World Health Organization.⁷⁷⁴⁰ The funds aim to provide “e-training to staff in the rapid response teams at governorate and district levels.”⁷⁷⁴¹ This agreement helps maintain essential trade and procurement of personal protective equipment from the UK.⁷⁷⁴²

On 11 January 2021, the Ministry for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment shared the national delivery plan with the UK parliament.⁷⁷⁴³ The plan rests on four major categories: supply, prioritization, places and people. The initiative and overall plan aim to ensure the protection of the greatest number of at-risk people in the shortest possible time.⁷⁷⁴⁴

On 27 January 2021, the UK announced greater restrictions at the borders to protect public health.⁷⁷⁴⁵ The new initiatives at the border will impose more significant restrictions on travelers,

⁷⁷³⁸ More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>

⁷⁷³⁹ More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>

⁷⁷⁴⁰ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁷⁷⁴¹ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁷⁷⁴² WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁷⁷⁴³ Oral statement to Parliament A vaccine delivery plan for everyone, Minister of COVID Vaccine Deployment (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-vaccine-delivery-plan-for-everyone>

⁷⁷⁴⁴ Oral statement to Parliament A vaccine delivery plan for everyone, Minister of COVID Vaccine Deployment (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-vaccine-delivery-plan-for-everyone>

⁷⁷⁴⁵ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

increase police enforcement, and centralize travelers' isolation at hotels.⁷⁷⁴⁶ With the new rules in place, the government aims to stem the flow of travelers on a daily basis.⁷⁷⁴⁷

On 18 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a GBP18.5 million investment in the research of longer-term effects of COVID-19.⁷⁷⁴⁸ This new initiative establishes a new working relationship between the government and the National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation.⁷⁷⁴⁹

On 22 February 2021, the Cabinet Office released the "COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021" setting out the government's plans to end the lockdowns affecting large portions of the UK.⁷⁷⁵⁰ The report outlines the rollout of vaccines, prioritizes children's educations and getting young people back to school, outlines how businesses are meant to get back to work, and reviews all social distancing measures.⁷⁷⁵¹

On 26 February 2021, the Government Equalities Office (Race Disparity Unit) released an update on plans to address identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities. The report emphasized the importance of vaccines and that people of all communities take them. To create and update this report, the government is working across ethnic communities and languages to ensure the adoption of the vaccine across the UK.⁷⁷⁵²

On 28 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that all households with children currently attending school will receive two rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week.⁷⁷⁵³ Recognizing that testing will be a vital component of the "COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021" plan, households will be able to test themselves twice a week ahead of and during the school reopening period.⁷⁷⁵⁴

On 1 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that Côte d'Ivoire would receive the first COVID-19 vaccines with the UK's aid through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative.⁷⁷⁵⁵ To date, the UK is the largest contributor to

⁷⁷⁴⁶ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁷⁷⁴⁷ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁷⁷⁴⁸ £18.5 million to tackle long COVID through research, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-tackle-long-covid-through-research>

⁷⁷⁴⁹ £18.5 million to tackle long COVID through research, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-tackle-long-covid-through-research>

⁷⁷⁵⁰ Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities, United Kingdom Government Equalities Office (London) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

⁷⁷⁵¹ COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021, the United Kingdom Cabinet Office (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

⁷⁷⁵² Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities, United Kingdom Government Equalities Office (London) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

⁷⁷⁵³ All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

⁷⁷⁵⁴ All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

⁷⁷⁵⁵ With UK aid support, people in Côte d'Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary's statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

COVAX, and Côte d'Ivoire is one of several countries set to receive shipments of the vaccine through this program.⁷⁷⁵⁶

On 5 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a GBP79 million investment to boost mental health for children and young people in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.⁷⁷⁵⁷ This investment will allow the number of mental health support teams in schools to grow from 59 to 400 by April of 2023.⁷⁷⁵⁸ The initiative also aims to provide over 22,500 children and young people enhanced access to support by the end of 2021, including therapies and directed supports.⁷⁷⁵⁹

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care secured two new contracts with domestic manufacturers to ensure a continual supply of COVID-19 lateral flow tests.⁷⁷⁶⁰ The new supply of tests will aid in the government's plans to re-open the UK and provide capacity for creating an additional 200 million test packages.⁷⁷⁶¹

On 20 March 2021, the UK announced GBP46 million for a new vaccine innovation and manufacturing center.⁷⁷⁶² The funding aims to support work that is already underway and help the United Kingdom respond to pandemics by producing larger amounts of the vaccine faster.⁷⁷⁶³ The initiative is projected to “expand the capacity twenty-fold” allowing the facility to make up to 70 million doses in 6 months.⁷⁷⁶⁴

On 20 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care launched trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for the most vulnerable segments of the populations across the United Kingdom.⁷⁷⁶⁵ The initiative targets individuals in “care homes and health settings” to stop the spread

⁷⁷⁵⁶ With UK aid support, people in Côte d'Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary's statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

⁷⁷⁵⁷ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁷⁷⁵⁸ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁷⁷⁵⁹ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁷⁷⁶⁰ UK government announces partnership with British rapid test manufacturers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-partnership-with-british-rapid-test-manufacturers>

⁷⁷⁶¹ UK government announces partnership with British rapid test manufacturers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-partnership-with-british-rapid-test-manufacturers>

⁷⁷⁶² Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁷⁷⁶³ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁷⁷⁶⁴ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁷⁷⁶⁵ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

of COVID-19.⁷⁷⁶⁶ The Government has pledged GBP3.2 million in funding, helping launch two new clinical trials.⁷⁷⁶⁷

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced new technology developed to detect the “known variants of concern” around the world.⁷⁷⁶⁸ The new technology will help detect mutations and is being trialed by the National Health Service and National Laboratories.⁷⁷⁶⁹ Implementing this new technology aims to help notify the public more quickly and potentially break chains of transmission faster.⁷⁷⁷⁰

On 1 April 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the launch of the UK Health Security Agency.⁷⁷⁷¹ The new agency was created to protect the UK from future health threats and ensure the appropriate government agencies can respond to future pandemics quickly and at greater scale.⁷⁷⁷² The agency will also work with international partners to create a “more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations.”⁷⁷⁷³

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced the creation of a new global partnership to fight future pandemics.⁷⁷⁷⁴ The new Pandemic Preparedness Partnership aims to slash the time to develop vaccines for new diseases to 100 days.⁷⁷⁷⁵ The partnership also includes GBP16 million to fund the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).⁷⁷⁷⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced that the United Kingdom will host a global summit with the CEPI to speed up new vaccine development.⁷⁷⁷⁷ The

⁷⁷⁶⁶ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁶⁷ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁶⁸ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁷⁷⁶⁹ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁷⁷⁷⁰ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁷⁷⁷¹ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁷⁷⁷² Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁷⁷⁷³ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁷⁷⁷⁴ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁷⁷⁷⁵ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁷⁷⁷⁶ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁷⁷⁷⁷ UK to host global summit with CEPI to speed up new vaccine development (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-global-summit-with-cepi-to-speed-up-new-vaccine-development>

2022 summit will support the goal of cutting vaccine development and raise funds for global vaccine research.⁷⁷⁷⁸

On 2 May 2021, Public Health England launched a 40,000-person daily contact testing study.⁷⁷⁷⁹ The study aims to understand how effective daily contact testing could keep society open, reduce quarantine times, and catch positive cases quicker.⁷⁷⁸⁰

On 14 May 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the COVID-19 Indian variant could pose “significant disruption” to the planned relaxation of lockdown on 21 June. Due to the surge in the COVID-19 variant, the government’s aim with the fourth and final step of the reopening roadmap will be stalled.⁷⁷⁸¹

On 19 May 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care launched the world's first COVID-19 vaccine booster study with GBP19.3 million in funding.⁷⁷⁸² The results are expected in September of 2021 and will be used to design a booster programme.⁷⁷⁸³ The Department of Health and Social Care recruited thousands of volunteers to receive a booster vaccine in a study led by the University Hospital Southampton.⁷⁷⁸⁴

On 22 May 2021, the Environmental Monitoring for Health Protection (EMHP) Programme, led by the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), a part of the newly formed UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), launched a new program to test waste and sewage to support variant detection across the United Kingdom.⁷⁷⁸⁵ The program covers over two-thirds of the population, and will help detect outbreaks of variants that are being monitored by the government.⁷⁷⁸⁶

On 24 May 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it would invest GBP12 million to support nine pilot programs in areas with a higher prevalence of infection, including from

⁷⁷⁷⁸ UK to host global summit with CEPI to speed up new vaccine development (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-global-summit-with-cepi-to-speed-up-new-vaccine-development>

⁷⁷⁷⁹ Government to launch 40,000 person daily contact testing study (London) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-40000-person-daily-contact-testing-study>

⁷⁷⁸⁰ Government to launch 40,000 person daily contact testing study (London) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-40000-person-daily-contact-testing-study>

⁷⁷⁸¹ COVID: Indian variant could disrupt 21 June easing, PM says (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57122817>

⁷⁷⁸² World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁸³ World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁸⁴ World-first COVID-19 vaccine booster study launches in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-vaccine-booster-study-launches-in-uk>

⁷⁷⁸⁵ Testing and sequencing of sewage ramped up to help tackle COVID-19 outbreaks, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-and-sequencing-of-sewage-ramped-up-to-help-tackle-covid-19-outbreaks>

⁷⁷⁸⁶ Testing and sequencing of sewage ramped up to help tackle COVID-19 outbreaks, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-and-sequencing-of-sewage-ramped-up-to-help-tackle-covid-19-outbreaks>

new variants, to develop new and creative ways to ensure that people stick to self-isolation rules.⁷⁷⁸⁷ The program includes language accessible information for those who do not speak English.⁷⁷⁸⁸

On 3 June 2021, the United Kingdom's Global Antimicrobial Resistance Innovation Fund (GAMRIF) announced that it would invest GBP1 million in efforts designed to tackle antimicrobial resistance.⁷⁷⁸⁹ Alongside much of the government's spending on COVID-19, the Department of Health and Social Care is also focusing on helping developing countries combat drug-resistant infections and helping improve supply chains.⁷⁷⁹⁰

On 11 June 2021, the Prime Minister announced that the United Kingdom will donate 100 million COVID-19 vaccines from the nation's surplus within the following year.⁷⁷⁹¹ 5 million of the promised vaccines will be delivered to countries in need by the end of September 2021.⁷⁷⁹² 80 per cent of the vaccines will go to COVAX, while the remainder will be shared on a bilateral basis.⁷⁷⁹³

On 16 June 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that all personnel in care homes will be fully vaccinated under a new law to protect elderly residents.⁷⁷⁹⁴ The new law stipulates that all workers must have two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption.⁷⁷⁹⁵ From October 2021, a 16-week grace period will go into effect, allowing staff to get vaccinated.⁷⁷⁹⁶

On 23 June 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced GBP64 million to strengthen clinical research delivery across the country.⁷⁷⁹⁷ Activities under the new fund include new

⁷⁷⁸⁷ Government launches new pilots to further support people to self-isolate, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-pilots-to-further-support-people-to-self-isolate>

⁷⁷⁸⁸ Government launches new pilots to further support people to self-isolate, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-pilots-to-further-support-people-to-self-isolate>

⁷⁷⁸⁹ Most vulnerable set to benefit from further £1 million investment to safeguard modern medicine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-set-to-benefit-from-further-1-million-investment-to-safeguard-modern-medicine>

⁷⁷⁹⁰ Most vulnerable set to benefit from further £1 million investment to safeguard modern medicine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-set-to-benefit-from-further-1-million-investment-to-safeguard-modern-medicine>

⁷⁷⁹¹ UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-donate-100-million-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁷⁹² UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-donate-100-million-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁷⁹³ UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-donate-100-million-coronavirus-vaccine-doses>

⁷⁷⁹⁴ Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>

⁷⁷⁹⁵ Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>

⁷⁷⁹⁶ Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>

⁷⁷⁹⁷ £64 million funding to back UK-wide plan to strengthen clinical research delivery, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/64-million-funding-to-back-uk-wide-plan-to-strengthen-clinical-research-delivery>

trials for COVID-19 treatments, more efficient ways to deliver results, boosting capacity while making new endeavors cheaper and faster to start.⁷⁷⁹⁸

On 17 July 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it will offer the seasonal flu vaccine to over 35 million people for free this year.⁷⁷⁹⁹ From September 2021, providers will offer the vaccine to vulnerable populations, including secondary school students up to grade eleven for the first time.⁷⁸⁰⁰ This program follows the expanded 2020 campaign to get people vaccinated against the seasonal flu in response to COVID-19 exacerbating symptoms.⁷⁸⁰¹

On 19 July 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that within the United Kingdom, every adult had been offered their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine ahead of schedule and that everyone over the age of 18 is now able to book their second dose immediately.⁷⁸⁰²

On 22 July 2021, the UK government launched a new campaign across England to ensure that citizens continue to follow community health measures.⁷⁸⁰³ The campaign is designed to stress the importance of staying vigilant as the country reopens.⁷⁸⁰⁴

On 23 July 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that the government will deploy additional resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Northeastern regions of the country.⁷⁸⁰⁵ The support package includes increased testing capabilities, programs to encourage vaccine uptake, and support for logistics and public health campaigns in the areas affected.⁷⁸⁰⁶

On 13 August 2021, the United Kingdom sent 119,200 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to Zambia and 51,840 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁷⁸⁰⁷ Later in August, 119,040 doses are due to arrive in Malawi, 140,160 doses in Senegal, 299,680 doses in Egypt, and 299,520 doses are scheduled to touch down in Uganda.⁷⁸⁰⁸

⁷⁷⁹⁸ £64 million funding to back UK-wide plan to strengthen clinical research delivery, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/64-million-funding-to-back-uk-wide-plan-to-strengthen-clinical-research-delivery>

⁷⁷⁹⁹ Biggest flu programme in history to roll out for winter 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

⁷⁸⁰⁰ Biggest flu programme in history to roll out for winter 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

⁷⁸⁰¹ Biggest flu programme in history to roll out for winter 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-flu-programme-in-history-to-roll-out-for-winter-2021>

⁷⁸⁰² Every adult in UK offered COVID-19 vaccine, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/every-adult-in-uk-offered-covid-19-vaccine>

⁷⁸⁰³ Public urged to continue protecting family and friends, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-continue-protecting-family-and-friends>

⁷⁸⁰⁴ Public urged to continue protecting family and friends, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-continue-protecting-family-and-friends>

⁷⁸⁰⁵ Extra COVID-19 support deployed to North East, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-covid-19-support-deployed-to-north-east>

⁷⁸⁰⁶ Extra COVID-19 support deployed to North East, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-covid-19-support-deployed-to-north-east>

⁷⁸⁰⁷ UK-donated COVID-19 vaccine doses reach African countries, Gavi (Geneva) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/uk-donated-covid-19-vaccine-doses-reach-african-countries>

⁷⁸⁰⁸ UK-donated COVID-19 vaccine doses reach African countries, Gavi (Geneva) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 19 August 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/uk-donated-covid-19-vaccine-doses-reach-african-countries>

On 20 August 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency approved the first monoclonal antibody treatment for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in the UK.⁷⁸⁰⁹ The new treatment may be used to prevent infection and can reduce the likelihood of being admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19.⁷⁸¹⁰

On 22 August 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a country-wide antibody surveillance programme.⁷⁸¹¹ The programme will offer antibody testing to adults in the UK who test positive from COVID-19.⁷⁸¹² Up to 8000 individuals will have access to free antibody testing twice daily.⁷⁸¹³

On 26 August 2021, Public Health England announced that the Health Security Agency will lead a consortium of organizations to understand why some people become infected after vaccination.⁷⁸¹⁴ The research will be funded by UK Research and Innovation and the study will cost GBP 1.5 million.⁷⁸¹⁵

On 3 September 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care, Foreign and the Commonwealth & Development Office announced that the United Kingdom and Australia will share vaccines to help fight COVID-19.⁷⁸¹⁶ The UK will send 4 million vaccines that are not immediately needed to Australia.⁷⁸¹⁷ Australia will return the same overall volume of doses before the end of the year.⁷⁸¹⁸

On 6 September 2021, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the National Health Service will receive an additional GBP5.4 billion in additional funding to help tackle COVID-19.⁷⁸¹⁹

⁷⁸⁰⁹ First monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 approved for use in the UK, the UK Government (London) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-mono-clonal-antibody-treatment-for-covid-19-approved-for-use-in-the-uk>

⁷⁸¹⁰ First monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19 approved for use in the UK, the UK Government (London) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 4 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-mono-clonal-antibody-treatment-for-covid-19-approved-for-use-in-the-uk>

⁷⁸¹¹ Antibody Surveillance Programme Launches UK-wide, Coronavirus Today (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/antibody-surveillance-program-launches-uk-wide#:~:text=The%20UK%20Department%20of%20Health,a%20day%20across%20the%20UK>

⁷⁸¹² Antibody Surveillance Programme Launches UK-wide, Coronavirus Today (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/antibody-surveillance-program-launches-uk-wide#:~:text=The%20UK%20Department%20of%20Health,a%20day%20across%20the%20UK>

⁷⁸¹³ Antibody Surveillance Programme Launches UK-wide, Coronavirus Today (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/antibody-surveillance-program-launches-uk-wide#:~:text=The%20UK%20Department%20of%20Health,a%20day%20across%20the%20UK>

⁷⁸¹⁴ UKHSA launches study to better understand COVID-19 vaccine response, the UK Government (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-launches-study-to-better-understand-covid-19-vaccine-response>

⁷⁸¹⁵ UKHSA launches study to better understand COVID-19 vaccine response, the UK Government (London) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-launches-study-to-better-understand-covid-19-vaccine-response>

⁷⁸¹⁶ UK and Australia agree to share vaccines to tackle global pandemic, the UK Government (London) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-australia-agree-to-share-vaccines-to-tackle-global-pandemic>

⁷⁸¹⁷ UK and Australia agree to share vaccines to tackle global pandemic, the UK Government (London) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-australia-agree-to-share-vaccines-to-tackle-global-pandemic>

⁷⁸¹⁸ UK and Australia agree to share vaccines to tackle global pandemic, the UK Government (London) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-australia-agree-to-share-vaccines-to-tackle-global-pandemic>

⁷⁸¹⁹ Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months, the UK Government (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-54-billion-for-nhs-covid-19-response-over-next-six-months>

Funding includes GBP2.6 billion for enhanced infection control measures, GBP1 billion to address backlog in the system, and GBP478 million to continue to free beds in hospitals across the United Kingdom.⁷⁸²⁰

The United Kingdom has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering a national vaccine delivery plan, collaborating internationally through vaccine distribution with Egypt and creating a mental health initiative.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rahul Pallan

United States: +1

United States has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 7 January 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the Community Based Testing Site program, which aimed to establish COVID-19 testing locations across the country, with particular focus on vulnerable and underserved communities.⁷⁸²¹ The HHS allocated an additional USD550 million to continue program operations until April 2021.⁷⁸²²

On 12 January 2021, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention implemented new travel restrictions that would require all air passengers entering the United States to produce a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure.⁷⁸²³

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph Biden enacted two Executive Orders aimed towards advancing pandemic detection and response. Executive Order 13994, “On Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats,” called upon relevant executive departments and agencies to gather and publish all COVID-19 data under the oversight of a federally appointed COVID-19 Response Coordinator.⁷⁸²⁴ Executive Order 13996, “On Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats,” called for the formation of a national COVID-19 testing board and public health workforce strategy.⁷⁸²⁵

⁷⁸²⁰ Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months, the UK Government (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-54-billion-for-nhs-covid-19-response-over-next-six-months>

⁷⁸²¹ HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁷⁸²² HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁷⁸²³ CDC Expands Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement to All Passengers Entering the United States, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁷⁸²⁴ Executive Order on Ensuring Data-Driven Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-ensuring-a-data-driven-response-to-covid-19-and-future-high-consequence-public-health-threats/>

⁷⁸²⁵ Executive Order on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats, The White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-establishing-the-covid-19-pandemic-testing-board-and-ensuring-a-sustainable-public-health-workforce-for-covid-19-and-other-biological-threats/>

On 25 January 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency established the Interagency Vaccination Task Force to deploy staff to vaccination sites, where they were required to develop data dashboards to track personnel movement and vaccine distribution.⁷⁸²⁶

On 26 January 2021, President Biden enacted the Defence Production Act to expedite COVID-19 vaccine production and to address supply shortages of medical equipment.⁷⁸²⁷

On 9 February 2021, President Biden launched the Federally Qualified Health Centre program to increase vaccine availability and accessibility in underserved and vulnerable communities within the United States.⁷⁸²⁸

On 18 February 2021, the US pledged USD2 billion in funding to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance which aims to secure equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.⁷⁸²⁹

On 11 March 2021, the US enacted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides USD1.9 trillion in funding towards COVID-19 relief efforts.⁷⁸³⁰ International funding commitments include: USD245 million to COVID-19 relief efforts conducted by the US Department of State and the US Agency for International Development; USD905 million to US AID for global health programs and vaccine procurement; and USD580 million to UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.⁷⁸³¹

On 12 March 2021, the US entered the Quad Vaccine Partnership with Japan, India, and Australia.⁷⁸³² The partnership is aimed towards strengthening vaccination efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, expanding global COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution, coordinating with international pandemic response initiatives, and assisting in health workforce preparedness and training.⁷⁸³³

⁷⁸²⁶ FEMA Supports Vaccine Distribution: COVID-19 Response Update, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210125/fema-supports-vaccine-distribution-covid-19-response-update>

⁷⁸²⁷ Remarks by President Biden on the Fight to Contain the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/26/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-fight-to-contain-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁷⁸²⁸ President Biden Announces Community Health Centers Vaccination Program, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/09/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-community-health-centers-vaccination-program-to-launch-next-week-and-another-increase-in-states-tribes-territories-vaccine-supply/>

⁷⁸²⁹ President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>

⁷⁸³⁰ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

⁷⁸³¹ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

⁷⁸³² Fact Sheet: Quad Summit, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>

⁷⁸³³ Fact Sheet: Quad Summit, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>

On 25 March 2021, the US announced an investment of USD10 billion into the expansion of the national COVID-19 vaccination program.⁷⁸³⁴ Funding was allocated towards expanding equitable access to vaccines and medical services in underserved and high-risk communities, strengthening vaccine confidence and uptake, targeting vulnerable populations, and aiding community healthcare workers.⁷⁸³⁵

On 15 April 2021, the US cooperated with GAVI to launch a campaign dedicated towards raising USD2 billion in international funding for the fight against COVID-19.⁷⁸³⁶ Funding was dedicated towards support the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) mechanism in accruing and distributing 1.8 billion vaccine doses to low and middle-income countries.⁷⁸³⁷ The United States also committed USD2 billion in funding for GAVI and COVAX.⁷⁸³⁸

On 16 April 2021, the US announced an investment of USD1.7 billion towards researching, detecting, and preventing the spread of COVID-19 variants.⁷⁸³⁹ Funding was allocated to support increased genomic sequencing and epidemiology research, increased variant detection and tracing, and the development of a national bioinformatics infrastructure for the prevention of future outbreaks and pandemics.⁷⁸⁴⁰

On 28 April 2021, the US delivered emergency COVID-19 assistance to India in response to a recent surge in infections and critical cases.⁷⁸⁴¹ Medical support and equipment worth over USD100 million were provided, including: oxygen generation units, personal protective equipment, rapid diagnostic test kits, and therapeutics.⁷⁸⁴²

⁷⁸³⁴ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>

⁷⁸³⁵ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>

⁷⁸³⁶ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁷⁸³⁷ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁷⁸³⁸ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁷⁸³⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-1-7-billion-investment-to-fight-covid-19-variants/>

⁷⁸⁴⁰ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-1-7-billion-investment-to-fight-covid-19-variants/>

⁷⁸⁴¹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Emergency COVID-19 Assistance for India, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-emergency-covid-19-assistance-for-india/>

⁷⁸⁴² Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Emergency COVID-19 Assistance for India, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-emergency-covid-19-assistance-for-india/>

On 30 April 2021, the US issued travel restrictions preventing the entry of non-citizens who stayed in India within a 14-day period prior to departure to the US.⁷⁸⁴³ Such individuals are not permitted to board an aircraft traveling to the US or are subject to refusal upon landing.⁷⁸⁴⁴ The US issued these restrictions in response to the detection of community transmission of the COVID-19 variant strain B.1.617 in India.⁷⁸⁴⁵

On 13 May 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration committed to investing USD7.4 billion into pandemic preparation, response, and prevention.⁷⁸⁴⁶ The funding targeted programs designed for recruiting and training healthcare workers in pandemic response skills, as well as initiatives aimed at preparing for future outbreaks and public health crises.⁷⁸⁴⁷ USD4.4 billion were allocated towards expanding and improving existing healthcare facilities and infrastructure, while USD3 billion were targeted at developing future preparatory and preventative measures.⁷⁸⁴⁸ USD250 million was allocated towards mobilizing community outreach programs for encouraging vaccine uptake in high-risk and under-resourced communities.⁷⁸⁴⁹

On 14 May 2021, the Centre for Disease Control announced that fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks.⁷⁸⁵⁰ In his address in the Rose Garden, without wearing a mask President Biden said that 250 million vaccine shots have been given in 114 days and the US is said to return to normalcy when the virus raging other countries. Moreover, those travelling within the United States need not get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.⁷⁸⁵¹

⁷⁸⁴³ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁷⁸⁴⁴ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁷⁸⁴⁵ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁷⁸⁴⁶ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

⁷⁸⁴⁷ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

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⁷⁸⁴⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration to Invest \$7 Billion from American Rescue Plan to Hire and Train Public Health Workers in Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-to-invest-7-billion-from-american-rescue-plan-to-hire-and-train-public-health-workers-in-response-to-covid-19/>

⁷⁸⁵⁰ COVID-19: U.S. allows fully vaccinated people to forgo masks indoors (Washington DC) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-us-allows-fully-vaccinated-people-to-forgo-masks-indoors/article34553190.ece>

⁷⁸⁵¹ COVID-19: U.S. allows fully vaccinated people to forgo masks indoors (Washington DC) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-us-allows-fully-vaccinated-people-to-forgo-masks-indoors/article34553190.ece>

On 17 May 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration pledged to donate at least 80 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from its surplus supplies, in coordination with global inoculation efforts led by COVAX and G7 partners.⁷⁸⁵²

On 26 May 2021, the President instructed US spy agencies to investigate the origins of COVID-19.⁷⁸⁵³ This investigation gave rise to two scenarios that either it was due to contact with humans and animals or a “lab leak” from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.⁷⁸⁵⁴ Although China had condemned the possibility of the latter scenario a group of 14 countries that include US, UK and Japan said that a World Health Organization (WHO) report that had cited the origins of COVID-19 lacked full access to data and further investigations need to be done.⁷⁸⁵⁵

On 11 June 2021, President Biden committed to enacting a pandemic prevention program, in cooperation with G7 partners.⁷⁸⁵⁶ The goals of this program include: vaccinating vulnerable populations globally; ensuring equitable access to emergency medical supplies; and preparing for future health crises.⁷⁸⁵⁷ It further committed to accelerating the production and administration of COVAX vaccines, delivering emergency medical supplies to low-income countries, and strengthening global disease surveillance and detection infrastructure.⁷⁸⁵⁸

On 1 July 2021, the United States committed to re-engaging with the World Health Organization (WHO) with the objective of bolstering global health security and diplomacy.⁷⁸⁵⁹ It committed to advancing international cooperation on scientific research to prevent future infectious disease outbreaks and other global health crises.⁷⁸⁶⁰

⁷⁸⁵² Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration is Providing at least 80 million COVID-19 Vaccines for Global Use, The White House (Washington D.C.) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/17/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-is-providing-at-least-80-million-covid-19-vaccines-for-global-use-commits-to-leading-a-multilateral-effort-toward-ending-the-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵³ Biden orders review of US intelligence on origins of coronavirus (Doha) 26 May 2021, Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/26/biden-orders-review-of-us-intel-on-origins-of-coronavirus>

⁷⁸⁵⁴ Biden orders review of US intelligence on origins of coronavirus (Doha) 26 May 2021, Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/26/biden-orders-review-of-us-intel-on-origins-of-coronavirus>

⁷⁸⁵⁵ Biden orders review of US intelligence on origins of coronavirus (Doha) 26 May 2021, Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/26/biden-orders-review-of-us-intel-on-origins-of-coronavirus>

⁷⁸⁵⁶ Fact Sheet: United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵⁷ Fact Sheet: United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵⁸ Fact Sheet: United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁷⁸⁵⁹ U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework, The White House (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/u-s-covid-19-global-response-and-recovery-framework/>

⁷⁸⁶⁰ U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework, The White House (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/u-s-covid-19-global-response-and-recovery-framework/>

On 16 July 2021, the Government of the United States contributed shipments of 25 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to low-income countries in Africa.⁷⁸⁶¹ The vaccines were delivered and distributed via COVAX.⁷⁸⁶²

On 3 August 2021, the United States committed to begin distributing half a billion doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to 100 low-income countries via COVAX facility, as part of its goal to bolster global immunization coverage and curb the pandemic.⁷⁸⁶³

On 9 August 2021, President Biden announced that the COVID-19 vaccine would be added to the list of required immunizations for U.S. service members, to be made effective by mid-September.⁷⁸⁶⁴

On 11 August 2021, the United States announced that rural hospitals and medical providers would receive enhanced access to COVID-19 testing equipment, vaccines, and treatments via the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program.⁷⁸⁶⁵ The grant also designates funds towards improving telehealth services and medical infrastructure in disadvantaged and under-resources areas.⁷⁸⁶⁶

On 18 August 2021, President Biden announced new vaccination regulations requiring all employees in nursing or elderly care homes and Medicare or Medicaid services to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.⁷⁸⁶⁷ President Biden further announced the implementation of a federal initiative providing COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to eligible individuals by mid-September.⁷⁸⁶⁸

On 3 September 2021, the United States announced a plan for improving pandemic preparedness and capacities to contain future viral outbreaks, which covers the following primary areas: improving

⁷⁸⁶¹ US-donated vaccine deliveries to Africa set to begin, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/us-donated-vaccine-deliveries-africa-set-begin-first-deliveries-planned>

⁷⁸⁶² US-donated vaccine deliveries to Africa set to begin, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/us-donated-vaccine-deliveries-africa-set-begin-first-deliveries-planned>

⁷⁸⁶³ Fact Sheet: President Biden announces major milestone in administration's global vaccination efforts, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/03/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-major-milestone-in-administrations-global-vaccination-efforts-more-than-100-million-u-s-covid-19-vaccine-doses-donated-and-shipped-abroad/>

⁷⁸⁶⁴ Statement by President Joe Biden on COVID-19 Vaccines for Service Members, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/09/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-covid-19-vaccines-for-service-members/>

⁷⁸⁶⁵ Fact sheet: Biden administration takes steps to address COVID-19 in rural America and Build Rural Health Back Better, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/13/fact-sheet-biden-administration-takes-steps-to-address-covid-19-in-rural-america-and-build-rural-health-back-better/>

⁷⁸⁶⁶ Fact sheet: Biden administration takes steps to address COVID-19 in rural America and Build Rural Health Back Better, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/13/fact-sheet-biden-administration-takes-steps-to-address-covid-19-in-rural-america-and-build-rural-health-back-better/>

⁷⁸⁶⁷ Remarks by President Biden on Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/08/18/remarks-by-president-biden-on-fighting-the-covid-19-pandemic-2/>

⁷⁸⁶⁸ Remarks by President Biden on Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/08/18/remarks-by-president-biden-on-fighting-the-covid-19-pandemic-2/>

medical defences, enhancing early detection and monitoring programs, reducing disparities in public health systems, and building stockpiles and medical supply chains.⁷⁸⁶⁹

On 24 September 2021, the leaders of the United States, Japan, India and Australia met at their first in-person person summit of the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.⁷⁸⁷⁰ Following the summit in March, the leaders released a joint statement promoting “a free, open rules-based order.” This statement encouraged and pledged to combine “medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery” capacity for COVID-19 vaccines, and combating climate change.⁷⁸⁷¹

The United States has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by implementing initiatives such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and actions such as summoning the Inter Agency Vaccination Task Force and administering public health regulations. Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 3 December 2020, President of the European Council Charles Michel proposed an international Treaty on Pandemics within the framework of the World Health Organization.⁷⁸⁷² An international treaty would enable the international community to better prepare for and respond to pandemics.⁷⁸⁷³ The treaty would address risk monitoring, financing and coordination of research, a system of alerts and information sharing, access to healthcare and strengthening and securing healthcare systems and supply chains.⁷⁸⁷⁴

On 10 December 2020, the European Parliament and the European Council reached a political agreement on Horizon Europe, a transnational programme supporting research and innovation.⁷⁸⁷⁵ The programme will have a budget of EUR95.5 billion for 2021-2027.⁷⁸⁷⁶ The health cluster of the

⁷⁸⁶⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Transform Capabilities for Pandemic Preparedness, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-transform-capabilities-for-pandemic-preparedness/>

⁷⁸⁷⁰ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷⁸⁷¹ Here to stay': Indo-Pacific Quad leaders to meet at White House (Doha) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 25 Spetember 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/23/here-to-stay-indo-pacific-quad-leaders-to-converge-white-house>

⁷⁸⁷² Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁷⁸⁷³ Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁷⁸⁷⁴ Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁷⁸⁷⁵ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

⁷⁸⁷⁶ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

programme will fund the extension of clinical trials, innovative protective measures, virology, vaccines, treatments and diagnostics and the translation of research into public policy measures.⁷⁸⁷⁷

On 15 December 2020, the European Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the EU4Health programme.⁷⁸⁷⁸ The programme will receive EUR5.1 billion in funding and aims to strengthen crisis preparedness in EU health systems, as well as make health systems more resilient to cross-border health threats such as COVID-19.⁷⁸⁷⁹ The programme will specifically emphasize pandemic preparedness and response.⁷⁸⁸⁰

On 21 December 2020, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer.⁷⁸⁸¹ The vaccine was authorized following an assessment by the European Medicines Agency. This was the first vaccine approved for use in the EU.⁷⁸⁸²

On 11 January 2021, the European Commission announced that the rescEU medical reserve (part of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism) was expanded to include new host countries for rescEU medical supplies.⁷⁸⁸³ There are nine countries hosting the common European stockpiles of medical equipment such as medical masks, gloves, gowns, aprons, oxygen concentrators and ventilators.⁷⁸⁸⁴

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission published a Communication addressing the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of Europe.⁷⁸⁸⁵ The Communication details the decisions and coordinated approach needed to deliver on four priorities: speeding up vaccination and vaccine supplies, ramping up testing and sequencing to control infections and new variants, ensuring the functioning of the Single Market and showing international leadership and solidarity with partners.⁷⁸⁸⁶ The Commission set the goal of vaccinating 80 per cent of healthcare workers and people over 80 years by March 2021, and 70 per cent of the adult population by summer 2021.⁷⁸⁸⁷

On 17 February 2021, the European Commission proposed the launch of “the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator,” a European bio-defence preparedness programme funded by EUR30 million from the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme

⁷⁸⁷⁷ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

⁷⁸⁷⁸ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁷⁸⁷⁹ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁷⁸⁸⁰ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁷⁸⁸¹ European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466

⁷⁸⁸² European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466

⁷⁸⁸³ Coronavirus: rescEU medical stockpile expands in four Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_45

⁷⁸⁸⁴ Coronavirus: rescEU medical stockpile expands in four Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_45

⁷⁸⁸⁵ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

⁷⁸⁸⁶ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

⁷⁸⁸⁷ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

and EUR120 million from the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework.⁷⁸⁸⁸ The HERA Incubator will address the emerging threat of COVID-19 variants through rapid detection and swift adaptation of vaccines, as well as by setting up a European Clinical Trials Network.⁷⁸⁸⁹ The HERA Incubator will also fund the VACCELERATE vaccine research network, comprised of 26 partner institutions from 21 countries.⁷⁸⁹⁰

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, bringing its total contribution to EUR1 billion.⁷⁸⁹¹ President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the commitment at the G7 virtual leaders' meeting and emphasized the need for effective COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to low-income countries.⁷⁸⁹²

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission published a Communication detailing plans for a new European Humanitarian Response Capacity.⁷⁸⁹³ The capacity would intervene directly in humanitarian crises when traditional approaches were insufficient.⁷⁸⁹⁴ It would offer logistical assessments, support for initial deployment and procurement, stockpiling and transporting of relief items such as COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁸⁹⁵

On 23 March 2021, the European Commission announced it would allocate EUR11 million to Nepal, the Philippines and South East Asia for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid.⁷⁸⁹⁶ EUR2 million of this funding will support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and EUR9 million will target disaster preparedness actions.⁷⁸⁹⁷ Nepal, the Philippines and South East Asia are in some of the most disaster-prone regions in the world due to their location and climatic conditions, further compounding the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.⁷⁸⁹⁸

⁷⁸⁸⁸ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁷⁸⁸⁹ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁷⁸⁹⁰ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁷⁸⁹¹ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690

⁷⁸⁹² EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690

⁷⁸⁹³ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁷⁸⁹⁴ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁷⁸⁹⁵ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁷⁸⁹⁶ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

⁷⁸⁹⁷ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

⁷⁸⁹⁸ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission launched Open Research Europe, an open access publishing platform for scientific papers.⁷⁸⁹⁹ The platform will publish results funded by Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation programme.⁷⁹⁰⁰ It will offer researchers the opportunity to share their results and insights rapidly and in a public venue to facilitate open, constructive research debates.⁷⁹⁰¹ The EU's response to the coronavirus has highlighted the value of open science and increased collaboration to find new treatments, diagnostics and vaccines.⁷⁹⁰²

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission introduced a new regulation impacting COVID-19 vaccine exports.⁷⁹⁰³ The principles of reciprocity and proportionality are new criteria to be considered for authorizing COVID-19 vaccine exports, with the objective of ensuring timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for all EU citizens.⁷⁹⁰⁴ Reciprocity considers if the destination country of vaccines is restricting its own export of vaccines or their raw materials, and proportionality considers if conditions prevailing in the destination country are better or worse than the EU's.⁷⁹⁰⁵ The new regulation is temporary and excludes vaccines destined to the 92 low and middle income countries under the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access scheme.⁷⁹⁰⁶

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission amended the Variation Regulation to enable the HERA Incubator to fast-track regulatory approval of updated vaccines to tackle new variants.⁷⁹⁰⁷ A smaller set of additional data would need to be submitted to the European Medicines Agency for the authorization of adapted COVID-19 vaccines.⁷⁹⁰⁸ Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides said: "We need to be prepared to adapt vaccines as quickly as possible to respond to new

⁷⁸⁹⁹ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰⁰ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰¹ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰² Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁷⁹⁰³ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁴ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁵ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁶ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁷⁹⁰⁷ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁷⁹⁰⁸ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

and potentially vaccine-resistant variants.⁷⁹⁰⁹ The measure is awaiting approval from the European Parliament and Council before entering into force.⁷⁹¹⁰

On 26 March 2021, the European Commission launched the EU4Health programme.⁷⁹¹¹ The programme makes EUR5.1 billion available to strengthen the resilience of health systems and promote innovation in the health sector.⁷⁹¹² The purpose of EU4Health is to support the fight against cross-border health threats and improve the EU's preparedness and capability to respond to future health crises.⁷⁹¹³ Commissioner Kyriakides said: "This unprecedented budget of EUR5.1 billion will enable us to make targeted investments to enhance our crisis preparedness and build stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems."⁷⁹¹⁴

On 31 March 2021, the European Commission launched a six week online public consultation to collect stakeholders' input on HERA.⁷⁹¹⁵ HERA was announced in September 2020 in order to support the development, manufacturing and deployment of medical countermeasures during a health crisis.⁷⁹¹⁶ Following the public consultation, the scope of HERA will be outlined in a legislative proposal later this year.⁷⁹¹⁷ Commissioner Kyriakides said "The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, EU's HERA, is a fundamental part of the solution that we need for the next health crisis to prepare better and respond more swiftly, together. HERA will strengthen our foresight, preparation, anticipation and response."⁷⁹¹⁸

On 5 April 2021, the European Union contributed EUR170 million to the International Monetary Fund's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT).⁷⁹¹⁹ The CCRT provides debt relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19.⁷⁹²⁰

⁷⁹⁰⁹ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁷⁹¹⁰ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁷⁹¹¹ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹² Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹³ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹⁴ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁷⁹¹⁵ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁶ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁷ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁸ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁷⁹¹⁹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

⁷⁹²⁰ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said “Through this contribution to the CCRT, Team Europe continues to stand in solidarity with its most vulnerable partners. In this difficult period, the resources freed up can provide social services for the most vulnerable people, such as access to essential healthcare and education for young people, including girls.”⁷⁹²¹

On 7 April 2021, the European Commission mobilized EUR123 million from Horizon Europe for the purpose of combating the threat of coronavirus variants.⁷⁹²² Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme, funds a range of research and innovation actions to fight against the coronavirus.⁷⁹²³ Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said: “We continue to mobilize all means at our disposal to fight this pandemic and the challenges presented by coronavirus variants.”⁷⁹²⁴ The EUR123 million will fund projects to establish new or build on existing multinational cohorts to advance the knowledge on SARS-CoV-2 and its emerging variants, develop further treatment and vaccine candidates, and support research infrastructure to improve data sharing with the goal of confronting the virus variants and preparing for future epidemics.⁷⁹²⁵

On 12 April 2021, the European Commission proposed exempting goods and services distributed by the EU from the Value Added Tax (VAT) during times of crisis.⁷⁹²⁶ The proposal is in response to the experience gained throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, with the purpose of maximizing the efficiency of use of EU funds used in response to crises such as natural disasters and public health emergencies.⁷⁹²⁷ Waiving the VAT will strengthen disaster crisis management bodies such as the EU’s Health Union and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.⁷⁹²⁸ Goods and services covered by the exemption include diagnostic tests and testing materials, personal protective equipment, antimicrobials and antibiotics and blood products or antibodies.⁷⁹²⁹

⁷⁹²¹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

⁷⁹²² Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²³ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²⁴ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²⁵ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁷⁹²⁶ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁷⁹²⁷ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁷⁹²⁸ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁷⁹²⁹ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

On 14 April 2021, President von der Leyen announced that the EU reached an agreement with BioNTech-Pfizer to deliver 50 million additional vaccine doses in quarter 2 of 2021.⁷⁹³⁰ The doses were originally due to only arrive in the fourth quarter of 2021.⁷⁹³¹ Additionally, the EU is entering a third contract negotiation with BioNTech-Pfizer for the delivery of 1.8 billion doses of vaccine from 2021 to 2023.⁷⁹³² The contract will also entail that the production of the vaccines and all essential components will be based in the EU.⁷⁹³³ President von der Leyen said: “The negotiations we are launching today – and hope to conclude very rapidly – are a further important step in Europe’s response to the pandemic.”⁷⁹³⁴

On 20 April 2021, the EU launched a EUR100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa.⁷⁹³⁵ The initiative is part of the European Commission’s efforts to provide safe and effective vaccines for all and support a fast and safe vaccine rollout in Africa.⁷⁹³⁶ EUR25 million of the funding will support the rollout of vaccinations in all African countries, while EUR65 million is dedicated to support vaccinations in conflict and hard-to reach areas.⁷⁹³⁷ The remaining EUR10 million is in reserve and will be allocated to either of the two tracks as needed.⁷⁹³⁸ Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič emphasized: “This additional EU funding in support of the rollout of vaccination campaigns against the coronavirus pandemic in Africa will help to ensure that no one is left behind, including people in hard-to-access humanitarian crisis settings.”⁷⁹³⁹

On 11 May 2021, the EU met to discuss progress on a COVID-19 certificate. This is proposed to help citizens travel more freely across the 27-nation bloc and open up summer tourism.⁷⁹⁴⁰ It was announced that no one is obliged to use an EU certificate, but it will be handed out for free by health authorities. It will be given to EU citizens who have received a vaccine, had a negative test or are immune, having recovered from COVID-19.⁷⁹⁴¹

⁷⁹³⁰ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³¹ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³² Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³³ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³⁴ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁷⁹³⁵ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁶ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁷ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁸ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹³⁹ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁷⁹⁴⁰ Factbox: The EU’s proposed COVID-19 travel certificate (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eus-proposed-covid-19-travel-certificate-2021-05-11/>

⁷⁹⁴¹ Factbox: The EU’s proposed COVID-19 travel certificate (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eus-proposed-covid-19-travel-certificate-2021-05-11/>

On 20 May 2021, the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism sent support to Nepal.⁷⁹⁴² The repatriation of European citizens in Nepal also occurred at the same time.⁷⁹⁴³

On 20 May 2021, the European Commission signed a contract with BioNTech and Pfizer to “reserve an additional 1.8 billion doses on behalf of all European Union member states.”⁷⁹⁴⁴ It allows for the purchase of 900 million doses of the current vaccine and of a vaccine adapted to variants, with the option to purchase an additional 900 million doses.⁷⁹⁴⁵

On 20 May 2021, the European Union supported the start of the World Health Organization’s process for the establishment of the Pandemic Treaty in the context of international efforts to reinforce global health security.⁷⁹⁴⁶

On 21 May 2021, the EU hosted the Global Health Summit alongside Italy. At this summit, the participants adopted the Rome Declaration. The Rome Declaration is a set of 16 principles and guiding commitments that “serve as voluntary orientation for current and future action for global health to support the financing, building, and sustaining of effective health system capabilities and capacities and Universal Health Coverage to improve preparedness, early warning of, prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.”⁷⁹⁴⁷

On 4 June 2021, the European Union submitted its proposal “seeking the commitment of the World Trade Organization members for a multilateral trade action plan to expand the production of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to ensure universal and fair access.”⁷⁹⁴⁸ The European Union’s proposal includes ensuring that COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and their components can cross borders freely, encourage producers to expand their production and facilitate the use of compulsory licensing within the World Trade Organization’s existing Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.⁷⁹⁴⁹

On 9 June 2021, the European Parliament passed the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulations.⁷⁹⁵⁰ The certificates will take the form of a digital or paper format containing a QR code and all

⁷⁹⁴² Coronavirus: EU channels further support to Nepal and repatriates EU citizens, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2568

⁷⁹⁴³ Coronavirus: EU channels further support to Nepal and repatriates EU citizens, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2568

⁷⁹⁴⁴ Coronavirus: Commission signs a third contract with BioNTech-Pfizer for an additional 1.8 billion doses, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2548

⁷⁹⁴⁵ Coronavirus: Commission signs a third contract with BioNTech-Pfizer for an additional 1.8 billion doses, The European Commission (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2548

⁷⁹⁴⁶ EU supports start of WHO process for establishment of Pandemic Treaty: Council decision, The European Council (Brussels). 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/05/20/eu-supports-start-of-who-process-for-establishment-of-pandemic-treaty-council-decision/>

⁷⁹⁴⁷ Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

⁷⁹⁴⁸ EU proposes a strong multilateral trade response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The European Commission (Brussels). 4 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2801

⁷⁹⁴⁹ EU proposes a strong multilateral trade response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The European Commission (Brussels). 4 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2801

⁷⁹⁵⁰ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPR05512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

European Union member states will accept the certificates proving vaccination, negative test result or recovery from a COVID infection.⁷⁹⁵¹ It will be available from 1 July 2021 and be in place for 12 months.⁷⁹⁵² Personal data will be processed in alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation.⁷⁹⁵³ The European Commission pledges to use EUR100 million under the Emergency Support Instrument for member states to use to purchase tests to issue EU Digital COVID test certificates.⁷⁹⁵⁴

On 18 June 2021, the Court of First Instance of Brussels ordered AstraZeneca to urgently deliver 50 million doses of vaccine by 27 September 2021.⁷⁹⁵⁵ It further stated that “if non-compliance occurs, AstraZeneca will have to pay a penalty of EUR10 per dose not delivered.”⁷⁹⁵⁶

On 18 June 2021, the European Central Bank Governing Council stated that it concurred with European Central Bank Banking Supervision in that there continued to be “exceptional circumstances” allowing for the extension of the temporary exclusion of certain central bank exposures from the leverage ratio.⁷⁹⁵⁷

On 22 June 2021, the European Investment Bank stated that it will “support the Palestinian economy with a USD32 million line of credit to Quds Bank to be on-lent primarily” to local small and medium-sized enterprises that have been severely affected by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁵⁸

On 29 June 2021, the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism assisted Norway in delivering “over 180,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Kosovo.”⁷⁹⁵⁹ The European Commission coordinated and financed up to 75 per cent of the costs for transporting the assistance.⁷⁹⁶⁰

On 9 July 2021, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank announced it will provide EUR4.75 million in grant support to enable feasibility studies and project preparation for the new facility at the Institut Pasteur in Dakar.⁷⁹⁶¹

⁷⁹⁵¹ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵² Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵³ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵⁴ Parliament gives its final green light to the EU Digital COVID Certificate, The European Parliament (Brussels). 9 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210604IPRO5512/parliament-gives-its-final-green-light-to-the-eu-digital-covid-certificate>

⁷⁹⁵⁵ Belgian Court orders AstraZeneca to deliver vaccine doses to the EU, The European Commission (Brussels). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3090

⁷⁹⁵⁶ Belgian Court orders AstraZeneca to deliver vaccine doses to the EU, The European Commission (Brussels). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3090

⁷⁹⁵⁷ ECB’s Governing Council confirms that exceptional circumstances continue to justify leverage ratio relief, The European Central Bank (Frankfurt). 18 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.pr210618~08d3c92b21.en.html>

⁷⁹⁵⁸ Palestine: #TeamEurope - EIB and Quds Bank enhance access to finance for Palestinian SMEs amidst the pandemic fallout, The European Investment Bank (Luxembourg). 22 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-216-palestine-teameurope-eib-and-quds-bank-enhance-access-to-finance-for-palestinian-smes-amidst-the-pandemic-fallout>

⁷⁹⁵⁹ COVID-19: EU helps deliver vaccines to Kosovo, The European Commission (Brussels). 29 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3300

⁷⁹⁶⁰ COVID-19: EU helps deliver vaccines to Kosovo, The European Commission (Brussels). 29 June 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3300

On 13 July 2021, the Economic and Finance Ministers of European Union members adopted the first batch of decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain.⁷⁹⁶² The approval permits the member states to sign grant and loan agreements that will allow for up to 13 per cent pre-financing.⁷⁹⁶³

On 13 July 2021, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted “a draft negotiating position for a new regulation on tackling serious cross-border health threats.”⁷⁹⁶⁴ The draft includes enhanced cooperation and transparency of joint procurement, a transversal vision of health and better representation of stakeholders and involvement of Parliament.⁷⁹⁶⁵

On 22 July 2021, the European Commission short-listed 11 new projects worth EUR120 million from Horizon Europe, the biggest European research and innovation programme (2021-2027).⁷⁹⁶⁶ The program supports and enables urgent research into the coronavirus and its variants.⁷⁹⁶⁷ This funding is part of a wide range of research and innovation actions taken to fight the coronavirus and contributes to the Commission's overall action to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impact of the virus and its variants which is in line with the new European bio-defence preparedness plan HERA Incubator.⁷⁹⁶⁸

On 26 July 2021, the Economic and Finance Ministers of European Union members adopted the second batch of the European Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovenia.⁷⁹⁶⁹

On 26 July 2021, the European Investment Bank and BNP Paribas Leasing Services signed a loan agreement of EUR200 million to bank lending to small and mid-sized businesses in Poland for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁷⁰

⁷⁹⁶¹ Senegal: Republic of Senegal and Team Europe support agree to build a manufacturing plant to produce vaccines against COVID-19 and other endemic diseases, The European Investment Bank (Luxembourg). 9 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-254-president-of-senegal-macky-sall-welcomes-team-europe-support-to-help-build-a-manufacturing-plant-in-senegal-to-produce-vaccines-against-covid-19-and-other-endemic-diseases>

⁷⁹⁶² Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, The European Council (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

⁷⁹⁶³ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, The European Council (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

⁷⁹⁶⁴ Boosting the EU's capacity to anticipate and respond to health crises, The European Parliament (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210707IPR07902/boosting-the-eu-s-capacity-to-anticipate-and-respond-to-health-crises>

⁷⁹⁶⁵ Boosting the EU's capacity to anticipate and respond to health crises, The European Parliament (Brussels). 13 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210707IPR07902/boosting-the-eu-s-capacity-to-anticipate-and-respond-to-health-crises>

⁷⁹⁶⁶ Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3803

⁷⁹⁶⁷ Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3803

⁷⁹⁶⁸ Coronavirus: Commission steps up research funding with €120 million for 11 new projects to tackle the virus and its variants (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3803

⁷⁹⁶⁹ Recovery fund: ministers welcome assessment of four more national plans, The European Council (Brussels) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/26/recovery-fund-ministers-welcome-assessment-of-four-more-national-plans/>

On 8 September 2021, the Economic and Finance Ministers of European Union members adopted the third batch of the European Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Czech Republic and Ireland.⁷⁹⁷¹

On 16 September 2021, the EU, EU Member States and European financial institutions, as Team Europe disbursed EUR34 billion in support to 130 partner countries in addressing the pandemic and its consequences.⁷⁹⁷² This disbursement already exceeds by far the initial EUR20 billion Team Europe support package pledged in spring 2020, which has now increased to EUR46 billion.⁷⁹⁷³ These funds will be used for emergency response to humanitarian needs, strengthening health, water and sanitation systems, and mitigating the social and economic consequences of the pandemic, including job losses and education.⁷⁹⁷⁴

On 21 September 2021, the European Commission signed a joint procurement framework contract with the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly for the supply of a monoclonal antibody treatment for coronavirus patients.⁷⁹⁷⁵ This marked the latest development in this first portfolio of five promising therapeutics announced by the Commission under the EU COVID-19 Therapeutics Strategy announced in June 2021.⁷⁹⁷⁶

On 22 September 2021, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the President announced a new EU-US partnership to help vaccinate the world. This partnership aims to reach a 70 per cent global vaccination rate by the time of the UN General Assembly 2022.⁷⁹⁷⁷ The EU-US Global Vaccination Partnership will help expand supply, improve coordination in delivery and remove bottlenecks to supply chains.⁷⁹⁷⁸ The U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security, clearly stated, “the US and EU are technological leaders in advanced vaccine platforms,” and that this “coordinated leadership will showcase the force of a Transatlantic partnership in facilitating global vaccination while enabling more progress by multilateral and regional initiatives.”⁷⁹⁷⁹

⁷⁹⁷⁰ Poland: EIB and BNP Paribas Leasing Services join forces to support small and mid-sized companies and invest in climate action, The European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 16 August 2021.

⁷⁹⁷¹ EU recovery funds to reach 18 EU countries, The European Council (Brussels) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-recovery-plan/>

⁷⁹⁷² Team Europe: €34 billion disbursed so far to tackle COVID-19 in partner countries (Brussels) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4729

⁷⁹⁷³ Team Europe: €34 billion disbursed so far to tackle COVID-19 in partner countries (Brussels) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4729

⁷⁹⁷⁴ Team Europe: €34 billion disbursed so far to tackle COVID-19 in partner countries (Brussels) 16 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4729

⁷⁹⁷⁵ Coronavirus: Commission signs contract for the supply of a monoclonal antibody treatment (Brussels) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4827

⁷⁹⁷⁶ Coronavirus: Commission signs contract for the supply of a monoclonal antibody treatment (Brussels) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4827

⁷⁹⁷⁷ An U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security (New York) 22 September 2021, Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4846

⁷⁹⁷⁸ An U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security (New York) 22 September 2021, Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4846

⁷⁹⁷⁹ An U.S.-EU Agenda for Beating the Global Pandemic: Vaccinating the World, Saving Lives Now, and Building Back Better Health Security (New York) 22 September 2021, Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4846

On 22 September 2021, the European Commission published its second report on the impact of SURE, the EUR100 billion instrument designed to protect jobs and incomes affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁸⁰ The report highlights that this initiative has been successful in cushioning the severe socio-economic impact resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁸¹ Moreover, the national labour market measures supported by SURE are estimated to have reduced unemployment for nearly 1.5 million people in 2020.⁷⁹⁸² Some of its positive impacts have been effectively containing the increase in unemployment in the beneficiary Member States during the crisis and preventing obstacles to unemployment and slow GDP growth.⁷⁹⁸³ SURE is thus a crucial element of the EU's comprehensive strategy to protect citizens and mitigate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁸⁴

The European Union has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by implementing initiatives such as using the rescEU medical reserve, agreeing on Horizon Europe, launching HERA incubator, authorizing the production of vaccines BioNTech and Pfizer, and pledging humanitarian aid to support vaccination campaigns in crisis settings.

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

Analysts: Liva Zemitis and Janishan Jeyarajah

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⁷⁹⁸¹ SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

⁷⁹⁸² SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

⁷⁹⁸³ SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

⁷⁹⁸⁴ SURE: Report confirms instrument's success in protecting jobs and incomes (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4822

15. Health: Information Sharing

“We reaffirm our commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | 0 | |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | | +1 |
| Indonesia | | 0 | |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | | +1 |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | 0 | |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | +0.80 (90%) | | |

Background

The G20 members have remained committed to maintaining and improving citizens’ health, however, the focus of health commitments has been centred around general improvement of health systems, universal health care and crisis response (such as antimicrobial resistance). Information sharing is a critical aspect of cooperation in ameliorating global health systems and tackling advancement of overall health and response to global health issues such as antimicrobial resistance and COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 require countries to detect and assess acute public health events, report such events to WHO and respond to any risks and emergencies.⁷⁹⁸⁵

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members committed to support others in implementing International Health Regulations to “prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases,” implying commitment to sharing of data and information pertaining to such infectious diseases.⁷⁹⁸⁶ Health information sharing was first explicitly mentioned at the 2017 Berlin Summit as a critical component of Global Health Crises Management. Commitment to enhancing the transparency of sharing key information was made to facilitate timely communication and elicit faster

⁷⁹⁸⁵ International Health Regulations, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2005. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations>

⁷⁹⁸⁶ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

responses from the international community. G20 members recognized that information sharing efforts, especially information pertaining to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC), may be thwarted if members would face consequences such as trade/travel bans. Thus, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the reporting obligations outlined in the IHR pertaining to PHEIC and following applicable WHO recommended measures.

From 19-20 May 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time in Berlin, Germany under the theme of “Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow.” In their Berlin Declaration, the health ministers stated that “enhancing transparency facilitates the sharing of key information that can prompt faster responses by the international community. Early communication of disease outbreaks, including those which may constitute a PHEIC, may be discouraged if countries are led to believe they will face negative consequences due to unjustified travel and trade restrictions by other countries. To limit the negative impact on economies and societies and to foster early communication, we reiterate our commitment to adhering to reporting obligations under the IHR concerning a potential or declared Public Health Emergency of International Concern and underline the importance of following relevant WHO recommendations, including those on travel and trade.”⁷⁹⁸⁷ At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized that implementing and complying with IHR is crucial in preventing and responding to the polio crisis.⁷⁹⁸⁸ Furthermore, G20 members also committed to remaining prepared for research and development (R&D) through globally coordinated models directed by WHO R&D blueprint.⁷⁹⁸⁹

On 4 March 2018, G20 health ministers met in Mar del Plata, Argentina where they stated that “the G20 ministers would like to highlight the work done by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and WHO on this subject regarding data collection and recommendations for best practices and encourage sharing of this information” in reference to people-centered care and increasing the quality of health care delivery systems.⁷⁹⁹⁰ At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to “continue to strengthen core capacities required by International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies, while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard.”⁷⁹⁹¹

Prior to the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 health ministers met to discuss universal health coverage, which “builds an essential basis for sustainable and inclusive growth.”⁷⁹⁹² At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced information sharing pertaining to plant and animal health issues to facilitate response to emerging and existing issues. G20 members also committed to supporting countries experiencing the Ebola epidemic through financial and technical assistance.⁷⁹⁹³

⁷⁹⁸⁷ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

⁷⁹⁸⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

⁷⁹⁸⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

⁷⁹⁹⁰ Declaration: G20 Meeting of Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Mar del Plata) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-10-04-health.html>

⁷⁹⁹¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁷⁹⁹² G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

⁷⁹⁹³ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

Prior to the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 finance and health ministers held a joint meeting. They committed to “full compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), to improve their implementation and to the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information including on health measures and the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical interventions.”⁷⁹⁹⁴ At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members took note of gaps in preparedness for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and reaffirmed their commitment to continue sharing of information to advance “global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.”⁷⁹⁹⁵ G20 members specifically commended the proposal towards establishing access to various pandemic tools, including data.⁷⁹⁹⁶

The IHR “were adopted by the Health Assembly in 1969, having been preceded by the International Sanitary Regulations adopted by the Fourth World Health Assembly in 1951. The 1969 Regulations, which initially covered six “quarantinable diseases” were amended in 1973 and 1981, primarily to reduce the number of covered diseases from six to three (yellow fever, plague and cholera) and to mark the global eradication of smallpox.” The IHR summarise the purpose and scope as: “to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.” It contains “a range of innovations, including: (a) a scope not limited to any specific disease or manner of transmission, but covering “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans”; (b) State Party obligations to develop certain minimum core public health capacities; (c) obligations on States Parties to notify WHO of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern according to defined criteria; (d) provisions authorizing WHO to take into consideration unofficial reports of public health events and to obtain verification from States Parties concerning such events; (e) procedures for the determination by the Director-General of a “public health emergency of international concern” and issuance of corresponding temporary recommendations, after taking into account the views of an Emergency Committee; (f) protection of the human rights of persons and travellers; and (g) the establishment of National IHR Focal Points and WHO IHR Contact Points for urgent communications between States Parties and WHO.”⁷⁹⁹⁷

Commitment Features

The G20 commitment is “reaffirm(ing) our commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].” In this commitment, there are two targets: 1) the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and 2) the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information.

To “reaffirm” is understood as “affirm again” whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.⁷⁹⁹⁸ “Continued” is understood as “lasting or enduring without interruption.”⁷⁹⁹⁹ “Continued sharing” will be understood as disseminating all relevant data and information. Thus, a single act of sharing data or information will not count as compliance.

⁷⁹⁹⁴ Joint Statement: G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-health-0917.html>

⁷⁹⁹⁵ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁷⁹⁹⁶ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁷⁹⁹⁷ International Health Regulations (2005) Third Edition, World Health Organization (Riyadh) 1 January 2016. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241580496>

⁷⁹⁹⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf

⁷⁹⁹⁹ Continued, dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2020.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/continued?s=t>

Furthermore, a G20 member can share data or information with another country or with an international organization, such as the WHO.

“Timely” is understood as “coming early or at the right time.”⁸⁰⁰⁰ Data that is “timely” should be “recorded as quickly as possible and used within a reasonable time period.”⁸⁰⁰¹ The WHO recognizes that the “rapid data sharing is critical during an unfolding health emergency. The ethically appropriate and rapid sharing of data can help identify etiological factors, predict disease spread, evaluate existing and novel treatments, symptomatic care and preventive measures, and guide the deployment of limited resources.”⁸⁰⁰²

“Transparency” is understood as “governments making information publicly available so that their actions and decisions are visible and understandable to the public and so they can, therefore, be held to account.”⁸⁰⁰³ Examples of compliance include sharing data pertaining to COVID-19 infections and mortality rates through an open access government website.

To achieve compliance, the standardized data and information shared must be relevant to “advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.”⁸⁰⁰⁴ This is generally understood as standardized data and information relevant to COVID-19 pandemic, however, compliance can be achieved if the standardized data and information shared is pertaining to any global pandemic.

Part One: the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data

“Standardized data” is understood as data that is in “a common format that allows for collaborative research, large scale analytics, and sharing of sophisticated tools and methodologies,” according to Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI).⁸⁰⁰⁵ Healthcare data can be found in various formats and the same term may be represented in different contexts. To comply, members should share data that is consistent longitudinally and comparable with other datasets and variables should be precisely defined.⁸⁰⁰⁶ Examples of standardized data in the context of COVID-19 pandemic could include variables such as per cent 7-day average positivity and infection fatality ratio.

Part Two: the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information

“Information” is understood as “knowledge gained through study, communication, research, instruction, etc.”⁸⁰⁰⁷ This includes any knowledge that can have a material impact on a members’ understanding, preparedness, prevention, detection and response to public health issues. Furthermore, “information” will also include analysis generated from standardized data or any other non-standardized data. Examples of information can include understanding of adverse side-effects, effective policy approaches, and best practices. These examples are not meant to be exhaustive.

⁸⁰⁰⁰ Timely, Merriam Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/timely>

⁸⁰⁰¹ Quality Health Data, Unite for Sight (New Haven) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.uniteforsight.org/global-health-university/quality-data>

⁸⁰⁰² Guidance for Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2016. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250580/9789241549837-eng.pdf>

⁸⁰⁰³ Increasing Transparency and Accountability in National Pharmaceutical Systems, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/11/17-206516/en/>

⁸⁰⁰⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Riyadh Summit, G20 (Riyadh) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁰⁰⁵ Data Standardization, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.ohdsi.org/data-standardization/>

⁸⁰⁰⁶ Data Standardization, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.ohdsi.org/data-standardization/>

⁸⁰⁰⁷ Information, dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/information>

To achieve full compliance (+1), a G20 member must share standardized data and information in a timely and transparent manner, that is numerous times over the course of the compliance period and without delay from the time the information is received by the G20 member. If a G20 member does share data and/or information but it is not timely, transparent or standardized, it would only be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member only shares data and/or information once or twice over the compliance period, it would still be considered partial compliance. Furthermore, if a G20 member only takes action to share either timely, transparent and standardized data or information, it would only be considered partial compliance. Non-compliance (-1) will be considered if a G20 member does not continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information, including if members have shared data/information on a single occasion. This commitment requires concrete actions for compliance. If a G20 member reaffirms the commitment or makes verbal statements on sharing data and/or information, it would not count towards compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does NOT continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information. |
| 0 | G20 member continually shares timely, transparent and standardized data in a timely and transparent manner OR continually shares timely, transparent and standardized information. |
| +1 | G20 member continually shares timely, transparent and standardized data in a timely and transparent manner AND continually shares timely, transparent and standardized information. |

*Compliance Director: Joy Fan and Sonja Dobson
Lead Analyst: Ingrid Wong*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 30 November 2020, President Alberto Fernandez and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro exchanged experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges it posed to their respective countries.⁸⁰⁰⁸

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the UK organized a virtual seminar discussing vaccine distribution strategy and combating misinformation regarding COVID-19.⁸⁰⁰⁹ It was the third in a series of joint events between Argentina and the UK within the Latin American and Caribbean region. The CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, spoke at the seminar to share information on the progress of COVAX, the global initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁸⁰¹⁰

On 7 January 2021, health officials from Mexico visited Argentina to discuss Argentina’s experience with the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, as to help Mexico in its consideration of acquiring the

⁸⁰⁰⁸ Videoconference between presidents Jair Bolsonaro and Alberto Fernández (Brasilia) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/videoconference-between-presidents-jair-bolsonaro-and-alberto-fernandez>

⁸⁰⁰⁹ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

⁸⁰¹⁰ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

vaccine.⁸⁰¹¹ Argentina and Mexico exchanged information about “distinct vaccine initiatives” and “the strategic agreement signed between both countries to produce and distribute the (vaccine) developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, which is produced in Argentina.”⁸⁰¹²

On 5 February 2021, President Fernandez and French President Emmanuel Macron met virtually where they discussed the epidemiological situations in both of their countries at length.⁸⁰¹³ The discussion included the vaccination process, the need to increase production of vaccines and how to ensure a more equitable production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁸⁰¹⁴

On 15 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Sola held a videoconference with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad Othman Jerandi. They discussed opportunities to increase exchanges and shared experiences with combating the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰¹⁵

On 16 March 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizotti met with the United Kingdom’s Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19 Nadhim Zahawi to discuss developing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.⁸⁰¹⁶ The ministers discussed postponing second doses to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and prioritizing by age, risk and activity.⁸⁰¹⁷

On 31 March 2021, Foreign Minister Guillermo Justo Chaves met with the EU Ambassador to Argentina Audo Maio-Coliche. They discussed enhancing cooperation and multilateralism in the view of a more equitable supply of vaccines among countries, “as well as for the sharing of experiences and knowledge regarding COVID-19.” They also agreed that the vaccine should be a universal public good for all the access, manufacture and distribute at will.⁸⁰¹⁸

⁸⁰¹¹ Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (New York City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine> idUKKBN29C2X9

⁸⁰¹² Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (New York City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine> idUKKBN29C2X9

⁸⁰¹³ The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁸⁰¹⁴ The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁸⁰¹⁵ Videoconference between foreign minister Felipe Solá and his Tunisian counterpart, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/videoconference-between-foreign-minister-felipe-sola-and-his-tunisian-counterpart>

⁸⁰¹⁶ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>
⁸⁰¹⁷ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>
⁸⁰¹⁸ Argentina and EU agree on need for fairer and more equitable global distribution of vaccines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-eu-agree-need-fairer-and-more-equitable-global-distribution>

On 19 April 2021, Mexico announced that cooperation with Argentina has led to the two countries to coproduce AstraZeneca vaccinations as well as create a network of vaccine projects throughout Central and South America.⁸⁰¹⁹

On 29 April 2021, Minister Vizotti and Presidential Advisor Cecilia Nicolini met with the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy MaryKay Carlsson to discuss joint cooperation on scientific and technological development to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰²⁰ They reviewed actions already taken by the Argentine government to respond to the pandemic.⁸⁰²¹

On 3 May 2021, Minister Vizotti and Presidential Advisor Cecilia Nicolini met virtually with the UK Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19. They met shortly thereafter with UK Ambassador Kirsty Hayes in person to discuss vaccination campaign strategy based on the UK's experience.⁸⁰²²

On 3 May 2021, Minister Vizotti, Advisor Nicolini and the Ambassador for Argentina to China Sabino Vaca Narvaja met virtually with the Chinese Ambassador to Argentina Zou Xiaoli and pharmaceutical executives to discuss Argentina-China bilateral cooperation in COVID-19 virological research and vaccine production, as well as vaccine distribution experiences.⁸⁰²³

On 21 May 2021, President Fernández participated in the Global Health Summit in which all G20 members shared the lessons they learned from their experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. He appealed to the other countries for more efficient transfer of technology and licensing of intellectual property to aid countries such as those in Latin America who are struggling to fight the pandemic.⁸⁰²⁴

On 24 May 2021, Minister Vizotti and Advisor Nicolini met with the Mexican Secretary of Health Jorge Alocer Valera in Mexico City for the Mexico-Argentina Binational Meeting Towards a Latin American Platform for Preparation and Response in Public Health. They discussed their COVID-19 experiences and planned cooperative vaccination strategy.⁸⁰²⁵

On 25 May 2021, Minister Vizotti and Advisor Nicolini met virtually with the UK Minister of Vaccination Nadhim Zahawi and the UK Minister for Europe and the Americas Wendy Morton to

⁸⁰¹⁹Mexico calls on the UN Security Council to guarantee access to vaccines against COVID-19, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-llama-al-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu-a-garantizar-el-acceso-a-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

⁸⁰²⁰ Vizzotti and Nicolini met with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-estados>

⁸⁰²¹ Vizzotti and Nicolini met with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-estados>

⁸⁰²² Vizzotti and Nicolini met with the British Ambassador to Argentina, Mark Kent (Buenos Aires) 03 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-el-embajador-britanico-en-argentina-mark-kent>

⁸⁰²³ Vizzotti and Nicolini started talks with Chinese and Israeli authorities for the local production of vaccines against COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-iniciaron-conversaciones-con-autoridades-de-china-e-israel-para-la>

⁸⁰²⁴ Argentina participated in the G20 Global Health Summit (Buenos Aires) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-participo-en-la-cumbre-global-de-salud-del-g20>

⁸⁰²⁵ Vizzotti and Nicolini led in Mexico binational meeting with Health, Science and Social Security authorities of both countries to enhance response to the second wave of COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-encabezaron-en-mexico-encuentro-binacional-con-autoridades-de-salud>

discuss COVID-19 experiences and vaccination strategy.⁸⁰²⁶ The UK representatives approved of Argentina's vaccination strategy and offered to help Argentina begin cooperating with Oxford University in vaccine production.⁸⁰²⁷

On 10 June 2021, the intergovernmental commissions relating to food and drug control convened an extended meeting with several other Latin American public health agencies, including representatives from Brazil, as well as Paraguay and Uruguay. They discussed the increasing rates of alcohol consumption and sedentary lifestyles in their countries and cooperated in formulating a strategy to combat these dangers.⁸⁰²⁸

On 29 June 2021, Minister Vizotti led a meeting of several Latin American public health leaders, including representatives from Brazil, in formulating a regional strategy to combat antimicrobial resistance.⁸⁰²⁹ They considered that it was imperative to cooperate in responding to this problem, to continue to communicate about their experiences, to recognize antimicrobial resistance as an emerging health problem, and to consider their unique social and biological environment in forming strategy.⁸⁰³⁰

On 12 July 2021, Minister Vizotti and Advisor Nicolini visited London to meet with the UK Minister of Health Sajid Javid, Minister of Vaccination Zahawi and Minister of Europe and the Americas Morto to discuss COVID-19 experiences and strategy, as well as the issue of antimicrobial resistance.⁸⁰³¹

On 14 July 2021, Ministry of Health representatives cooperated with other officials of the Pan-American Health Organization, including some from Brazil, in formulating an evaluation of the effectiveness of the various COVID-19 vaccines used in Latin America.⁸⁰³² They decided that the study would be carried out simultaneously in all participating countries beginning in August 2021 with results coming in February 2022.⁸⁰³³

⁸⁰²⁶ Exchange between Argentina and the United Kingdom advances to explore cooperation in the local production of COVID-19 vaccines (Buenos Aires) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-intercambio-entre-argentina-y-reino-unido-para-explorar-cooperacion-en-la-produccion>

⁸⁰²⁷ Exchange between Argentina and the United Kingdom advances to explore cooperation in the local production of COVID-19 vaccines (Buenos Aires) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-intercambio-entre-argentina-y-reino-unido-para-explorar-cooperacion-en-la-produccion>

⁸⁰²⁸ Mercosur countries make progress in joint prevention of chronic non-communicable diseases (Buenos Aires) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/paises-del-mercosur-avanzan-en-la-prevencion-conjunta-de-enfermedades-cronicas-no>

⁸⁰²⁹ Vizotti led a MERCOSUR meeting to address the problem of antibiotic resistance (Buenos Aires) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-encabezo-encuentro-de-mercosur-para-abordar-la-problematika-de-la-resistencia-los>

⁸⁰³⁰ Vizotti led a MERCOSUR meeting to address the problem of antibiotic resistance (Buenos Aires) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-encabezo-encuentro-de-mercosur-para-abordar-la-problematika-de-la-resistencia-los>

⁸⁰³¹ Vizotti meets in London with the Minister for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment and the UK Health Minister (Buenos Aires) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-se-reune-en-londres-con-el-ministro-para-el-despliegue-de-vacunas-contra-la-covid>

⁸⁰³² Health teams participated in the presentation of the project "Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines" organized by PAHO (Buenos Aires) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-participaron-de-la-presentacion-del-proyecto-efectividad-de-las-vacunas>

⁸⁰³³ Health teams participated in the presentation of the project "Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines" organized by PAHO (Buenos Aires) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-participaron-de-la-presentacion-del-proyecto-efectividad-de-las-vacunas>

On 29 July 2021, the Minister Vizotti presented Argentina's findings regarding the effectiveness of the Sinopharm vaccine to a World Health Organization panel including representatives from China and Brazil, among other countries.⁸⁰³⁴ The vaccine was found to have 84 per cent effectiveness based on its' use in Argentina.⁸⁰³⁵

In meeting with representatives of the governments of other G20 countries to discuss health strategies and outcomes and to cooperate on formulating new ones, Argentina has fully complied with its' commitment to continually share timely, transparent, and standardized public health information. By cooperating with other G20 countries in original public health research, it has fully complied with its' commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized public health data.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dre Daley

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁸⁰³⁶

On 4 December 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Women of Australia Marise Payne co-chaired the third Malaysia-Australia Annual Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The ministers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to further cooperation to combat the pandemic. Furthermore, they "underlined the importance of sharing the benefits of scientific and medical research and development on mutually agreed terms, strengthening public healthcare systems, and improving readiness for future global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and recognised the importance of the World Health Assembly's independent evaluation into the COVID-19 response in this regard."⁸⁰³⁷

On 15 December 2020, Australia met with Indonesia and Timor-Leste to discuss strengthening their trilateral cooperation. The first item on the agenda was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the respective countries and region, as well as the challenges faced due to the pandemic. "Ministers discussed the importance of working together in support of the health security, economic recovery and stability of the region, including to ensure fair and equitable distribution of safe and affordable vaccines, and supporting vulnerable communities. Ministers also discussed ways to

⁸⁰³⁴ The WHO strategic advisory group of experts on immunization invited Argentina to present a study of the effectiveness of the Sinopharm vaccine (Buenos Aires) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-grupo-de-expertos-de-asesoramiento-estrategico-sobre-inmunizacion-de-la-oms-invito>

⁸⁰³⁵ The WHO strategic advisory group of experts on immunization invited Argentina to present a study of the effectiveness of the Sinopharm vaccine (Buenos Aires) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-grupo-de-expertos-de-asesoramiento-estrategico-sobre-inmunizacion-de-la-oms-invito>

⁸⁰³⁶ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁸⁰³⁷ 3rd Australia-Malaysia Annual Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/3rd-australia-malaysia-annual-foreign-ministers-meeting>

combat the rise of threats in cyber space including disinformation and misinformation in the context of the pandemic.”⁸⁰³⁸

On 18 December 2020, Australia participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”⁸⁰³⁹

On 19 February 2021, Australia attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Japan, India and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁸⁰⁴⁰

On 30 March 2021, Australia issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) study on COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁸⁰⁴¹

On 4 May 2021, Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne met with Indian Minister for External Affairs Subramanyam Jaishankar and French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian in London to discuss trilateral cooperation in confronting challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰⁴² Topics discussed included fair and equitable access to high quality, safe, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and treatments globally.⁸⁰⁴³ They highlighted that this is essential for collective recovery.⁸⁰⁴⁴

⁸⁰³⁸ Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-indonesia-timor-leste-trilateral-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁸⁰³⁹ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁸⁰⁴⁰ Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁸⁰⁴¹ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁸⁰⁴² India-France-Australia Joint Statement on the occasion of the Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/india-france-australia-joint-statement-occasion-trilateral-ministerial-dialogue>

⁸⁰⁴³ India-France-Australia Joint Statement on the occasion of the Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/india-france-australia-joint-statement-occasion-trilateral-ministerial-dialogue>

⁸⁰⁴⁴ India-France-Australia Joint Statement on the occasion of the Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/india-france-australia-joint-statement-occasion-trilateral-ministerial-dialogue>

On 27 July 2021, Minister Payne discussed regional response and collaboration to the COVID-19 pandemic at the Pacific Island Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting.⁸⁰⁴⁵ The Foreign Ministers recognized that certain communities in the region were experiencing hardship with new outbreaks.⁸⁰⁴⁶

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized data or information by taking on significant measures to develop new programs to educate the public on new health information.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arun Eswaran

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, Brazil attended the 2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum through pre-recorded videos. Topics of the forum included how Korea and Latin America would officialise their cooperation in health, medical, and disease control and prevention, and how they would ensure the fair distribution of treatments and vaccines.⁸⁰⁴⁷

On 30 November 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez exchanged experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges it posed to their respective countries.⁸⁰⁴⁸

On 25 February 2021, Brazil met with Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay and Peru for the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of the Forum for the Progress and Development of South America. The participants discussed the importance of using the IHR to strengthen health response and collaborate with other multilateral organizations to ensure universal, equitable, and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines, demonstrating the sharing of best practices. They declared to “Exchange best practices in communication and access to information that is timely, correct and easy to understand on public health issues and health emergencies and combat misinformation and misinformation, especially about vaccination against COVID-19.” And “To request the countries of South America to resort to the application of the International Health Regulations, when the management of such an event deserves, through timely communication and exchange of information, and with the support of the Pan American Health Organization.”⁸⁰⁴⁹

⁸⁰⁴⁵ Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/pacific-islands-forum-foreign-ministers-meeting-0>

⁸⁰⁴⁶ Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/pacific-islands-forum-foreign-ministers-meeting-0>

⁸⁰⁴⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁸⁰⁴⁸ Videoconference between presidents Jair Bolsonaro and Alberto Fernández (Brasilia) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/videoconference-between-presidents-jair-bolsonaro-and-alberto-fernandez>

⁸⁰⁴⁹ Declaration of the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of PROSUR [Portuguese and Spanish] (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/declaration-of-the-5-extraordinary-meeting-of-presidents-of-prosur-portuguese-and-spanish>

On 7 March 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ernesto Araujo and Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabi Ashkenazi held a dialogue to discuss pressing issues, including potential recovery paths from the COVID-19 pandemic through a public health perspective. They agreed to “support engagements and foster partnerships between research institutes in Israel and Brazil, in the public and private sectors, for the development of vaccines, treatments and medicines for COVID-19.”⁸⁰⁵⁰

On 7 May 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Alberto Franco França and Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Arancha González Laya held the Ministerial Political Dialogue Commission where they exchanged COVID-19 pandemic experiences and reaffirmed their commitment to collaborate in a timely manner to ensure equitable and prompt access to vaccines.⁸⁰⁵¹

On 13 July 2021, Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga and World Health Organization (WHO) director Tedros Adhanom met to confer about immunization advancement, vaccination of Indigenous peoples and increasing local capacity for vaccine production.⁸⁰⁵²

On 21 July 2021, Minister Queiroga participated in a High Level Panel organized by the WHO and the World Trade Organization and discussed the role of the Brazilian Unified Health System in responding to the pandemic and considered strategies to improve the distribution and timely access to vaccines.⁸⁰⁵³

On 28 July 2021, Minister Queiroga engaged in the Meeting of Health Ministers of the BRICS where he emphasized the importance of strengthening Brazilian Unified Health System during the pandemic and supporting national and multinational strategies to respond to the pandemic.⁸⁰⁵⁴

On 9 September 2021, President Bolsonaro attended the 8th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The leaders at the Summit emphasized the importance of global vaccine equity and support the establishment of a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System to prevent mass infectious disease risks for identifying future pandemics.⁸⁰⁵⁵ The need for this system was based on satisfaction within intra-BRICS cooperation throughout the pandemic.⁸⁰⁵⁶

Brazil has taken steps to regularly and continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information by sharing experiences with various countries and international organizations.

⁸⁰⁵⁰ Joint Brazil-Israel Declaration – Jerusalem, March 7, 2021 (Brasilia) 7 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/joint-brazil-israel-declaration-2013-jerusalem-march-7-2021>

⁸⁰⁵¹ Meeting of the Brazil-Spain Ministerial Political Dialogue Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/meeting-of-the-brazil-spain-ministerial-political-dialogue-commission>

⁸⁰⁵² Minister meets WHO Director-General to discuss solutions for more vaccines, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 14 July 2021. Access: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-se-reune-com-diretor-geral-da-oms-para-debater-solucoes-para-mais-vacinas>

⁸⁰⁵³ Minister reinforces role of SUS and vaccination program at WHO and WTO event, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-reforca-papel-do-sus-e-programa-de-vacinacao-em-evento-da-oms-e-omc>

⁸⁰⁵⁴ Queiroga highlights the strengthening of the SUS and the vaccination campaign against Covid-19 at a meeting with BRICS Health ministers, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/queiroga-destaca-fortalecimento-do-sus-e-campanha-de-vacinacao-contra-a-covid-19-em-reuniao-com-ministros-da-saude-do-brics>

⁸⁰⁵⁵ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸⁰⁵⁶ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mehr Mukhtar

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 29 March 2021, Canada and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) donated computer equipment to Belize. The equipment will support Belize's ability "to implement health measures such as planning, and surveillance and risk monitoring, the ability to efficiently prevent, detect, and respond to health risks and emergencies." The data and information gathered with this equipment will then be able to be shared with the rest of the world.⁸⁰⁵⁷

On 30 March 2021, Canada issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Australia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization's study on the source of COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that "With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease... We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world's ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks."⁸⁰⁵⁸

On 5 May 2021, Canada announced that it is teaming up with international partners to develop a "standardized vaccine certification for travel."⁸⁰⁵⁹ Minister of Tourism Melanie Joly stated that there were ongoing talks with G7 and some G20 partners regarding vaccine certification. This stance is to position themselves as a safe destination, according to Minister Joly.⁸⁰⁶⁰

On 7 May 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng released a statement on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. Minister Ng stated "The Government of Canada remains committed to working with all international partners to reach a rapid and just end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government firmly believes in the importance of protecting [intellectual property], and recognizes the integral role that industry has played in innovating to develop and deliver life-saving COVID-19 vaccines. Canada is ready to discuss proposals on a waiver for intellectual property protection, in particular for COVID-19 vaccines, under the WTO Agreement on [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights]."⁸⁰⁶¹

⁸⁰⁵⁷ PAHO/WHO Belize and the Government of Canada donate computer equipment to strengthen public health surveillance at Belize's land borders, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/29-3-2021-pahowho-belize-and-government-canada-donate-computer-equipment-strengthen-public>

⁸⁰⁵⁸ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁸⁰⁵⁹ Canada Working with G20 Partners to Develop Standard 'Vaccine Certification, Reuters (Ottawa) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7835342/canada-vaccine-passport-travel-immunity/>

⁸⁰⁶⁰ Canada Working with G20 Partners to Develop Standard 'Vaccine Certification, Reuters (Ottawa) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7835342/canada-vaccine-passport-travel-immunity/>

⁸⁰⁶¹ Statement by Minister Ng on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/statement-by-minister-ng-on-intellectual-property-waiver-for-covid-19-vaccines.html>

On 11 May 2021, Canada's COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) and the Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG) announced ongoing and new studies on the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines authorized in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Research Immunization Network, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the CITF are working together through the VSRG to find and support the necessary studies to contribute to the data and information on vaccine efficacy.⁸⁰⁶²

On 14 June 2021, the European Union-Canada Summit was hosted in Brussels in which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen discussed how to jointly solve the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰⁶³ The discussed plan of recovery centres around overcoming COVID-19 through a “sustainable, people-centred, and inclusive recovery.”⁸⁰⁶⁴ The leaders discussed coordinated efforts to ensure universal and equitable vaccines and treatments as well as working together to strengthen global health security through the World Health Organization to be much more prepared for future pandemics.⁸⁰⁶⁵

On 27 June 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau and Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi met to discuss expanding access to vaccines to lower income countries and how to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰⁶⁶

On 14 July 2021, Minister Garneau met with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken to discuss Canadian and American progress in ending the global COVID-19 pandemic, which was identified in the Roadmap for a Renewed United States-Canada Partnership.⁸⁰⁶⁷

On 11 August 2021, Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific at Global Affairs Paul Thoppil and Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members virtually met to deepen the cooperation of their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰⁶⁸ The meeting discussed appreciations that ASEAN has for Canada's support in aiding them through the Mitigation of Biological Threats plan as well as provisions of protective equipment for the COVID-19 pandemic. The second point of the meeting was to discuss Canada's possible support for the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery plan to which Canada discussed mutual issues of common concern between the two countries.⁸⁰⁶⁹

⁸⁰⁶² Studies being launched to support vaccine effectiveness and safety monitoring across Canada, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (Ottawa) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca/studies-being-launched-to-support-vaccine-effectiveness-and-safety-monitoring-across-canada/>

⁸⁰⁶³ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, Council of the EU and the European Council (Brussels) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁰⁶⁴ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, Council of the EU and the European Council (Brussels) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁰⁶⁵ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, Council of the EU and the European Council (Brussels) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁰⁶⁶ Minister Garneau meets with Indonesian counterpart, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/minister-garneau-meets-with-indonesian-counterpart.html>

⁸⁰⁶⁷ Minister of Foreign Affairs speaks with United States Secretary of State, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/07/minister-of-foreign-affairs-speaks-with-united-states-secretary-of-state.html>

⁸⁰⁶⁸ ASEAN, Canada reaffirm commitment to deepen partnership, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Jakarta) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://asean.org/speechandstatement/asean-canada-reaffirm-commitment-to-deepen-partnership/>

⁸⁰⁶⁹ ASEAN, Canada reaffirm commitment to deepen partnership, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Jakarta) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://asean.org/speechandstatement/asean-canada-reaffirm-commitment-to-deepen-partnership/>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized data or information through exchanging experiences and collaborating with other countries as well as regional and international organizations to overcome and mitigate problems relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shereen Marouf Mourad

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 2 January 2021, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed China's efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Yi underlined how China "organized over 100 video meetings with experts from other countries, opened an online knowledge center to share China's experiences with all countries, and published eight updated versions of diagnosis and therapeutic solutions and seven updated versions of prevention and control protocols."⁸⁰⁷⁰

On 14 February 2021, one of the members of the World Health Organization (WHO) team investigating the source of SARS-CoV-1-19 stated that China refused to hand over key data on early cases and only provided a summary. Specifically, the WHO requested the raw data on the 174 identified cases of the virus from Wuhan in December 2019.⁸⁰⁷¹

As of March 2021, mass vaccinations are being administered to the population in China. However, due to the withheld trial data, none of the vaccines developed in China have received full regulatory approval from the WHO and only one out of more than a dozen Chinese vaccines has received an emergency approval from the WHO.⁸⁰⁷²

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine co-hosted the Forum on Traditional Chinese Medicine and International Cooperation to Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic, under the theme of Deepen Traditional Chinese Medicine Exchanges and Cooperation, Build a Global Community of Health for All. Officials and leaders from 28 countries and regions, as well as the WHO, attended the forum to exchange views and share information on tackling the pandemic, including through traditional Chinese medicine.⁸⁰⁷³

On 31 March 2021, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that "Data was withheld from World Health Organization investigators who travelled to China to research the origins of the coronavirus epidemic."⁸⁰⁷⁴

⁸⁰⁷⁰ Chinese FM pledges continuous efforts in global COVID-19 response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1844082.shtml

⁸⁰⁷¹ Covid-19 pandemic: China 'refused to give data' to WHO team, BBC News (London) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56054468>

⁸⁰⁷² China's Dangerous Game Around Covid-19 Vaccines, Human Rights Watch (New York) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/04/chinas-dangerous-game-around-covid-19-vaccines>

⁸⁰⁷³ Forum on Traditional Chinese Medicine and International Cooperation to Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic Wraps up, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1866235.shtml

⁸⁰⁷⁴ Data withheld from WHO team probing COVID-19 origins in China – Tedros, Reuters (Geneva) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/who-says-covid-19-origins-study-not-extensive-enough-cites-data-access-2021-03-30/>

On 27 April 2021, China hosted a meeting with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to discuss and exchange information on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. “The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the concerted and productive efforts made by their countries since the start of COVID-19 to combat the virus and promote economic recovery in the spirit of overcoming challenges through cooperation and mutual assistance.”⁸⁰⁷⁵

On 1 June 2021, China confirmed the first human case of H10N3 bird flu. The authorities stated that the infected was in stable condition and in recovery but did not share the details of how the individual was infected.⁸⁰⁷⁶

On 15 July 2021, China reported the first human case of H5N6 bird flu and activated an emergency response in Sichuan Province. Unidentified experts believe the risk of a large-scale spread of the bird flu to be low.⁸⁰⁷⁷

On 15 July 2021, the WHO restated its concerns over China’s failure to provide raw data on COVID-19 pandemic’s origins. On 16 July 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian responded to the concerns by stating that some data is unable to be copied or leave China as it involves personal information.⁸⁰⁷⁸

On 16 July 2021, Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs Liu Jinsong met with Philippine Ambassador to China Jose S. L. Sta. Romana to exchange views on anti-pandemic cooperation.⁸⁰⁷⁹

On 20 July 2021, China reported its first human death from Monkey B virus. The authorities shared the details of how the individual became infected.⁸⁰⁸⁰

On 28 July 2021, Councillor and Minister Wang attended the Opening Ceremony of the Conference on Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China Dialogue Relations and emphasized the need for both China and ASEAN countries to deliver on the China-ASEAN Cooperation Program on Public Health Management to protect health in the region.⁸⁰⁸¹

⁸⁰⁷⁵ Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Joint Response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1872149.shtml

⁸⁰⁷⁶ Bird flu: China sees first human case of rare H10N3 strain, BBC News (London) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-57326075>

⁸⁰⁷⁷ A human case of bird flu was reported in China, The New York Times (New York) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/15/world/china-bird-flu.html>

⁸⁰⁷⁸ China should provide raw data on pandemic’s origins – WHO’s Tedros, Reuters (Geneva) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/china-should-provide-raw-data-pandemics-origins-whos-tedros-2021-07-15/>

⁸⁰⁷⁹ Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Liu Jinsong Meets with Philippine Ambassador to China Jose S. L. Sta. Romana, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/xwlb_663352/t1893595.shtml

⁸⁰⁸⁰ China reports its first death of a human from rare Monkey B virus, The Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/07/19/monkey-b-virus-china-human/>

⁸⁰⁸¹ Wang Yi Attends and Addresses the Opening Ceremony of the Conference on Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjg_663340/yzs_663350/xwlb_663352/t1895951.shtml

On 29 July 2021, Director-General Liu met with Bangladeshi Ambassador to China Mahbub Uz Zaman to exchange experiences in combatting COVID-19.⁸⁰⁸²

On 9 September 2021, President Xi Jinping attended the 8th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The leaders at the Summit emphasized the importance of global vaccine equity and support the establishment of a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System to prevent mass infectious disease risks for identifying future pandemics.⁸⁰⁸³ The need for this system was based on satisfaction within intra-BRICS cooperation throughout the pandemic.⁸⁰⁸⁴

China has partially complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized data or information through sharing identified diseases and sharing experience and best practices with other countries. However, it lacks transparency in relation to disintegrated healthcare data.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Arina Mnatsakanyan

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 7 December 2020, representatives of the French government virtually convened with World Health Organization officials to further develop their existing partnership and cooperation. The meeting largely focused on France's continued contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator's progress, which the government of France helped fund earlier in 2020.⁸⁰⁸⁵ Other topics discussed were the One Health approach, a concerted effort to inform and prepare countries on a global scale about addressing zoonotic diseases.⁸⁰⁸⁶

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁸⁰⁸⁷ The countries pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful

⁸⁰⁸² Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Liu Jinsong Meets with Bangladeshi Ambassador to China Mahbub Uz Zaman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 2 August 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zjzg_663340/yzs_663350/xwlb_663352/t1896432.shtml

⁸⁰⁸³ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸⁰⁸⁴ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸⁰⁸⁵ Strengthening vital partnership between WHO and France, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-01-2021-strengthening-vital-partnership-between-who-and-france>

⁸⁰⁸⁶ FAO, OIE, and WHO launch a guide for countries on taking a One Health approach to addressing zoonotic diseases, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/11-03-2019-fao-oie-and-who-launch-a-guide-for-countries-on-taking-a-one-health-approach-to-addressing-zoonotic-diseases>

⁸⁰⁸⁷ Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

measures.⁸⁰⁸⁸ The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.⁸⁰⁸⁹

On 1 January 2021, the French government created a new autonomous research agency, National Aids Research Agency (ANRS), merging two previously existing research institutions: the ANRS and REACTing.⁸⁰⁹⁰ This research agency studies infectious and emerging diseases in an effort to better inform the global response to such health-related challenges. France's Minister of Solidarity and Health, Olivier Véran, stated that the ANRS initiative would allow for a link with "the countries of the South" and therefore enable information sharing between nations.⁸⁰⁹¹

On 5 February 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron and Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez met virtually to discuss the epidemiological situations in both their countries at length.⁸⁰⁹² The discussion included the vaccination process, the need to increase production of vaccines and how to ensure a more equitable production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁸⁰⁹³

On 30 March 2021, President Macron joined other global leaders calling for an international pandemic treaty.⁸⁰⁹⁴ Such a treaty would improve both national and global health systems in order to facilitate cooperation between nations, in the event of another global health crisis. The main goal is to foster pandemic preparedness and response.⁸⁰⁹⁵ France formally backed the ideas of a treaty to ensure universal and equitable access to health-related information and data for future pandemics.⁸⁰⁹⁶

On 6 April 2021, the French Development Agency in collaboration with Expertise France, another public agency, and the Governance Lab at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering announced the

⁸⁰⁸⁸ Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

⁸⁰⁸⁹ La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

⁸⁰⁹⁰ L'ANRS | Maladies infectieuses émergentes : Sous titre la nouvelle agence de recherche héritière de l'expérience de l'ANRS et de REACTing, Maladies infectieuses émergentes (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.anrs.fr/fr/presse/communiqués-de-presse/775/la-nouvelle-agence-anrs-maladies-infectieuses-emergentes>

⁸⁰⁹¹ Création d'une nouvelle agence de recherche sur les maladies infectieuses et émergentes, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/creation-nouvelle-agence-de-recherche-maladies-infectieuses-et-emergentes>

⁸⁰⁹² The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁸⁰⁹³ The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁸⁰⁹⁴ Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-global-leaders-unite-in-urgent-call-for-international-pandemic-treaty>

⁸⁰⁹⁵ Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-global-leaders-unite-in-urgent-call-for-international-pandemic-treaty>

⁸⁰⁹⁶ Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

seven projects selected to receive the #Data4COVID19 Africa Challenge.⁸⁰⁹⁷ This project, in large part funded and driven by French public agencies, sought to promote “new collaborations around non-traditional, non-statistical datasets,”⁸⁰⁹⁸ informed by the experiences of African nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 6 May 2021, France announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”⁸⁰⁹⁹

On 24 May 2021, President Macron spoke at the 74th World Health Assembly to reaffirm France’s commitment to “coordination, monitoring and information-sharing, and solidarity.”⁸¹⁰⁰ He proposed several tangible measures to support this mission: bolstering the WHO, strengthening the implementation of the International Health Regulations, incorporating the “One Health” approach and ensuring access to accurate and reliable scientific data and information.⁸¹⁰¹

From 11 to 13 June 2021, G7 Leaders, including President Macron, discussed a more “systematic” approach to data collection and sharing as part of their pandemic preparedness partnership.⁸¹⁰² The partnership supported the roadmap put forward by the G7 science academies, which focuses on better global disease surveillance and emphasizes public health response data informing policy responses to epidemics.⁸¹⁰³

France has fully complied with this commitment and taken steps to promote the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information. France has taken active steps to continually share health information with other EU member countries and abroad but has been less consistent concerning the sharing of health data. France has partnered with other countries and global organizations to improve the accessibility of health information throughout the past year and has reaffirmed their commitment to taking similar steps concerning the sharing of health data on a timely basis.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ana Djordjijevic

⁸⁰⁹⁷ The GovLab, AFD, and Expertise France fund COVID-19 data projects in Africa, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php

⁸⁰⁹⁸ The GovLab, AFD, and Expertise France fund COVID-19 data projects in Africa, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php

⁸⁰⁹⁹ Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

⁸¹⁰⁰ Message from French President Emmanuel Macron of the 74th World Health Assembly, Élysée (Paris) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2021/05/24/message-from-french-president-emmanuel-macron-of-the-74th-world-health-assembly>

⁸¹⁰¹ Message from French President Emmanuel Macron of the 74th World Health Assembly, Élysée (Paris) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2021/05/24/message-from-french-president-emmanuel-macron-of-the-74th-world-health-assembly>

⁸¹⁰² G7 called on to support ‘systematic’ approach to global data sharing, Digital Health (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.digitalhealth.net/2021/06/g7-called-on-to-support-systematic-approach-to-global-data-sharing/>

⁸¹⁰³ G7 called on to support ‘systematic’ approach to global data sharing, Digital Health (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.digitalhealth.net/2021/06/g7-called-on-to-support-systematic-approach-to-global-data-sharing/>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁸¹⁰⁴ The countries pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.⁸¹⁰⁵ The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.⁸¹⁰⁶

On 19 February 2021, the Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines, the Paul Ehrlich Institute, published a report on the AstraZeneca vaccine. The report stated that the AstraZeneca vaccine is high effective and safe, providing 70 per cent efficacy against the COVID-19 virus.⁸¹⁰⁷

On 28 April 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel and China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang met for the 6th Sino-German government consultations. They discussed several topics, including the respective experiences with the COVID-19 crisis. Chancellor Merkel stated, "We can only contain this pandemic if we work together – China and Germany can play an important part" and "advocated an open and transparent discussion about vaccine production and called for reciprocal recognition of vaccines – at least at the World Health Organization – to help us win the battle against the virus."⁸¹⁰⁸

On 30 April 2021, Germany and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donated computer equipment to Belize to support its ability to conduct data entry where internet may not be available, to improve Belize's capacity for monitoring and evaluation. This will allow Belize "to gather and record individual data for reporting and documenting any adverse events following immunizations and respond timely," which then can be shared with other countries and the PAHO/WHO.⁸¹⁰⁹

On 5 May 2021, Germany announced that in partnership with the WHO, it would "establish a new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, data, surveillance and analytics innovation" based in Berlin. The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence "will also promote greater access to data and information."⁸¹¹⁰

⁸¹⁰⁴ Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

⁸¹⁰⁵ Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

⁸¹⁰⁶ La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

⁸¹⁰⁷ AstraZeneca vaccine – highly effective and safe, The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/efficacy-astrazeneca-1860430>

⁸¹⁰⁸ Continuing dialogue and expanding cooperation, The Federal Government (Berlin) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/germany-china-1898824>

⁸¹⁰⁹ PAHO/WHO and the Federal Republic of Germany donate laptops, MIFI devices, and vaccination cards to support Belize's Ministry of Health and Wellness' COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/30-4-2021-pahowho-and-federal-republic-germany-donate-laptops-mifi-devices-and-vaccination>

⁸¹¹⁰ WHO, Germany launch new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-who-germany-launch-new-global-hub-for-pandemic-and-epidemic-intelligence>

On 6 May 2021, Germany announced it opposed the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property protections on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.” However, Germany, which hosts BioNTech, and other countries that oppose the notion state that the removal of intellectual property rights will not solve the problem of inequitable access to vaccines.⁸¹¹¹

On 15 July 2021, Health Minister Jens Spahn requested for China to allow further investigations about the origins of the COVID-19 virus.⁸¹¹² While visiting the WHO headquarters, Spahn announced that the shared information was necessary to obtain.⁸¹¹³

On 1 September 2021, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel joined forces with WHO Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to finally open the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin.⁸¹¹⁴ The new centre will be operated by WHO and will collect health data internationally in hopes to be “Better prepared for future epidemics and pandemics.”⁸¹¹⁵ The WHO Hub will collect and evaluate data from all countries, and the information will be shared on a global level.⁸¹¹⁶

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized data or information by meeting and collaborating with other countries and international organizations like the World Health Organization to eliminate barriers to ending the COVID-19 pandemic. These strategies include opposing intellectual property protections on vaccines and collecting health data to share on an international level.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ghazaleh Darini

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 18 February 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented at a workshop hosted by India on COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Modi discussed the “creation of COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to meet the immediate costs of fighting the pandemic and sharing of resources – medicines, personal protective equipment, and testing equipment”; “noted sharing of experiences and learning from each other’s best practices in testing, infection control and medical waste management”; “suggested that we can create a regional platform for collating, compiling and studying data about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines

⁸¹¹¹ Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

⁸¹¹² Germany Calls On China To Allow Further Investigation Into Origins Of COVID-19, Republic World (Mumbai) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/europe/germany-calls-on-china-to-allow-further-investigation-into-origins-of-covid-19.html>

⁸¹¹³ Germany Calls On China To Allow Further Investigation Into Origins Of COVID-19, Republic World (Mumbai) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/europe/germany-calls-on-china-to-allow-further-investigation-into-origins-of-covid-19.html>

⁸¹¹⁴ “Better prepared for future pandemics”, The Federal Government (Berlin) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/pandemic-early-warning-centre-who-1956970>

⁸¹¹⁵ “Better prepared for future pandemics”, The Federal Government (Berlin) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/pandemic-early-warning-centre-who-1956970>

⁸¹¹⁶ “Better prepared for future pandemics”, The Federal Government (Berlin) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/pandemic-early-warning-centre-who-1956970>

among our populations”; and asked “can we similarly create a regional network for promoting technology-assisted epidemiology, for preventing future pandemics?”⁸¹¹⁷

On 19 February 2021, India attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Japan, Australia and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁸¹¹⁸

On 22 March 2021, India supplied over 60.4 million vaccine doses to 76 countries through World Health Organization-GAVI’s COVAX alliance. The goal is to share information about vaccine production in India and global distribution of these vaccines.⁸¹¹⁹

On 6 April 2021, Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform. This new digital platform will enhance the current disease surveillance programme to allow for real-time tracking and track an additional 15 diseases. This initiative will improve disease surveillance and the distribution of disease data.⁸¹²⁰

On 7 May 2021, India met with Colombia for the 9th Foreign Office Consultations. The “two sides also discussed respective national strategies to counter and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible areas of cooperation in exchange of best practices, management strategies and medical research.”⁸¹²¹

On 8 May 2021, India attended the India-EU Leaders’ Meeting. India and the 27 member states discussed “forging closer cooperation on combating the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery,” among other topics.⁸¹²²

On 19 August 2021, India announced that it will be offering the Co-WIN platform as an open-source software to partner countries to address health-related challenges. This platform provides the technology for vaccine registration and monitoring to partner countries.⁸¹²³

On 9 September 2021, Prime Minister Modi hosted the 8th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The leaders at the Summit emphasized the importance of global vaccine equity and support the establishment of a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System to prevent mass infectious disease risks

⁸¹¹⁷ Prime Minister addresses a workshop on "Covid-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward" with 10 Neighbouring Countries, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33542/Prime_Minister_addresses_a_workshop_on_Covid19_Management_Experience_Good_Practices_and_Way_Forward_with_10_Neighbouring_Countries

⁸¹¹⁸ Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁸¹¹⁹ India’s vaccine diplomacy: made in India, shared with the world, Development Policy Centre (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/indias-vaccine-diplomacy-made-in-india-shared-with-the-world-20210329/>

⁸¹²⁰ Union Health Ministry launches Integrated Health Information Platform to track 33 diseases, The New Indian Express (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/06/union-health-minister-harsh-varadhan-launches-integrated-health-information-platform-2286270.html>

⁸¹²¹ 9th India-Colombia Foreign Office Consultations, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33852/9th_IndiaColombia_Foreign_Office_Consultations

⁸¹²² India-EU Leader’s Meeting, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33856/IndiaEU_Leaders_Meeting

⁸¹²³ Foreign Secretary’s Address to the All India Management Association on “Post-vaccine World Order: Dismantling Barriers to Global Business and Travel”, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/34194/foreign+secretarys+address+to+the+all+india+management+association+on+postvaccine+world+order+dismantling+barriers+to+global+business+and+travel>

for identifying future pandemics.⁸¹²⁴ The need for this system was based on satisfaction within intra-BRICS cooperation throughout the pandemic.⁸¹²⁵

India has fully complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized data or information by taking on significant measures to develop new programs and platforms to share information with the public.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arun Eswaran

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁸¹²⁶

On 15 December 2020, Indonesia met with Australia and Timor-Leste to discuss strengthening their trilateral cooperation. The first item on the agenda was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the respective countries and region, as well as the challenges faced due to the pandemic. “Ministers discussed the importance of working together in support of the health security, economic recovery and stability of the region, including to ensure fair and equitable distribution of safe and affordable vaccines, and supporting vulnerable communities. Ministers also discussed ways to combat the rise of threats in cyber space including disinformation and misinformation in the context of the pandemic.”⁸¹²⁷

On 19 January 2021, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin attended a virtual roundtable to discuss the development of value-based healthcare. The discussion, hosted by the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia and the World Economic Forum, focused on the construction and transformation of sustainable health development after the COVID-19 pandemic through value-based healthcare. Value-based healthcare focuses on patient’s health outcome along with the digitalization of health services. The minister emphasized the needed development in information technology.⁸¹²⁸

On 17 March 2021, Director for Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Dr. Siti Nadia Tarmizi addressed the concerns regarding the COVID-19 AstraZeneca and Sinovac vaccines. Dr. Tarmizi also clarified the worries regarding the connection of blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine where she states that on 11 March 2021, the World Health Organization along with the

⁸¹²⁴ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸¹²⁵ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸¹²⁶ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁸¹²⁷ Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-indonesia-timor-lest-trilateral-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁸¹²⁸ Indonesia Supports Value-Based Healthcare in Health Development, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21012100001/indonesia-dukung-konsep-value-based-healthcare-untuk-atasi-masalah-kesehatan-di-tanah-air.html>

European Medicine Association clarifying that there is no link to blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine.⁸¹²⁹

On 8 May 2021, Indonesia called to waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines.⁸¹³⁰ Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno LP Marsudi, emphasized the need for waiving patents to “boost global COVID-19 productions” similar to how Indonesia has “consistently spoken for equal access to vaccines for all”⁸¹³¹ to the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment mechanism. Through the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment Engagement Group meeting on 17 May, co-lead by Minister Marsudi and backed by Ethiopia’s Minister of Health and Canada’s Minister of International Development, 92 countries will be able to acquire vaccines and other materials.⁸¹³²

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry of Health conducted a brief study on the effectiveness of the Sinovac vaccine against COVID-19 infections. The results concluded that two doses of the Sinovac vaccine significantly reduces the risk of COVID-19 and prevents symptoms.⁸¹³³

On 27 June 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi and Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau met to discuss expanding access to vaccines to lower income countries and how to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸¹³⁴

On 9 August 2021, Minister of Communications and Informatics Johnny G. Plate and Argentina’s Secretary of State for Public Innovation Micaela Sanchez Malcolm, held a virtual meeting to discuss digital technology in the upcoming G20 presidency.⁸¹³⁵ Specifically, how digital technology could be used as a solution for handling the COVID-19 virus through digital vaccine certificates.⁸¹³⁶ Argentina affirmed that they would support the discussion of digital technology during Indonesia’s G20 presidency.⁸¹³⁷

⁸¹²⁹ Govt Clarifies Issues Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/feature/2609/govt-clarifies-issues-regarding-covid-19-vaccines>

⁸¹³⁰ Foreign Minister: Indonesia Supports COVID-19 Vaccine Patent, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/foreign-minister-indonesia-supports-covid-19-vaccine-patent-waiver/>

⁸¹³¹ Foreign Minister: Indonesia Supports COVID-19 Vaccine Patent, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/foreign-minister-indonesia-supports-covid-19-vaccine-patent-waiver/>

⁸¹³² Foreign Minister: Indonesia Supports COVID-19 Vaccine Patent, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/foreign-minister-indonesia-supports-covid-19-vaccine-patent-waiver/>

⁸¹³³ Ministry of Health Quick Study: Sinovac Vaccine Effectively Prevents Death, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21051300001/kajian-cepat-kemenkes-vaksin-sinovac-efektif-cegah-kematian.html>

⁸¹³⁴ Minister Garneau meets with Indonesian counterpart, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa). 27 June 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/minister-garneau-meets-with-indonesian-counterpart.html>

⁸¹³⁵ Indonesia, Argentina Discuss Collaboration in G20 in Digital Sector, Antara News (Jakarta). 9 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/182906/indonesia-argentina-discuss-collaboration-in-g20-in-digital-sector>

⁸¹³⁶ Indonesia, Argentina Discuss Collaboration in G20 in Digital Sector, Antara News (Jakarta). 9 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/182906/indonesia-argentina-discuss-collaboration-in-g20-in-digital-sector>

⁸¹³⁷ Indonesia, Argentina Discuss Collaboration in G20 in Digital Sector, Antara News (Jakarta). 9 August 2021. Access Date: 29 August 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/182906/indonesia-argentina-discuss-collaboration-in-g20-in-digital-sector>

On 9 September 2021, the seventh Indonesia-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministers took place in Jakarta Indonesia.⁸¹³⁸ Regarding COVID-19, the ministers emphasized their commitment to timely and equitable vaccines towards a shared regional recovery through being a part of the COVAX Facility (headed by Indonesia).⁸¹³⁹ The Ministers also discussed limited medical equipment a health worker as well as misinformation and disinformation around the pandemic and the vaccines.⁸¹⁴⁰

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized data or information by discussing information regarding the safety and collection of the vaccines as well as participating in roundtables to further technological innovations in health but has failed to consistently share timely, transparent and standardized data.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shereen Marouf Mourad

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 1 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio participated in the 23rd European Union-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ministerial Meeting, where he shared that Italy's response to the pandemic was based on the concepts of people, planet, and prosperity. The Minister emphasized that these concepts would bring prosperity through a better distribution of opportunities.⁸¹⁴¹

On 7 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Del Re attended the 12th call for the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, where she shared how Italy was confronting the second wave of the coronavirus by prioritizing citizens' health while maintaining the national economy, and also by taking precautions. The Vice Minister also emphasized the importance of a coordinated multilateral, global response to mitigate pandemic impacts.⁸¹⁴²

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort

⁸¹³⁸ Joint Statement on the Seventh Indonesia- Australia Foreign and Defence Ministers 2+2 Meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/joint-statement-seventh-indonesia-australia-foreign-and-defence-ministers-22-meeting>

⁸¹³⁹ Joint Statement on the Seventh Indonesia- Australia Foreign and Defence Ministers 2+2 Meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/joint-statement-seventh-indonesia-australia-foreign-and-defence-ministers-22-meeting>

⁸¹⁴⁰ Joint Statement on the Seventh Indonesia- Australia Foreign and Defence Ministers 2+2 Meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/joint-statement-seventh-indonesia-australia-foreign-and-defence-ministers-22-meeting>

⁸¹⁴¹ Minister Di Maio participates in the 23rd EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in virtual format, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-23-riunione-ministeriale-ue-asean-in-formato-virtuale.html

⁸¹⁴² Del Re at the ministerial meeting on emergency response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/del-re-a-riunione-ministeriale-su-risposta-a-emergenza-covid-19.html

to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁸¹⁴³ They pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.⁸¹⁴⁴ The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.⁸¹⁴⁵

On 16 December 2020, Minister Di Maio attended the European Union-Latin American and Caribbean Countries dialogue and shared that a commitment to a multilateral response and promotion of health as a public asset, like Italy has been advocating for, will be key to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸¹⁴⁶

On 8 February 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Sereni announced at the T20 Inception Conference that action towards COVID-19 response should be based on the three pillars of: people, planet, and prosperity. This affirmed Italy's practices towards their response to the pandemic on a national and international level, recognizing the need for equity and sustainability.⁸¹⁴⁷

On 25 and 26 March 2021, Italy hosted a two-day group health meeting among G20 members. This meeting was to affirm coordination among G20 members and to share data and ideas. A professor at the Sapienza University of Rome, Moreno Di Marco, noted correlation between the pandemic and environmental health. Additionally, there were presentations held regarding preparedness and antimicrobial resistance.⁸¹⁴⁸ The meeting detailed using technology to gauge risk and spread of zoonotic diseases, and potentially applying a vaccination campaign on animals to prevent zoonosis.⁸¹⁴⁹

On 13 April 2021, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness discussed COVID-19 vaccine development. Both officials discussed establishing a database for all information relating to COVID-19 in order to develop a vaccine that could potentially combat all coronaviruses. This idea was brought up given the rise of new COVID-19 variants.⁸¹⁵⁰

⁸¹⁴³ Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

⁸¹⁴⁴ Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

⁸¹⁴⁵ La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

⁸¹⁴⁶ Minister Di Maio at the Informal EU – Latin American and Caribbean Countries Ministers Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-alla-ministeriale-informale-ue-paesi-dell-america-latina-e-caraibi.html

⁸¹⁴⁷ G20; Vice Minister Sereni, build a future focussing on people, the planet, and prosperity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/g20-sereni-costruire-un-futuro-con-al-centro-persone-pianeta-e-prosperta.html

⁸¹⁴⁸ Italian Presidency of the G20, second meeting of the Health Working Group, Ministry of Health (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_2_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=nas&id=2196

⁸¹⁴⁹ Second Health Working Group Meeting, March 25-26, 2021, CONCEPT NOTE, Group of Twenty Italy (Rome), 25 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_5459_2_file.pdf

⁸¹⁵⁰ COVID-19; Sereni meets Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/04/covid-19-sereni-incontra-richard-hatchett-ceo-della-coalizione-per-le-innovazioni-nella-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html

On 20 April 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency, in joint with the ruling of the European Medicines Agency, reported that the Johnson & Johnson vaccination was best used for peoples 60 years and older. Additionally, both agencies reported low risk of contracting thrombosis from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.⁸¹⁵¹

On 6 May 2021, Italy announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporary eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”⁸¹⁵²

On 12 May 2021, Vice Minister Sereni attended the Facilitation Council of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and suggested increasing global vaccine production, promoting international cooperation, and fostering the development of production capabilities to ensure the demand for tests, treatments, and vaccines to create more equity in vaccine distribution.⁸¹⁵³

On 17 May 2021, Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Health issued a safety notice over cases of dietary supplements containing Sildenafil, a pharmaceutical unsuited for dietary supplements, being sold online through the European Commission’s Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed. It is a tool used by countries within the European Union to share information and alerts with each other.⁸¹⁵⁴

On 21 May 2021, a G20 Global Health Summit was held in Rome. The meeting concluded with the signing of “The Rome Declaration” by the Italian Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission.⁸¹⁵⁵ The declaration reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to sharing information with other member states, highlighted the need to invest more funds into health workers, research; and distributing and diversifying COVID-19 vaccinations.⁸¹⁵⁶

On 10 July 2021, a G20 conference was held in Venice, with one of the topics concerning the movement of peoples within Europe with the presence of the Delta COVID-19 variant.⁸¹⁵⁷ Economy Minister Daniele Franco stated that any policies to restrict the movement of people should be avoided. In addition, there were conversations about sharing and delivering vaccinations to lower-

⁸¹⁵¹ Covid-19, safe Janssen vaccine; recommended preferential use to over 60, Ministry of Health (Rome) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁸¹⁵² Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

⁸¹⁵³ COVID-19: Sereni, strengthening global commitment against the pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/covid-19-sereni-aumentare-impegno-globale-contro-pandemia_0.html

⁸¹⁵⁴ Safety Notice for Sildenafil in Dietary Supplements, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5485

⁸¹⁵⁵ The Global Health Summit ended with the signing of the Rome Declaration, Group of Twenty (Rome) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/the-global-health-summit-ended-with-the-signing-of-the-rome-declaration.html>

⁸¹⁵⁶ The Rome Declaration, Group of Twenty (Rome) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/documenti/documenti/Approfondimenti/GlobalHealthSummit/GlobalHealthSummit_RomeDeclaration.pdf

⁸¹⁵⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Third Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, Group of Twenty (Rome) 10 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Communique-Third-G20-FMBCG-meeting-9-10-July-2021.pdf>

income countries who struggle to gain access to vaccines. Italian representatives stated that this issue will be discussed further in a future G20 summit in October.⁸¹⁵⁸

On 26 July 2021, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Benedetto Della Vedova attended a conference in North Macedonia which covered the importance of cooperation between European countries in order to combat issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸¹⁵⁹

On 26 July 2021, Deputy Minister Manlio Di Stefano met with Georgian Foreign Minister Teimuraz Janjalia to discuss bilateral topics such as the current COVID-19 pandemic and resolving the economic repercussions that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸¹⁶⁰

On 5 August 2021, Italy hosted a G20 Ministerial Meeting emphasizing the need for countries to digitalize information and coordination. The meeting concluded that the pandemic has increased usage and the need for digitalization among countries.⁸¹⁶¹

On 6 August 2021, Italy signed a joint declaration with the G20 Ministers of Research, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.⁵ The declaration acknowledged how digitalization can be used by countries in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating recovery.⁸¹⁶²

On 5 and 6 September 2021, Italy hosted the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting in Rome, with the topics mainly concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. A declaration was formed detailing the goals of the G20 and actions needed to accelerate post-pandemic recovery and to build response systems for future pandemics.⁸¹⁶³

Italy has fully complied with its commitment by hosting and actively attending international conferences discussing resolutions for problems exacerbated by the pandemic. Italy has also shared timely, transparent and standardized data by coordinating in conjunction with the European Medicines Agency, over the safety of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and by sharing laboratories for vaccine analysis, displaying Italy's participation in coordinating with other countries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Phoebe Han

⁸¹⁵⁸ Virus variants threaten global recovery, G20 warns, Reuters (London) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/g20-signs-off-tax-crackdown-warns-virus-variants-2021-07-10/>

⁸¹⁵⁹ Deputy Minister B. Della Vedova visits the Republic of North Macedonia, 25-26 July 2021 (Rome) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/visita-del-sottosegretario-b-della-vedova-nella-repubblica-di-macedonia-del-nord-25-26-luglio-2021.html

⁸¹⁶⁰ Deputy Minister Di Stefano holds bilateral Consultations with Georgia (Rome) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/sottosegretario-di-stefano-tiene-consultazioni-bilaterali-con-la-georgia_0.html

⁸¹⁶¹ The Digital Ministers approves a Declaration identifying 12 actions to accelerate the digital transition of the economy and governments (Trieste) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 28 August 2021. <https://www.g20.org/the-digital-ministers-approves-a-declaration-identifying-12-actions-to-accelerate-the-digital-transition-of-the-economy-and-governments.html>

⁸¹⁶² DECLARATION OF G20 MINISTERS on Leveraging Research, Higher Education and Digitalisation for a Strong, Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Recovery , Group of Twenty (Rome) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 28 August 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/G20-Ministerial-Declaration.pdf>

⁸¹⁶³ Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, Group of Twenty (Rome) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/G20_Italia_2021_Health_Declaration_final_05092021_OFFICIAL.pdf

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi shared Japan's response to developing and ensuring fair access to COVID-19 vaccines with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide.⁸¹⁶⁴

On 27 November 2020, Minister Motegi and Swiss Head for Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis discussed the importance of fair access to COVID-19 vaccines and medications, as well as reforms for the WHO due to the coronavirus.⁸¹⁶⁵

On 17 December 2020, Minister Motegi and United States State Secretary Mike Pompeo shared their respective countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating an exchange of information through communication.⁸¹⁶⁶

On 18 December 2020, Japan participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Australia, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants "exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel."⁸¹⁶⁷

On 19 February 2021, Japan attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Australia, India and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁸¹⁶⁸

On 18 March 2021, the Health Sciences Council expert committee meeting announced their plan to include people with severe mental illnesses or disabilities in the COVID-19 vaccination priority list. The council stressed to the public that this decision comes from research showing that people with mental illnesses or disabilities carry a higher risk of death from COVID-19.⁸¹⁶⁹

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the final report of a research project on preventing and responding to outbreaks and spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships, sharing best practices and framework for the international community. The Ministry commissioned the reports after the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 on cruise ships in 2020.⁸¹⁷⁰

On 30 March 2021, Japan issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health

⁸¹⁶⁴ Japan-Norway Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000161.html

⁸¹⁶⁵ Japan-Switzerland Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000251.html

⁸¹⁶⁶ Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000164.html

⁸¹⁶⁷ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁸¹⁶⁸ Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁸¹⁶⁹ Japan COVID-19 vaccine priority list to include people with mental disabilities, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/03/18/national/science-health/covid-19-japan-vaccinations-medicine>

⁸¹⁷⁰ Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs NAKANISHI Satoshi received the final report of the research project on preventing and responding to the outbreak and the spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002988.html

Organization's (WHO) study on COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that "With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world's ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks."⁸¹⁷¹

On 1 April 2021, Minister Motegi shared Japan's best practices in creating countermeasures against the pandemic at the Japan-Arab Political Dialogue. Minister Motegi "explained Japan's support for the Arab countries on achieving the Universal Health Coverage, including addressing COVID-19 based on the principle of human security, explaining successful examples of Japan's existing assistance that has contributed to countermeasures against the pandemic."⁸¹⁷²

On 19 May 2021, Minister Motegi and the United States Trade Representative Katherine C. Tai discussed best practices regarding equitable vaccine accessibility and expansion of international vaccine production through contributing to the COVAX facility and engaging in discussions with the World Trade Organization.⁸¹⁷³

On 9 June 2021, Minister Motegi and Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne emphasized the importance in ensuring equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine globally through collaborative means.⁸¹⁷⁴

On 10 June 2021, Minister Motegi and Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno L. P. Marsudi exchanged views on how to combat COVID-19 through mutual collaboration.⁸¹⁷⁵

On 17 June 2021, Japan and the United States exchanged views on health and biomedical research and COVID-19 resiliency at the 16th Japan-United States Joint Working-Level Committee Meeting.⁸¹⁷⁶

On 21 June 2021, Japan and Spain shared recent developments and research progress in collaborative activities in various topics, including biomedicine.⁸¹⁷⁷

On 22 July 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga explained in a call with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom that Japan was making efforts to accelerate vaccinations in the country and ensure equitable vaccine access globally. Moreover, Suga noted the importance of sharing data and

⁸¹⁷¹ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁸¹⁷² The Second Japan-Arab Political Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002991.html

⁸¹⁷³ Telephone Talk between Foreign Minister MOTEGI and United States Trade Representative Tai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000193.html

⁸¹⁷⁴ Japan-Australia Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000201.html

⁸¹⁷⁵ Japan-Indonesia Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000202.html

⁸¹⁷⁶ Joint Press release The 16th Japan-U.S. Joint Working-Level Committee Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000300.html

⁸¹⁷⁷ The 3rd Meeting of the Japan-Spain Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000301.html

information, including conducting studies to find the origin of COVID-19 – an example of a best practice.⁸¹⁷⁸

On 23 July 2021, Minister Motegi and WHO Director-General Adhanom called to explain strategies in responding to global health challenges. Minister Motegi emphasized the need to conduct further and more thorough studies regarding the origin of COVID-19, and that there should be no geographical vacuum in responding to global health crises.⁸¹⁷⁹

On 4 August 2021, Minister Motegi met with Antigua and Barbuda Minister for Foreign Affairs Everly Paul Chet Greene to discuss the need for cooperation in international issues such as COVID-19 countermeasures.⁸¹⁸⁰

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information as outlined by the International Health Regulations through sharing updates on collaborative research processes and emphasizing the need to cooperate to overcome global health crises including COVID-19.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Shanice Burton and Ingrid Wong

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, Korea hosted the 2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum. Members from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Korea Drug Development Fund, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the International Vaccine Institute, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, and officials of four Latin American countries were in attendance. Topics of the forum included how Korea and Latin America would officialise their cooperation in health, medical, and disease control and prevention, and how they would ensure the fair distribution of treatments and vaccines.⁸¹⁸¹

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁸¹⁸²

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the second Korea-Middle East (United Arab Emirates [UAE]) Public Health Cooperation Conference. The importance of collaboration

⁸¹⁷⁸ Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide by Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/press3e_000215.html

⁸¹⁷⁹ Meeting between Foreign Minister MOTEGI and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000219.html

⁸¹⁸⁰ Japan-Antigua and Barbuda Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000210.html

⁸¹⁸¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁸¹⁸² MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

among the countries was stressed, as well as the opportunity for Korea's health industry to share its advanced technology, quarantine capabilities and public health regulations with the UAE.⁸¹⁸³

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety announced that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) adopted the Korean method of COVID-19 screening. Korea discussed the method with ISO members and a special Korean committee developed a plan for the standardization of their screening method to submit to the ISO.⁸¹⁸⁴

On 5 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kyung-wha Kang attended the 16th Manama Dialogue's First Plenary Session on "Global Governance in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic," where she shared that advanced technology, trust, and cooperation were the most important factors to overcome the pandemic and in sharing accurate information, demonstrating best practices.⁸¹⁸⁵

On 9 December 2020, a convention in Seoul was opened to share the results of Korea's international cooperation. The convention gathered representatives from 150 organizations, including government ministries, publicly funded think tanks, and distinguished figures from around the world. The topics covered included explanations of Korea's quarantine system, medical treatment, and health care.⁸¹⁸⁶

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Jong-kun Choi participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam. Korea explained that although Korea's COVID-19 cases were rising, the country was able to respond to the pandemic effectively through the "3T (Testing, Tracing, and Treatment) strategy," alongside social distancing reinforcement and conducting more diagnostic tests.⁸¹⁸⁷ Furthermore, the participants "exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel."⁸¹⁸⁸

On 29 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a virtual meeting among countries in the region with the goal to establish the "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health." This collaborative initiative was held to strengthen the capacity for joint response among regional countries and implement material and technology exchanges, to assist with the response to regional and transboundary health security crises.⁸¹⁸⁹

On 15 February 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) approved the Korean version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the pharmaceutical company SK Bioscience. Due to this

⁸¹⁸³ 2nd Korea-Middle East (UAE) Public Health Cooperation Conference Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321404

⁸¹⁸⁴ Korea's COVID-19 Screening Methodology Adopted as International Standard, Korea.net (Sejong) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192507>

⁸¹⁸⁵ Minister of Foreign Affairs Delivers Speech at 16th Manama Dialogue's First Plenary Session on "Global Governance in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic," Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321421

⁸¹⁸⁶ Convention in Seoul Shares Korea's Global Cooperation Experience, Korea.net (Sejong) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192640>

⁸¹⁸⁷ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁸¹⁸⁸ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁸¹⁸⁹ Track 1.5 Virtual Meeting to Launch "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health" Take Place on Dec. 29, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321475

approval and collaboration, Korea was able to utilize the data and information it had consolidated surrounding COVID-19 to contribute to the distribution of more AstraZeneca vaccines soon.⁸¹⁹⁰

On 17 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Information and Communications Technology opened the 2021 Korea- Latin America and the Caribbean Digital Cooperation Forum, with high profile officials from all participating countries in attendance. A goal of the Digital Cooperation Forum was for all the countries to collaborate on the sharing of data and information in the categories of medicine, technology, health and medical services. This was in an effort to strengthen cooperation between Korea and Latin America.⁸¹⁹¹

On 18 March 2021, Korea Health Industry Development Institution and the Ministry of Health and Welfare held the 11th Global Healthcare and Medical Tourism Conference. The event consisted of briefing sessions, academic conferences, seminars, business conferences, and public relations events. This conference was a way for the Korean government to analyze global healthcare trends and demonstrate Korean healthcare research, data, policies, and technology.⁸¹⁹²

On 23 March 2021, Korea announced it was boosting cooperation with Costa Rica to improve the strength of Korea's ties with Latin America. Korea and Costa Rica plan to work together on projects to establish access to vaccines and medical supplies for both countries. This will be done by Korea and Costa Rica collaborating in sharing data and research that will help further the development of health care and pharmaceuticals.⁸¹⁹³

On 30 March 2021, Korea issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Japan, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO's COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that "With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world's ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks."⁸¹⁹⁴

On 31 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the "High-level symposium on Korea's leadership on global health in the COVID-19 era and beyond" with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. At the symposium, Korea shared best practices in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included effective pandemic response policy, public participation, and innovative technologies.⁸¹⁹⁵

On 4 and 5 May 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-yong Chung attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting and shared Korea's experience in responding to the COVID-19

⁸¹⁹⁰ WHO Oks AstraZeneca Vaccine Made in Korea for Emergency Use, Korea.net (Sejong) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Society/view?articleId=194956>

⁸¹⁹¹ Forum Proposes Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation to Overcome COVID-19, Korea.net (Sejong) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Sci-Tech/view?articleId=196013>

⁸¹⁹² Medical Korea 2021 Kicks off to Demonstrate K-Healthcare, Korea Biomedical Review (Seoul) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=10719>

⁸¹⁹³ Cooperation with Costa Rica to Boost Korea's Ties with Latin America, Korea.net (Sejong) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=196195>

⁸¹⁹⁴ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁸¹⁹⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Holds "High-level symposium on Korea's leadership on global health in the COVID-19 era and beyond," Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321617

pandemic. Chung urged the necessity of international cooperation to ensure equity in vaccine distribution.⁸¹⁹⁶

On 22 May 2021, Korea and the United States pledged to strengthen the alliance between the two countries and work towards addressing critical issues of importance to the Indo-Pacific region and the world. This alliance will include expanding cooperation between the two countries regarding COVID-19 response, global health, health research, and health security.⁸¹⁹⁷

On 11 June 2021, Health Minister Kwon Deok-cheol participated in the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting. The Health Ministers discussed measures to overcome COVID-19 and prepare for future pandemics. Minister Kwon proposed developing a globally collaborative pandemic surveillance system based on digital technology, suggesting that Korea can contribute to advancing the world's pandemic response capacity, by specifically sharing their digital technology and the research and data that is used to develop and implement such technology.⁸¹⁹⁸

On 5 August 2021, President Moon Jae-in announced during the first meeting of a private-public joint committee created to establish Korea as a global vaccine hub that Korea will work to strengthen the global cooperation system regarding vaccine technology, research, and distribution. President Moon said this will be done by working closely with the United States to ensure that the global vaccine partnership, that was agreed upon during the Korea-US summit, leads to significant results. This will be done by expanding Korea's vaccine partnerships with the United Kingdom, Germany, and other countries. Communication and cooperation with global vaccine research institutes, manufacturing companies, and international organizations such as the World Health Organization will also be improved.⁸¹⁹⁹

On 17 August 2021, President Moon held a summit with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation and expanding the strategic partnerships between the two countries. Improving cooperation in the health care and medical sector, exchanging medical personnel and knowledge, and partaking in joint efforts in the prevention, management and response to infectious diseases are all elements that will be worked on to expand the collaboration between the two countries.⁸²⁰⁰

On 2-3 September 2021, the National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation hosted a joint conference with the Drug Information Association. The conference aimed to strengthen international competitiveness and collaboration. The conference included domestic and foreign

⁸¹⁹⁶ Minister of Foreign Affairs Attends G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321665

⁸¹⁹⁷ United States- Republic of Korea Partnership, Office of the President (Seoul) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/BriefingSpeeches/Briefings/549>

⁸¹⁹⁸ Minister Kwon Participates in G7 Health Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong) 11 June 2021. Access Date 22 July 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366060

⁸¹⁹⁹ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Presentation on Korea's Vision and Strategy for Becoming Global Vaccine Hub, Office of the President (Seoul) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021.

<https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/1041>

⁸²⁰⁰ Korea, Kazakhstan to Boost Cooperation in 4th Industrial Revolution Sectors, The Official Website of the Government of Korea (Sejong) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021.

korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=202492

industry experts and regulators to share COVID-19 vaccine development information, strategies for developing innovative drugs in Korea to enter foreign markets, and regulatory trends.⁸²⁰¹

On 25 August 2021, President Moon hosted a summit with President Ivan Duque Marquez of Colombia on the development of bilateral relations, cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era, and collaboration on global and regional issues. The talks covered improving cooperation in areas such as sharing information on the prevention and response to contagious diseases and strengthening cooperation in health care and medicine.⁸²⁰²

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information. Korea has demonstrated significant leadership in collaborating globally to share best practices to develop health technology. Through the transparent and timely sharing and collaboration of health information, Korea has fully complied with this commitment, while being a leading actor in combating the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hannah Story-Korman

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, health and foreign affairs officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁸²⁰³

On 7 January 2021, Deputy Health Minister Hugo Lopez-Gatell and Foreign Ministry official Efrain Guadarrama discussed COVID-19 vaccine experiences with Argentine President Alberto Fernandez. Mexico and Argentina signed an agreement to produce and distribute the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, which is currently produced in Argentina.⁸²⁰⁴

On 15 April 2021, Mexico hosted a virtual meeting on Technological Development of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States vaccines against COVID-19, bringing together the eight research centers in the region that develop the most advanced vaccines. The participants discussed

⁸²⁰¹ NIFDS-DIA Workshop 2021: Facilitating the Development and Regulations of Covid-19 Vaccines and Treatments / Current Trends in New Drug Development and Regulations, DIA (Seoul) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://www.diaglobal.org/en/conference-listing/meetings/2021/09/dia-nifds-workshop-2021-facilitating-the-development-and-regulations-of-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-current-trends-in-new-drug-development-and-regulations>

⁸²⁰² President Moon to Host Summit with Colombia on August 25, The Official Website of the Government of Korea (Sejong) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 27 August 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=202666>

⁸²⁰³ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁸²⁰⁴ Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (Mexico City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine-idUKKBN29C2X9>

“strengthening capacities for the production and distribution of vaccines and medicines in the region” and the importance of investing in research and development to stay ahead of the virus.⁸²⁰⁵

On 19 April 2021, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard promoted the economic and health integration between members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as well as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to further promote health in the region. Moreover, Minister Ebrard announced that cooperation has led to Mexico and Argentina to coproduce AstraZeneca vaccinations as well as create a network of vaccine projects throughout Central and South America.⁸²⁰⁶

On 28 April 2021, Minister Ebrard met with the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov. Minister Ebrard reported to Lavrov on the success of the Sputnik V vaccine on the Mexican population, which was developed in Russia. Moreover, both officials plan to register an updated version of the Sputnik V – Sputnik Light – for the Mexican population.⁸²⁰⁷

On 30 April 2021, Minister Ebrard met with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs to review and compare both countries’ COVID-19 measures and progress. Minister Ebrard thanked Spain for their assistance in distributing vaccinations and reaffirmed the importance of coordination and communication between Mexico and Spain.⁸²⁰⁸

On 1 June 2021, Minister Ebrard gave details on how AstraZeneca vaccinations were produced in Latin America. The process revealed how Mexico coordinates with Argentina to produce the vaccine, with Argentina mainly producing the vaccine itself and Mexico distributing it. Moreover, Minister Ebrard also revealed plans to attend the meeting for ministers of the Central American Integration System where vaccination distribution will be discussed.⁸²⁰⁹

On 2 June 2021, Minister Ebrard met with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Costa Rica. They discussed and affirmed their goals to cooperate in distributing COVID-19 vaccinations equitably and universally throughout the North American region to combat the pandemic.⁸²¹⁰ Mexico explained how inequitable distribution is exacerbated and caused by higher-income countries mass-purchasing and hoarding many of the vaccines.⁸²¹¹

On 10 June 2021, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano met with Italian Deputy Minister Benedetto Della Vedova. Key discussions in the meeting were largely about the COVID-19 pandemic, with maintaining universal accessibility to vaccinations a highlight in the

⁸²⁰⁵ Mexico and CELAC promote vaccine self-sufficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-y-celac-impulsan-la-autosuficiencia-de-vacunas-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

⁸²⁰⁶ Mexico calls on the UN Security Council to guarantee access to vaccines against COVID-19, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-llama-al-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu-a-garantizar-el-acceso-a-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

⁸²⁰⁷ Mexico-Russia collaboration is strengthened, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/se-fortalece-colaboracion-mexico-rusia>

⁸²⁰⁸ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021 <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-y-espana-impulsan-dialogo-y-cooperacion>

⁸²⁰⁹ Mexico strengthens its foreign policy through solidarity and cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-strengthens-its-foreign-policy-through-solidarity-and-cooperation-273752?idiom=en>

⁸²¹⁰ Secretaries Marcelo Ebrard and Antony Blinken hold bilateral meeting in San José, Costa Rica, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/secretaries-marcelo-ebard-and-antony-blinken-hold-bilateral-meeting-in-san-jose-costa-rica-273753?idiom=en>

⁸²¹¹ U.S., Mexico discuss migration, COVID-19 vaccines ahead of Harris visit, Reuters (London) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-mexico-discuss-migration-covid-19-vaccine-equality-2021-06-02/>

meeting. In addition, the two ministers discussed G20 affairs, especially since the G20 is currently under the Italian presidency.⁸²¹²

On 1 July 2021, Minister Ebrard signed a Joint Declaration with the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian which reaffirmed both countries' commitment to cooperate and coordinate with each other in general and underscored the importance of making access to COVID-19 vaccinations universal for developing countries. In addition, they both highlighted both countries' efforts and plans to prevent zoonotic diseases as well as post-pandemic recovery.⁸²¹³

On 29 July 2021, Minister Ebrard met with American Senator Ben Hueso to discuss COVID-19 vaccinations. Ebrard and Hueso exchanged and compared vaccination rates for the Mexican province of Baja California and the American state of California respectively – two territories that border each other. This data was shared as a supplement for a discussion on potentially re-opening borders.⁸²¹⁴

On 5 August 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno attended a virtual conference with the Slovenian State Secretary Stanislav Rascan. Both representatives discussed coordination for post-pandemic recovery between the two countries.⁸²¹⁵

On 9 August 2021, Minister Ebrard delivered a proposal to the other G20 members regarding emergency use of COVID-19 vaccines. Ebrard argued that all countries should formally recognize and refrain from imposing restrictions on any World Health Organization authorized vaccines as it could stifle world pandemic recovery.⁸²¹⁶

On 17 August 2021, Mexico hosted a Community of Latin American and Caribbean States meeting. One of the main points of the meeting was emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in mitigating the economic consequences from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸²¹⁷

On 9 September 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador met with American President Joe Biden to re-open the High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) between the two countries. Secretary

⁸²¹² Foreign Ministry Note – Deputy Minister Della Vedova with the Deputy Minister of Mexico: relaunching bilateral cooperation after the pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/nota-farnesina-della-vedova-con-sottosegretaria-messico-per-rilancio-cooperazione-bilaterale-dopo-pandemia.html?fbclid=IwAR28oJe0WMH_mQvJ267QRgOgvu3ctNspqjvmlw1wenn0euYq4fo8B_jNUhg

⁸²¹³ Joint declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaracion-conjunta-secretaria-de-relaciones-exteriores-ministerio-para-europa-y-asuntos-exteriores-de-francia?idiom=es>

⁸²¹⁴ Secretary Marcelo Ebrard meets with California Senator Ben Hueso, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 26 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/secretary-marcelo-ebard-meets-with-california-senator-ben-hueso?idiom=en>

⁸²¹⁵ Undersecretary Carmen Moreno meets with Slovenian State Secretary Stanislav Rascan, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 26 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/undersecretary-carmen-moreno-meets-with-slovenian-state-secretary-stanislav-rascan?idiom=en>

⁸²¹⁶ Mexico will receive up to 8.5 million vaccine doses thanks to cooperation with US, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 26 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-will-receive-up-to-8-5-million-vaccine-doses-thanks-to-cooperation-with-us?idiom=en>

⁸²¹⁷ Mexico hosts CELAC meeting on housing and economic reactivation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 26 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-hosts-celac-meeting-on-housing-and-economic-reactivation?idiom=en>

of Economy Tatiana Clouthier and American Secretary Gina Raimondo both discussed and shared ideas in making HLED a bilateral platform which will improve post-pandemic recovery.⁸²¹⁸

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information by consistently convening with representatives from other countries in order to discuss matters concerned with the pandemic.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Phoebe Han

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which is the national sovereign wealth fund, published standardized data and information on the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine with a reported a 95 per cent efficacy of the Sputnik V vaccine on the 42nd day following first injection.⁸²¹⁹

On 12 December 2020, Russia's Federal State Statistic Service reported that the official total death toll from the virus is 57,000. However, on 28 December 2020, Russia's Federal State Statistic Service reported that the number of deaths from all causes recorded between January 2020 and November 2020 was 229,700 higher than in 2019. At a press conference on the same day of 28 December, Russia's deputy prime minister admitted that "more that 81 per cent of increase in mortality over this period is due to COVID-19" which would put the number of deaths at 186,000 – almost triple of what was originally reported.⁸²²⁰

On 5 February 2021, Russia attended the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council Meeting with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Moldova and Uzbekistan. Russia promoted the use of the Travelling Without COVID-19 pilot project, encouraging the expansion beyond Armenia, Belarus and Russia.⁸²²¹

On 8 February 2021, there was a discrepancy recorded between statistics of COVID-19 related deaths stated by the Russia's Ministry of Health and Russia's Federal State Statistic Service (Rosstat). Specifically, the health ministry has been reporting a much lower death toll than Rosstat. While the Ministry of Health reported a total death toll of 78,687 from the beginning of the pandemic up to February 2021, Rosstat reported a total of 162,429 COVID-19 related deaths for 2020 alone.⁸²²²

On 9 February 2021, Russia met with Tajikistan for its 17th Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation. Russia promoted the Travelling Without COVID-19 application and offered Tajikistan the opportunity to take part. Furthermore, Russia agreed to visit Tajikistan to assess the

⁸²¹⁸ Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

⁸²¹⁹ Briefing by Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4465803

⁸²²⁰ COVID-19: Russia admits to understating deaths by more than two-thirds, The BMJ (London) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4975>

⁸²²¹ Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41468/>

⁸²²² Natural population change among subjects of the Russian Federation for January to December 2020, Federal State Statistic Service (Moscow) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://rosstat.gov.ru/storage/mediabank/TwbjciZH/edn12-2020.html>

situation and “prepare a report for the emergency response centre on preventing the import and spread of the coronavirus infection in Russia.”⁸²²³ The Travelling Without COVID-19 mobile app allows users to store the results of their tests and QR codes and “is designed for those with a negative result in a coronavirus test while crossing the Russian state border at a number of checkpoint” to help Eurasian Economic Union “citizens move between countries while ensuring compliance with the current requirements.”⁸²²⁴

On 28 April 2021, Russia met with Kazakhstan to discuss the bilateral relationship. Among other topics, they discussed the joint COVID-19 response efforts, as well as the joint production of the Sputnik V vaccine at the Karaganda Pharmaceutical Factory in Kazakhstan.⁸²²⁵

On 30 April 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin spoke at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council. Prime Minister Mishustin stated that “We need joint systemic measures that will make it possible to contain the infection. As we have repeatedly noted, the user-friendly and reliable mobile app called Travelling without COVID-19 has already been launched. Negative COVID-19 test results are uploaded from certified laboratories. Our citizens can therefore show these test results when entering any specific country. So far, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Russia are actively involved in the project. We hope that Kazakhstan will join us soon. It is important to expand the app by including vaccination data. I believe that its wide-scale use will make it possible to more quickly resume the safe passenger traffic that our citizens need.”⁸²²⁶

On 12 May 2021, Russia met with Turkey to discuss strengthening their cooperation on all fronts. Russia invited Turkey to use the Russian supported, Eurasian Economic Union created Travelling without COVID-19 digital platform pilot program. The program will allow citizens of participating states to enter Russia in a simplified and streamlined way, ensuring safety of public travel.⁸²²⁷

On 24 July 2021, the Ministry of Health updated its recommendations on vaccinations, in particular, stating that Sputnik V can be used without restrictions by all cancer patients who complete their course of treatment.⁸²²⁸

On 9 September 2021, President Vladimir Putin attended the 8th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The leaders at the Summit emphasized the importance of global vaccine equity and support the establishment of a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System to prevent mass infectious disease risks

⁸²²³ The Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan holds its 17th session, The Russian Government (Moscow) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41503/>

⁸²²⁴ Government extends the term for entering Russia on the ‘Travel without COVID-19’ application, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41636/>

⁸²²⁵ Mikhail Mishustin’s conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, The Russian Government (Kazan) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

⁸²²⁶ Extended meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Kazan) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42102/>

⁸²²⁷ Tatyana Golikova meets with Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Turkey Ibrahim Kalin and Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mehmet Ersoy, The Russian Government (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42220/>

⁸²²⁸ Министр здравоохранения России рассказал, сколько времени сохраняется иммунитет после прививки от COVID-19, Вести Дубны (Moscow Oblast) 18 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <http://indubnacity.ru/novosti/zdravoohranenie/ministr-zdravoohraneniya-rossii-rasskazal-skolko-vremeni-sohranyaetsya-immunitet-posle-privivki-ot-covid-196>

for identifying future pandemics.⁸²²⁹ The need for this system was based on satisfaction within intra-BRICS cooperation throughout the pandemic.⁸²³⁰

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information. Russia has been sharing monthly data on COVID-19 outbreaks and data on the efficacy of the Sputnik V vaccine. However, occasional discrepancies have been recorded between Russian healthcare information sources thus putting the reliability of some of the data shared under question.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Arina Mnatsakanyan

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 14 December 2020, Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor engaged in bilateral discussions, including their respective countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸²³¹ Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment through its communications with South Africa to share experiences in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but has not taken substantial action to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dre Daley

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 3 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa shared effective policy approaches at the United Nations General Assembly that have helped South Africa delay transmission of COVID-19 and prepared health facilities, including emergency relief measures for individuals, households, and companies. President Ramaphosa also reaffirmed the importance of UN member states in working with the World Health Organization to ensure equity in vaccine access.⁸²³²

⁸²²⁹ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸²³⁰ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸²³¹ Minister Pandor to host the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on working visit to Pretoria – Tomorrow, Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/saud1213.htm>; Opening Remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Working Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, to South Africa on Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand1214a.htm>

⁸²³² Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of the General Debate of the 31st UN General Assembly Special Session on COVID-19, UN Headquarters, New York, 3 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/cram1203.htm>

On 14 December 2020, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud engaged in bilateral discussions, including their respective countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with South Africa specifically sharing a response from health and economic perspectives.^{8233,8234}

On 12 January 2021, Minister Pandor and Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum exchanged experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and efforts to ensure an effective and efficient response in the continent and also at the national level.⁸²³⁵

On 27 January 2021, President Ramaphosa shared that South Africa was able to ensure social distancing by promoting public health measures based on individual behaviour and regulatory strategies, such as lockdowns, at the African Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Financing and Deployment Strategy Webinar.⁸²³⁶

On 24 February 2021, the Department of Health announced that the South African government has been working with local scientists from the KwaZulu-Natal Research Informatics and Sequencing Programme (KRISP). KRISP discovered that the 501Y.V2 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus has higher efficacy to infect humans, which affects the vaccination process as the variant continues to spread.⁸²³⁷

On 28 May 2021, President Ramphosa and French President Emmanuel Macron held a Joint Communiqué and exchanged views on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, concluding that the increase of global vaccine production and accessibility to vaccines is necessary to combat the pandemic.⁸²³⁸

On 1 June 2021, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations met to discuss intra-BRICS cooperation and collaboration. They expressed concern over public health and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasized the value of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat the pandemic. This included better international preparedness to combat the pandemic, such as better mobilization of political support, necessary financial resources, strengthening local production, technology transfers, and equitable and affordable access to medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, diagnostics and therapeutics.⁸²³⁹

⁸²³³ Minister Pandor to host the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on working visit to Pretoria – Tomorrow, Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/saud1213.htm>

⁸²³⁴ Opening Remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Working Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, to South Africa on Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand1214a.htm>

⁸²³⁵ Joint Communiqué on the Occasion of the Working Visit by H.E. Mr Sabri Boukadoum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 12 January 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/alge0112.pdf>

⁸²³⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Opening remarks at the African Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Financing and Deployment Strategy Webinar, The Presidency, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-opening-remarks-african-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-financing>

⁸²³⁷ Ministers Blade Nzimande and Zweli Mkhize brief media on latest scientific results on Coronavirus COVID-19 variant, 3 Mar, National Department of Health (Cape Town) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/joint-media-briefing-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁸²³⁸ Joint Communiqué at the conclusion of the Official Discussions of the State Visit of His Excellency French President, Emmanuel Macron, to South Africa, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/fran0528.pdf>

⁸²³⁹ Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs / International Relations, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0602.htm>

On 23 June 2021, President Ramphosa attended the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and urged SADC member states and the international community to support a temporary waiver on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which is a proposal to allow more countries to produce the COVID-19 vaccine for a more efficient response.⁸²⁴⁰

On 29 June 2021, Minister Pandor emphasized accessibility to affordable vaccines as one of the most important priorities in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic at G20 meetings in Italy.⁸²⁴¹

On 13 and 14 July 2021, Minister Pandor attended the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement stressed the need for the movement to support India and South Africa's temporary waiver proposal on provisions of the TRIPS.⁸²⁴² The Non-Aligned Movement also emphasized the need for the international community to collaborate and produce a collective policy to overcome global challenges and mitigate impacts, including the COVID-19 crisis.⁸²⁴³

On 9 September 2021, President Ramphosa attended the 8th BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The leaders at the Summit emphasized the importance of global vaccine equity and support the establishment of a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System to prevent mass infectious disease risks for identifying future pandemics.⁸²⁴⁴ The need for this system was based on satisfaction within intra-BRICS cooperation throughout the pandemic.⁸²⁴⁵

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information. South Africa has taken steps to continually share timely, transparent, and standardized data and information through sharing COVID-19 experiences in bilateral discussions with other countries and debunking false facts with evidence.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Shanice Burton and Ingrid Wong

⁸²⁴⁰ Communiqué of the Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, 23rd June, 2021, Maputo, Mozambique Communiqué of the Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, 23rd June, 2021, Maputo, Mozambique, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/sadc0623.pdf>

⁸²⁴¹ South Africa reiterates its support for multilateral efforts aimed at tackling global challenges, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/g-20_0629.htm

⁸²⁴² Statement by HE Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement under the Theme: "Non-Aligned Movement at the Centre of Multilateral Efforts in responding Global Challenges," 13-14 July 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2021/pand0713.htm>

⁸²⁴³ Political Declaration adopted at the online Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement under the Theme: "Non-Aligned Movement at the Centre of Multilateral Efforts in responding Global Challenges," 13-14 July 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 1 August 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/nam0714.pdf>

⁸²⁴⁴ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

⁸²⁴⁵ XIII BRICS Summit - New Delhi Declaration, 9 September 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/brics0909.pdf>

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health ministers of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁸²⁴⁶

On 23 March 2021, Head of Health Institutes of Turkey Erhan Akdogan, stated that Turkey currently assists six coronavirus vaccine development research programs. The vaccine studies being implemented in Turkey are published and shared in scientific research studies about the vaccine programs.⁸²⁴⁷

On 6 May 2021, Turkey announced the second inactive vaccine developed by Turkey had been added to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) list of vaccines in development. The director of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey underlined that being added to the WHO's list demonstrates the transparency of the data produced by the project. Furthermore, the director stated that Turkey's COVID-19 Turkey Platform is currently working on seven vaccines.⁸²⁴⁸

On 24 May 2021, Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca attended the 74th World Health Assembly and stressed the significance of international solidarity in responded to health crises. The importance of international compliance was emphasized and Turkey's vaccination efforts for health-care workers were discussed.⁸²⁴⁹

On 25 May 2021, MIKTA [Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia] released a statement which discussed the importance of transparent and accountable multilateral institutions to respond effectively to novel disease outbreaks and pandemics.⁸²⁵⁰

On 16 June 2021, Minister Koca held dialogue with World Health Organization Regional Director for Europe Dr. Hans Kluge where Turkey's international collaboration to support the vaccination campaign was emphasized and vaccination efforts to respond to the pandemic were discussed.⁸²⁵¹

Turkey has taken steps to achieve compliance to the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized information by creating vaccine agreements with other countries and has shared data with the WHO with regards to its inactive vaccine development.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Mebr Mukhtar and Joy Fan

⁸²⁴⁶ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁸²⁴⁷ Turkey works on 6 coronavirus vaccine candidates, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 23 March 2021. Access date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/turkey-works-on-6-coronavirus-vaccine-candidates/2185493>

⁸²⁴⁸ Turkey's inactive COVID-19 vaccine makes it to WHO list, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkeys-inactive-covid-19-vaccine-makes-it-to-who-list/news>

⁸²⁴⁹ Minister Koca Attends 74th World Health Assembly, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,83943/minister-koca-attends-74th-world-health-assembly.html>

⁸²⁵⁰ MIKTA STATEMENT ON COVID-19 during the 74th World Health Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/mikta-covid19-hk-ortak-aciklama.en.mfa>

⁸²⁵¹ WHO Director for Europe Congratulates Turkey, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,84148/who-director-for-europe-congratulates-turkey.html>

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the UK organized a virtual seminar discussing vaccine distribution strategy and combating misinformation regarding COVID-19.⁸²⁵² It was the third in a series of joint events between Argentina and the UK within the Latin American and Caribbean region. Seth Berkley, CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, spoke at the seminar to share information on the progress of COVAX, the global initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁸²⁵³

On 20 December 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that the United Kingdom has been sharing information about the new variant of the COVID-19 virus. The UK has conducted ongoing research about the new mutation and has been sharing the results of its studies. Prime Minister Boris Johnson revealed to the WHO that the mutated virus is 70 per cent more transmissible.⁸²⁵⁴

On 23 December 2020, Public Health England (PHE) confirmed that lateral flow devices used in mass testing are able to detect the new COVID-19 variant. A rapid evaluation with five lateral flow devices was undertaken to test whether the lateral flow devices currently in use in the UK are able to detect the new VUI 202012/01 variant. The experiment found each lateral flow device successfully detected the samples of the new variant.⁸²⁵⁵

On 26 January 2021, the UK announced it would “offer its world-leading genomics expertise to identify new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to countries who do not have the resources to do so.” “Countries will be offered UK capacity to analyse new strains of the virus through the launch of the New Variant Assessment Platform which will be led by [PHE] working with [National Health Service] Test and Trace and academic partners as well as the World Health Organization’s SARS-CoV-2 Global Laboratory Working Group.”⁸²⁵⁶

On 5 February 2021, the UK published data from the UK’s independent medicine regular on the routine safety monitoring and analysis of the approved COVID-19 vaccines. The report found that the vaccines meet strict regulatory standards and are very safe. The data demonstrated that there was “an overall reporting rate of 3 in 1,000 doses of vaccine administered from 9 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.”⁸²⁵⁷

On 22 February 2021, UK officials published an executive summary report sharing their response to COVID-19. The report outlines how the UK will continue to respond to the pandemic, the roadmap

⁸²⁵² Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contracovid-19>

⁸²⁵³ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contracovid-19>

⁸²⁵⁴ Covid: WHO in 'close contact' with UK Over New Virus Variant, BBC News (London) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-55382212>

⁸²⁵⁵ Rapid evaluation confirms lateral flow devices effective in detecting new COVID-19 variant, Government of the UK (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rapid-evaluation-confirms-lateral-flow-devices-effective-in-detecting-new-covid-19-variant>

⁸²⁵⁶ UK to support rest of the world to find COVID-19 virus variants, Government of the UK (London) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-support-rest-of-the-world-to-find-covid-19-virus-variants>

⁸²⁵⁷ Latest monitoring data confirms safety of COVID-19 vaccines, Government of the UK (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-monitoring-data-confirms-safety-of-covid-19-vaccines>

for lifting lockdown measures, the vaccine strategy, the success of the vaccination rollout, and more.⁸²⁵⁸

On 22 February 2021, PHE published the first independent analysis in the UK on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine efficacy. The report found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides a 70 per cent reduction in risk of catching COVID-19 after one dose, rising to 85 per cent after a second dose. The Head of Immunisation at PHE stated “This is strong evidence that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is stopping people from getting infected, while also protecting cases against hospitalisation and death. We will see much more data over the coming weeks and months but we should be very encouraged by these initial findings.”⁸²⁵⁹ Furthermore, the PHE is monitoring the AstraZeneca and announced a report will be published in good time.⁸²⁶⁰

On 16 March 2021, the Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19 met with the Minister of Health for Argentina to discuss experiences developing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.⁸²⁶¹ The ministers exchanged experiences regarding postponing second doses to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and prioritizing by age, risk and activity.⁸²⁶² Furthermore, the UK Minister “announced that they will share more information about vaccines and the results of their strategy with Argentina in April, when they obtain more data on efficacy and safety, since they will begin to vaccinate people over 50 years of age.”⁸²⁶³

On 25 March 2021, PHE published an analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program on preventing death and infection from SARS-CoV-2. The report found that from 8 December 2020 to end of January 2021, 4 million vaccine doses were administered to adults aged 70 and over which has prevented 6,100 deaths. PHE Head of Immunisation said “We have shown previously that the COVID-19 vaccinations are hugely effective at stopping people from getting the infection. This new analysis calculates how many lives they have saved in the first few months of the vaccine programme, and with every additional day more lives have and will be saved. The vaccines have an excellent safety record and I would encourage anyone who is offered a vaccine to take it as soon as possible. While the vaccines have a striking impact on mortality, we don’t yet know how much these vaccines will reduce the risk of you passing COVID-19 onto others. Even if you have been vaccinated, it is really

⁸²⁵⁸ COVID-19 Response Spring 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

⁸²⁵⁹ First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose, Government of the UK (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-real-world-uk-data-shows-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-provides-high-levels-of-protection-from-the-first-dose>

⁸²⁶⁰ First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose, Government of the UK (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-real-world-uk-data-shows-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-provides-high-levels-of-protection-from-the-first-dose>

⁸²⁶¹ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

⁸²⁶² Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

⁸²⁶³ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

important that you continue to act like you have the virus, practise good hand hygiene and stay at home.”⁸²⁶⁴

On 30 March 2021, the UK issued a joint statement alongside Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁸²⁶⁵

On 18 April 2021, the UK announced that a joint hygiene campaign between UK Aid and Unilever has reached 1 billion people. One aspect of the campaign is to “run information campaigns across TV, radio and social media in 37 countries to increase understanding of the benefits of handwashing with soap regularly and disinfecting surfaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”⁸²⁶⁶

On 28 April 2021, PHE published a study on household transmission of COVID-19. The study found that one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine reduced household transmission by up to half.⁸²⁶⁷

On 4 May 2021, the UK published its fourth round of the Schools Infection Survey to study the infections of COVID-19 in schools. The latest report found that there was a significant reduction in those testing positive for COVID-19 in schools, indicating “the importance of public health measures in schools for reducing transmission” and showing that “risk of transmission in schools is low.”⁸²⁶⁸

On 10 May 2021, the UK published an analysis on the impacts of the COVID-19 in protecting against death and hospitalization from COVID-19. The analysis found that those who get a single dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine have 80 per cent lower risk of death from COVID-19 than those who do not get vaccinated. The report also found that protection against death from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 97 per cent after two doses, up from 8- per cent after one dose.⁸²⁶⁹

On 11 May 2021, UK Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Simon Manley spoke at the WTO General Council. Ambassador Manley stated “A balanced and effective intellectual property regime has proved invaluable in this crisis, as in others, in supporting innovation and supporting collaboration, as well as ensuring the results of that innovation, including safe and effective diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics can reach those who need them. The UK stands ready to engage in further evidence-based discussions and is committed to finding solutions to these

⁸²⁶⁴ COVID-19 vaccines have prevented thousands of deaths in older adults, new data shows, Government of the UK (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-have-prevented-thousands-of-deaths-in-older-adults-new-data-shows>

⁸²⁶⁵ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁸²⁶⁶ UK aid and Unilever reach 1 billion people with global hygiene campaign to tackle COVID-19, Government of the UK (London) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-and-unilever-reach-one-billion-people-with-global-hygiene-campaign-to-tackle-covid-19>

⁸²⁶⁷ One dose of COVID-19 vaccine can cut household transmission by up to half, Government of the UK (London) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-can-cut-household-transmission-by-up-to-half>

⁸²⁶⁸ COVID-19 in schools: study shows drop in infections, Government of the UK (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-in-schools-study-shows-drop-in-infections-1>

⁸²⁶⁹ COVID-19 vaccines: further evidence of success, Government of the UK (London) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-further-evidence-of-success>

issues. Meanwhile, we are delighted to see the WTO bringing together key stakeholders to look carefully at all the relevant trade, health and intellectual property elements so that we can support the development, production, and equitable access to these vaccines. We salute the role played by the Director General in this regard.”⁸²⁷⁰

On 14 May 2021, the PHE published its analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program on deaths and hospitalizations. The analysis indicated that in England up to the end of April the vaccine program prevented 11,700 deaths in those 60 and older and at least 33,000 hospitalizations in those 65 and older. The PHE stated that “There is now clear and increasing evidence that vaccines help to reduce transmission, therefore it is likely that an even higher number of deaths and hospitalisations have been prevented by the vaccination programme.”⁸²⁷¹

On 15 May 2021, the UK announced it would host the world’s first Global Vaccine Confidence Summit on 2 June 2021. The purpose of the summit will be to “look at innovative solutions to tackle misinformation and support confidence in life-saving COVID-19 vaccines around the world.”⁸²⁷²

On 26 August 2021, the government announced it would ease its data-sharing rules following its departure from the European Union last year.⁸²⁷³ The new agreement will relax privacy laws and will transfer greater data internationally.⁸²⁷⁴ A more transparent data-sharing system will allow for improved technological and scientific research in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸²⁷⁵ The government aims to publicly share data from x-rays images to aid researchers in their efforts to find a solution.⁸²⁷⁶

The United Kingdom has taken significant steps for the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information by constantly publishing reports on the efficacy and impacts of the Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines. Furthermore, the United Kingdom has worked with other countries to share data and information, as well as exchange experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Analyst: Ghazaleh Darini

⁸²⁷⁰ World Trade Organization General Council, May 2021: UK statements, Government of the UK (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/wto-general-council-uk-statements--2>

⁸²⁷¹ COVID-19 vaccines: 11,700 deaths prevented, Government of the UK (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-11-700-deaths-prevented>

⁸²⁷² Summit to build global confidence in vaccines to be convened by the UK Government, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summit-to-build-global-confidence-in-vaccines-to-be-convened-by-the-uk-government>

⁸²⁷³ U.K. Plans New Post-Brexit Privacy Rules to Ease Data Sharing, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-k-plans-new-post-brexit-privacy-rules-to-ease-data-sharing-11629999466>

⁸²⁷⁴ U.K. Plans New Post-Brexit Privacy Rules to Ease Data Sharing, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-k-plans-new-post-brexit-privacy-rules-to-ease-data-sharing-11629999466>

⁸²⁷⁵ U.K. Plans New Post-Brexit Privacy Rules to Ease Data Sharing, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-k-plans-new-post-brexit-privacy-rules-to-ease-data-sharing-11629999466>

⁸²⁷⁶ U.K. Plans New Post-Brexit Privacy Rules to Ease Data Sharing, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-k-plans-new-post-brexit-privacy-rules-to-ease-data-sharing-11629999466>

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 18 December 2020, the US participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”⁸²⁷⁷

On 15 January 2021, the US announced it would be “sharing new information concerning the activities inside China’s government laboratories in 2019” with the World Health Organization (WHO), in light of WHO investigative team’s arrival in China.⁸²⁷⁸

On 20 January 2021, the Integrated Health Services Agency, led by Management Sciences for Health, with support from the United States Agency for International Development through the United States Government’s Malaria Initiative, provided financial and technical support to Benin’s health zones when COVID-19 began to hit Benin. The goal of this initiative was to ensure that Benin had continued access to malaria interventions and essential health services throughout the pandemic.⁸²⁷⁹

On 20 January 2021, the United States sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to inform of the President’s decision to reverse the withdrawal of the country from the WHO. This decision ensures that the United States will be able to continue to support global vaccination, research, and development for tests, treatments and vaccines.⁸²⁸⁰

On 21 January 2021, the United States Congress enacted the Global Health Security Act of 2021. This bill directed the president to form a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council to implement the Global Health Security Agenda. This review council will implement the Global Health Security Agenda, an international initiative to address global infectious disease threats.⁸²⁸¹

On 11 February 2021, the United States Congress passed the Robust International Response to Pandemic Act. This act outlined how the United States would aid in the international response to a pandemic. This document is aimed at outlining how wealthier countries will provide aid to developing countries through implementing protocols and transparency mechanisms to ensure allocations are used for public good.⁸²⁸²

⁸²⁷⁷ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁸²⁷⁸ Ensuring a Transparent, Thorough Investigation of COVID-19’s Origin, Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/ensuring-a-transparent-thorough-investigation-of-covid-19s-origin/index.html>

⁸²⁷⁹ Strengthening Malaria Interventions in Benin During the COVID-19 Pandemic, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/benin/news/strengthening-malaria-interventions-benin-during-covid-19-pandemic>

⁸²⁸⁰ National Security Memorandum on United States Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security and Biological Preparedness, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/21/national-security-directive-united-states-global-leadership-to-strengthen-the-international-covid-19-response-and-to-advance-global-health-security-and-biological-preparedness/>

⁸²⁸¹ Global Health Security Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/391>

⁸²⁸² Robust International Response to Pandemic Act, United States Congress (Washington, D.C.) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/986/text>

On 19 February 2021, the US participated in the 3rd Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Japan, India and Australia. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁸²⁸³

On 30 March 2021, the US issued a joint statement alongside Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁸²⁸⁴

On 2 April 2021, the planning of the President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) Country/Regional Operation Plan 2021 resumed. PEPFAR is committed to supporting every PEPFAR country and region by ensuring transparent, data-driven and collaborative plans. By collaborating with partners and communities around the globe, PEPFAR will ensure there is no disruption in HIV services to PEPFAR-supported countries.⁸²⁸⁵

On 5 May 2021, the US announced it would “support the temporary waiver of intellectual property on COVID-19 vaccines...and work with the private sector and other partners to expand vaccine manufacturing and distribution.”⁸²⁸⁶

On 16 March 2021, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi reaffirmed the importance of the United States-Japan alliance during Secretary Blinken’s visit to Tokyo. Specifically, they discussed how the United States and Japan will closely collaborate and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to further assist global partners in the fight against the pandemic. Both countries will strongly support the multilateral efforts of the World Health Organization, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, and COVAX, while seeking greater opportunities for joint health security cooperation for the Indo-Pacific region.⁸²⁸⁷

On 20 May 2021, the Congress introduced the “Global Pandemic Prevention and Biosecurity Act” which will establish a global task force to conduct and share research regarding zoonotic diseases. This global task force will work towards supporting improved community health, sustainable agriculture, the safety of livestock, and forest management while supporting foreign governments to

⁸²⁸³ Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁸²⁸⁴ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁸²⁸⁵ PEPFAR COP/ROP 2021 Planning Process, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.state.gov/pepfar-cop-rop-2021-planning/>

⁸²⁸⁶ WHO Director-General commends United States decision to support temporary waiver on intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-who-director-general-commends-united-states-decision-to-support-temporary-waiver-on-intellectual-property-rights-for-covid-19-vaccines>

⁸²⁸⁷ The United States and Japan Expand Indo-Pacific Cooperation, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 16 March 2021. Access Date” 23 July 2021. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-japan-expand-indo-pacific-economic-cooperation/>

reduce the risk of zoonotic spillover events between animals and humans through sharing research and data from United States health models.⁸²⁸⁸

On 11 June 2021, the United States and the G7 members developed a plan to “Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic.” This plan outlines the steps for ending the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, in addition to planning steps to prevent the possibility of the next pandemic. These steps include working internationally develop a global health security financing mechanism and to transform disease surveillance and early warning through collaboratively researching and establishing a global disease surveillance network, internationally.⁸²⁸⁹

On 27 July 2021, Secretary of State Blinken travelled to New Delhi, India to reaffirm the United States’ commitment to strengthening the partnership and cooperation between the two countries. The two countries made plans to improve their collaboration on a range of issues, including international and national health and combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. This will ensure the sharing of health information and research between the two countries.⁸²⁹⁰

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information through the consistent sharing of data and information in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Analyst: Hannah Story-Korman

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) partnered with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), which marked the beginning of the EU’s four-year project: “EU for health and security in Africa: ECDC for Africa CDC.”⁸²⁹¹ The project came into effect on 1 January 2021. Cooperation between the EU and the Africa CDC serves to bolster both Europe and Africa’s respective global health responses in the event of future crises. Through the sharing of health information and data, both the ECDC and Africa CDC are working to bolster their “surveillance of infectious diseases, data sharing, and early detection of threats” in order to build up their preparedness for other global health emergencies.⁸²⁹²

⁸²⁸⁸ Global Pandemic Prevention and Biosecurity Act, United States Congress (Washington) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3424/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Health+research%22%5D%7D&r=8&s=4>

⁸²⁸⁹ United States and G7+ Plan to Defeat the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022 and Prevent the Next Pandemic, The White House (Washington) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/11/fact-sheet-united-states-and-g7-plan-to-defeat-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-2022-and-prevent-the-next-pandemic/>

⁸²⁹⁰ The United States and India: Deepening our Strategic Partnership, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 28 August 2021. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-india-deepening-our-strategic-partnership/>

⁸²⁹¹ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

⁸²⁹² European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

The project is funded through the European Development Fund, with the ECDC contributing EUR9 million, as well as a EUR1 million grant to the Africa CDC.⁸²⁹³

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission launched the Re-open EU app, which provides regular, comprehensive and continual updates on COVID-19 related issues and other health and safety measures in EU member countries.⁸²⁹⁴ The free app offers information in all 24 official EU languages and shares data collected by the ECDC.⁸²⁹⁵

On 23 December 2020, the European Commission released an impact assessment concerning the establishment of a European Health Data Space. It is part of a broader EU “Data Strategy” initiative, allowing governments, public authorities and other sectors to access centralized data and facilitate data sharing across the EU. This initiative focuses on the accessibility and sharing of health data in order to improve national healthcare efforts.⁸²⁹⁶

On 1 January 2021, the EU and UK’s Trade and Cooperation Agreement went into effect, following the UK’s formal exit from the EU. This agreement included several provisions pertaining to information sharing, particularly during times of serious cross-border health risks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In such an event, the UK and EU are able to exchange health information and data as well as coordinate public health responses. The agreement also allows for collaboration between the UK and the ECDC to share relevant scientific information.⁸²⁹⁷

On 20 January 2021, the EU and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donated computer and electronic equipment to Belize. The equipment will be used for better data and information collection, which then can be shared with other countries and the PAHO/WHO.⁸²⁹⁸

On 19 March 2021, the ECDC and WHO/Europe launched the first joint COVID-19 weekly bulletin, compiling COVID-19 surveillance and vaccination data. This cooperative effort between ECDC and WHO/Europe publicizes case, death, vaccination and hospitalization data from individual countries in a centralized manner.⁸²⁹⁹

⁸²⁹³ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

⁸²⁹⁴ Commission launches Re-open EU mobile app with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/september-december-2020_en
⁸²⁹⁵ Commission launches Re-open EU mobile app with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/september-december-2020_en
⁸²⁹⁶ European Commission Conducts Open Consultation on the European Health Data Space Initiative, Covinton and Burling LLP (Washington, D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.covingtondigitalhealth.com/2021/01/european-commission-conducts-open-consultation-on-the-european-health-data-space-initiative/>

⁸²⁹⁷ UK and EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the government’s preparation for end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, UK Government (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-the-health-and-care-sector-about-the-uk-eu-trade-and-co-operation-agreement/uk-and-eu-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-and-the-governments-preparation-for-end-of-the-transition-period-on-31-december-2020>

⁸²⁹⁸ The European Union (EU) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donate consumables and reagents to enhance lab capacity for COVID-19 testing in Belize, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/20-1-2021-european-union-eu-and-pan-american-health-organizationworld-health-organization>

⁸²⁹⁹ WHO/Europe and ECDC launch the first joint COVID-19 Surveillance Bulletin, WHO Europe (Copenhagen) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/news/news/2021/3/whoeurope-and-ecdc-launch-the-first-joint-covid-19-surveillance-bulletin>

On 26 March 2021, the EU4Health program came into force, in an effort to support the EU's COVID-19 recovery and pandemic preparedness plans.⁸³⁰⁰ EU4Health provides unprecedented funding to EU member governments, health organizations as well as non-governmental organizations for the 2021-2027 period.⁸³⁰¹ The program seeks to promote collaboration between member states concerning both prevention and response to healthcare crises. EU4Health allows the EU to monitor health threats and share information gathered through this surveillance with member states.⁸³⁰² It also seeks to stimulate the digital transformation of health systems in order to facilitate cross-border flows of information and data.⁸³⁰³ In total, the program aims to invest EUR5.1 billion to promote secure data access and sharing and prevent another global crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸³⁰⁴

On 30 March 2021, President of the European Council Charles Michel joined other global leaders in calling for an international treaty on pandemic prevention and preparedness. Such a treaty would allow for equitable and universal access to healthcare related solutions, information and data by enhancing global cooperation.⁸³⁰⁵

On 6 May 2021, the EU announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”⁸³⁰⁶

On 22 June 2021, the European Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement that strengthens the health technology assessment cooperation among 27 member states.⁸³⁰⁷ The new regulation is said to allow national healthcare providers to make evidence-based decisions and offer better care thanks to the availability of innovative health technologies.⁸³⁰⁸

On 29 June 2021, the European Commission adopted a Recommendation which seeks to facilitate cross-border electronic health record exchange.⁸³⁰⁹ This Recommendation would allow for secure

⁸³⁰⁰ €5.1 billion EU4Health enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021_en

⁸³⁰¹ €5.1 billion EU4Health enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021_en

⁸³⁰² EU4Health 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

⁸³⁰³ EU4Health 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

⁸³⁰⁴ New EU health programme comes into force, *The Lancet* (Amsterdam) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00772-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00772-8/fulltext)

⁸³⁰⁵ An international treaty on pandemic prevention and preparedness, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/pandemic-treaty/>

⁸³⁰⁶ Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, *BBC* (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

⁸³⁰⁷ EU lawmakers reach agreement on game changing new health innovation rules, *Euractiv* (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/news/eu-lawmakers-reach-agreement-on-game-changing-new-health-innovation-rules/>

⁸³⁰⁸ EU lawmakers reach agreement on game changing new health innovation rules, *Euractiv* (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/news/eu-lawmakers-reach-agreement-on-game-changing-new-health-innovation-rules/>

⁸³⁰⁹ Exchange of electronic health records across the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/electronic-health-records>

access to health data, regardless of which EU country citizens find themselves in, thereby advancing digital healthcare cooperation in Europe.⁸³¹⁰

On 23 July 2021, the European Council reached an agreement to draft proposals that might help strengthen the role of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) as well as amend an EU law on cross-border health threats.⁸³¹¹ These changes to both the ECDC and the existing law would allow for a coordinated response to new communicable diseases like COVID-19.⁸³¹²

On 6 September 2021, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides reaffirmed the importance of the One Health approach among member countries and stressed the importance of global coordination, the sharing of information through strengthening research and faster detection.⁸³¹³ She also claimed that the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority would provide an improved health security structure for the EU, which would address the weakness brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasize data and information sharing as medical countermeasures.⁸³¹⁴

The European Union has fully complied with this commitment and taken steps to promote the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information by implementing new initiatives such as the EU4Health program and the establishment of the EHDS to better prepare countries' global health responses. The EU has also partnered with actors such as Africa CDC and WHO Europe to promote this timely and continue sharing of data and information amongst member countries and abroad.

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

Analyst: Ana Djordjijevic

⁸³¹⁰ Exchange of electronic health records across the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/electronic-health-records>

⁸³¹¹ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and cross-border threats to health: Council agrees negotiating position, European Council (Brussels) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/23/european-centre-for-disease-prevention-and-control-and-cross-border-threats-to-health-council-agrees-negotiating-position/>

⁸³¹² European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and cross-border threats to health: Council agrees negotiating position, European Council (Brussels) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/23/european-centre-for-disease-prevention-and-control-and-cross-border-threats-to-health-council-agrees-negotiating-position/>

⁸³¹³ Intervention at G20 Health Ministerial on One Health approach and Global Coordination, European Commission (Brussels) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/kyriakides/announcements/intervention-g20-health-ministerial-one-health-approach-and-global-coordination_en

⁸³¹⁴ Intervention at G20 Health Ministerial on One Health approach and Global Coordination, European Commission (Brussels) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/kyriakides/announcements/intervention-g20-health-ministerial-one-health-approach-and-global-coordination_en

16. Health: Vaccine Distribution

“We will spare no effort to ensure their [vaccines] affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation. In this regard, we fully support all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | 0 | |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | 0 | |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | 0 | |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.70 (85%) | |

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. 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.”^{8315,8316} 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.”⁸³¹⁷

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

⁸³¹⁵ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date:29 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁸³¹⁶ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date:29 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁸³¹⁷ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date:29 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

and support the leadership and coordination of WHO in the event of health crises of international concern.”⁸³¹⁸ G20 members agreed to “strengthen the national and, where applicable, regional monitoring and surveillance of both antimicrobial resistance and the consumption of antibiotics”⁸³¹⁹ within their own jurisdictions. At the Hamburg Summit the G20 leaders discussed antimicrobial resistance (AMR), acknowledged its “growing threat to public health and economic growth”⁸³²⁰ and pledged to “strengthen public awareness, infection prevention and control and improve the understanding of the issue of antimicrobials in the environment.”⁸³²¹

In 2018 at Buenos Aires the G20 leaders once again acknowledged “the need for further multi-sectoral action to reduce the spread of AMR”⁸³²² 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.”⁸³²³ 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.”⁸³²⁴

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.⁸³²⁵ 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.⁸³²⁶

In 2020 COVID-19 outbreak became the most important issue for G20 cooperation. In their statement made at Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit on 26 March 2020, members pledged to “take all necessary health measures and seek to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect people, especially the most vulnerable.”⁸³²⁷ They promised to “share timely and transparent information; exchange epidemiological and clinical data; share materials necessary for research and development; and strengthen health systems globally, including through supporting the

⁸³¹⁸ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

⁸³¹⁹ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

⁸³²⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg 7-8 July 2017, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20percent20Hamburgpercent20leaders_percent20communiqupercentC3percentA9.pdf

⁸³²¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg 7-8 July 2017, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20percent20Hamburgpercent20leaders_percent20communiqupercentC3percentA9.pdf

⁸³²² G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos-Aires 30 November – 01 December 2018, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

⁸³²³ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos-Aires 30 November – 01 December 2018, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

⁸³²⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos-Aires 30 November – 01 December 2018, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

⁸³²⁵ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration 28 – 29 June 2019, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/yaonskoe-predsdatelstvo-2019/>

⁸³²⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration 28 – 29 June 2019, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/yaonskoe-predsdatelstvo-2019/>

⁸³²⁷ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date:

11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/saoudskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent20G20percent20LeaderspercentE2percent80percent99percent20Summit_Statement_ENpercent20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/saoudskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent20G20percent20LeaderspercentE2percent80percent99percent20Summit_Statement_ENpercent20(1).pdf)

full implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).”⁸³²⁸ Leaders committed to further strengthen the WHO’s mandate in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic and work together and with stakeholders to close the financing gap in the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. They also promised “to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing our epidemic preparedness spending.”⁸³²⁹ G20 leaders pledged to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation.⁸³³⁰

In November 2020 G20 leaders adopted Riyadh Summit Declaration. In it they committed to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response and reaffirmed commitment to full compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).⁸³³¹ They also promised to spare no effort to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation and supported all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.⁸³³²

Commitment Features

G20 leaders made a commitment to ensure vaccines affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation and supported all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.

The commitment has two part: ensure equitable and affordable access for all people inside the country and taking actions at international level to support others.

Domestic Actions

G20 members should ensure universal access to vaccines for its population. For this country-wide vaccination programs should be launched, the supply of vaccines ensured either by developing, producing and distributing own vaccines or purchasing existing ones.

International Actions

G20 should take actions to support global efforts to ensure access to vaccines. This can be done by supporting Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative (through financing, collaboration, personnel development, exchange of best practices) and specifically COVAX facility.

⁸³²⁸ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20(1).pdf)

⁸³²⁹ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20(1).pdf)

⁸³³⁰ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20(1).pdf)

⁸³³¹ G20 Leaders’ Riyadh Summit Declaration 21 – 22 November 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20percent 20Riyadhpercent 20Summitpercent 20Leaderspercent 20Declaration_EN.pdf

⁸³³² G20 Leaders’ Riyadh Summit Declaration 21 – 22 November 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20percent 20Riyadhpercent 20Summitpercent 20Leaderspercent 20Declaration_EN.pdf

Its goal is to help end the acute phase of the global pandemic by the end of 2021 by providing access to at least 2 billion doses of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to the most vulnerable in all participating economies.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member did not take any actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines |
| 0 | G20 member took measures to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level but no actions on international level were taken |
| +1 | G20 member took measures to ensure access to vaccines both on national level and through international actions and partnerships |

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines.

On 28 March 2021, Argentina received its first 218,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility. The shipment of AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccines, made by SK Bioscience of Korea, arrived at Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires.⁸³³³

On 31 March 2021, Chief of the Private Office of the Foreign Ministry Guillermo Justo Chaves met with European Union ambassador to Argentina Aude Maio-Coliche. They agreed on enhancing cooperation and multilateralism to encourage a more equitable supply of vaccine doses among countries, as well as sharing of experiences and knowledge regarding COVID-19. They also agreed that, in a context of the global vaccine shortage and the demand to speed up the vaccination process, the vaccine must be a universal public good. Thus, greater cooperation between countries and decisive action to enhance multilateralism are key. They also discussed the possibility of laboratories granting countries licenses for vaccine manufacturing and the idea proposed by President Alberto Fernández and French President Emmanuel Macron that patents be waived in that regard.⁸³³⁴

On 21 April 2021, at the 27th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government Andorra 2020, held under the motto “Innovation for Sustainable Development – 2030 Goals: Ibero-America Faces Coronavirus Challenge,” President Fernández called on the region’s countries to act “jointly in solidarity” in order to “guarantee equitable production and distribution of vaccines,” and to find innovative mechanisms to facilitate access to external financing for middle-income countries.⁸³³⁵

On 6 May 2021, at the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Argentina ratified its view that COVID-19 vaccines must be universal public goods so that all countries have equitable access to them and to medical innovations developed to fight the pandemic. Argentina endorsed the proposal by South Africa and India at the WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual

⁸³³³ Argentina receives its first COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility, Pan American Health Organization (Washington, DC) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/28-3-2021-argentina-receives-its-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-facility>

⁸³³⁴ Argentina and EU agree on need for fairer and more equitable global distribution of vaccines, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-eu-agree-need-fairer-and-more-equitable-global-distribution>

⁸³³⁵ Alberto Fernández urges equitable production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/alberto-fernandez-urges-equitable-production-and-distribution-covid-19-vaccines>

Property Rights to suspend intellectual property rights for medical products, including vaccines, that are necessary for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.⁸³³⁶

During the compliance period Argentina took actions to provide access to vaccines domestically and expressed readiness and support for international action, but no concrete actions to promote access to vaccines internationally were registered yet.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines.

On 30 November 2020, the Australian government provided more than AUD4 million for research into COVID-19 and the country's response to the pandemic. The funding will support the development of rapid response digital health infrastructure and strategies to improve community engagement and responsiveness to pandemic information.⁸³³⁷

On 22 December 2020, the Australian government provided AUD172.5 million for the Medical Research Future Fund. The funding focuses on areas of unmet need or potential for transforming health care and its outcomes.⁸³³⁸

On 4 January 2021, the Australian government provided AUD10.1 million for clinical trials related to COVID-19. The funding will support six promising Australian innovations, including two "next generation" vaccines and customised 3D-printed face guards.⁸³³⁹

On 25 January 2021, the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was provisionally approved by the Australian government for use in Australia. This means that Pfizer's vaccine will be provided for free to all Australian residents.⁸³⁴⁰

On 29 January 2021, the campaign to encourage Australians to get their free COVID-19 vaccines started. The campaign will run across a variety of mediums, including television, radio, press, digital, social, mobile, search and out of home.⁸³⁴¹

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced AUD1.9 billion to go towards the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. The funding will help hospitals, general practitioners and pharmacies on the frontline deliver vaccinations to everyone in Australia.⁸³⁴²

⁸³³⁶ Argentina reiterates that vaccine patents must be waived, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-reiterates-vaccine-patents-must-be-waived>.

⁸³³⁷ More than \$4 million for new COVID-19 research, Department of Health (Canberra) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/more-than-4-million-for-new-covid-19-research>

⁸³³⁸ Additional \$172.5 million for Australian medical research, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/additional-1725-million-for-australian-medical-research>

⁸³³⁹ \$10 million to support COVID-19 related clinical trials, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/10-million-to-support-covid-19-related-clinical-trials>

⁸³⁴⁰ TGA provisionally approves Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/tga-provisionally-approves-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccine-for-use-in-australia>

⁸³⁴¹ New information campaign to encourage Australians to get a COVID-19 vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/new-information-campaign-to-encourage-australians-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccine>

On 22 February 2021, COVID-19 vaccinations began in Australia. The first people to receive the vaccines will be priority groups who are at a higher risk of COVID-19. The government also launched the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility checker to help people find more information about during which phase they would be able to receive the vaccine.⁸³⁴³

On 26 February 2021, the Australian Government announced it would invest AUD100 million into the development of new technologies to improve the diagnosis and treatment of stroke, epilepsy and lung disease, including COVID-19.⁸³⁴⁴

On 12 March 2021, Australia announced it has contributed AUD80 million to the COVAX Facility that has started rolling out the first round of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Australia's Pacific and Southeast Asian neighbours (Fiji, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, etc.).⁸³⁴⁵

On 13 March 2021, Australia, along with the United States, Japan and India, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁸³⁴⁶

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced that it has agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a support package which will include the supply of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, the Australian Government will also make a formal request to AstraZeneca and the European Authorities for one million doses of Australia's contracted supplies to gift to Papua New Guinea. Australia will also provide new targeted support.⁸³⁴⁷

On 10 April 2021, Australia announced that it will supply at least 10,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 (manufactured in Australia) doses per week to the neighbouring countries. Australia will also continue to support the Government of Papua New Guinea in its immediate response to its outbreak, helping to vaccinate frontline healthcare and other essential workers.⁸³⁴⁸

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that an Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT), comprising a senior epidemiologist and health support officer arrived in Timor-Leste. The team will assist public health needs assessments.⁸³⁴⁹

On 7 July 2021, Australia announced health support to Indonesia. The package includes AUD12 million for oxygen-related and other medical equipment, including 1000 ventilators, up to 700 oxygen

⁸³⁴² \$1.9 billion to go towards COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/19-billion-to-go-towards-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁸³⁴³ First COVID-19 vaccinations in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/first-covid-19-vaccinations-in-australia>

⁸³⁴⁴ \$100 million for medical research technology, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/100-million-for-medical-research-technology>

⁸³⁴⁵ Australia's partnership with COVAX delivers vaccines to our neighbours, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-partnership-covax-delivers-vaccines-our-neighbours>

⁸³⁴⁶ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁸³⁴⁷ Supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 response, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Women (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

⁸³⁴⁸ Sharing COVID-19 vaccines with our neighbors, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/sharing-covid-19-vaccines-our-neighbours>

⁸³⁴⁹ Emergency relief dispatched to Timor-Leste, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/emergency-relief-dispatched-timor-leste>

concentrators, more than 170 oxygen cylinders and a range of consumables and other medical supplies, over 40,000 rapid-antigen test kits and 2.5 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses in 2021.⁸³⁵⁰

On 14 July 2021, Australia announced further support to Vietnam's national vaccine rollout by providing 1.5 million AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine doses in 2021. These doses will complement Australia's existing AUD40 million package through which we are working in partnership with Vietnam on its COVID-19 vaccine rollout.⁸³⁵¹

On 20 August 2021, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced, that the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccines would be available starting from 30 August 2021 for people aged between 16 and 39.⁸³⁵²

On 27 August 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation issued a recommendation to include "all individuals from 12 years of age" in the national COVID-19 vaccination efforts.⁸³⁵³

On 14 September 2021, the Department of Health announced the launch of the COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 12 and older.⁸³⁵⁴

Australia has taken actions to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level and on international level.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines.

On 6 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health announced the arrival of the first batch of active pharmaceutical ingredients for the AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19 in Brazil. Originating in China, the batch with about 90 liters of the ingredients will allow the production of 2.8 million doses of vaccine in the national territory. The vaccines to be produced in Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz will be distributed under the National Immunization Program.⁸³⁵⁵

⁸³⁵⁰ Australia partners with Indonesia for COVID-19 response, Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister for Women Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 27 October 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/statement-indonesia>

⁸³⁵¹ Australian support for vaccination efforts in Vietnam, Minister for International Development and the Pacific Senator the Hon Zed Seselja (Canberra) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 27 October 2021.

<https://ministers.dfat.gov.au/minister/zed-seselja/media-release/australian-support-vaccination-efforts-vietnam>

⁸³⁵² COVID-19 vaccines available soon for 16 to 39-year-olds, the Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/covid-19-vaccines-available-soon-for-16-to-39-year-olds>

⁸³⁵³ ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia, the Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-all-young-adolescents-in-australia>

⁸³⁵⁴ COVID-19 vaccination program rolls out to people 12 years and older, the Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/covid-19-vaccination-program-rolls-out-to-people-12-years-and-older>

⁸³⁵⁵ Arrival of the IFA from China for the production, by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), of vaccines against COVID-19 – Joint note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/chegada-do-ifa-da-china-para-a-producao-pela-fundacao-oswaldo-cruz-fiocruz-de-vacinas-contra-a-covid-19-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-e-do-ministerio-da-saude

On 9 February 2021, the National Health Surveillance Agency decided that vaccines purchased by the Ministry of Health through COVAX are exempted from the requirement for registration and temporary authorization for emergency use.⁸³⁵⁶

On 21 March 2021, Brazil received 1,022,400 doses of COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX, a global effort by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Health Organization, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The PAHO Revolving Fund, responsible for the procurement of vaccines against COVID-19 for the countries in the Americas, via the COVAX Mechanism, sent to Brazil the 1,022,400 doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine – manufactured by SK Bioscience in Korea. The vaccines will be distributed according to the Brazilian Vaccination Plan.⁸³⁵⁷

On 30 April 2021, the National Health Surveillance Agency approved the production of the active pharmaceutical ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine within the scope of technology transfer from AstraZeneca to the Instituto de Tecnologia em Immunobiologicos Bio-Manguinhos, from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.⁸³⁵⁸

On 7 May 2021, Brazilian government welcomed the willingness of the United States to negotiate, within the scope of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a multilateral solution that contributes to the fight against COVID-19, as well as to intensify its efforts – together with the private sector and other interested parties – to increase the production and distribution of inputs and vaccines globally. Brazil stated that it shares the objective to provide safe and efficient vaccines to as many people as possible in the shortest possible time. The Brazilian government promised deepen, with flexibility, pragmatism and responsibility, consultations with all its international partners, as well as with the private sector, to develop the multilateral understandings necessary for the rapid and safe production and distribution of vaccines. In particular, Brazil will discuss, in greater depth, with the United States, its new position and its practical implications for facilitating ample and urgent access to vaccines and medicines in the fight against COVID-19. At the WTO, Brazil promised to continue to work with Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and with all the members to build a consensual and cooperative solution that will make it possible to accelerate the production and dissemination of vaccines against COVID-19 in the smallest possible term.⁸³⁵⁹

During the compliance period Brazil took actions to provide access to vaccines domestically and expressed readiness and support for international action, but no concrete actions to promote access to vaccines internationally were registered yet.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

⁸³⁵⁶ Anvisa board dispenses emergency registration and authorization for vaccine from Covax Facility, Globo (Rio de Janeiro) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://g1.globo.com/bemestar/vacina/noticia/2021/02/09/diretoria-da-anvisa-dispensa-registro-e-autorizacao-emergencial-para-vacinas-do-covax-facility.ghtml>

⁸³⁵⁷ Brazil will receive the first vaccines against COVID-19 through the COVAX Mechanism, Pan American Health Organization (Washington, DC) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/21-3-2021-brazil-will-receive-first-vaccines-against-covid-19-through-covax-mechanism>

⁸³⁵⁸ Fiocruz is authorized to produce the AstraZeneca vaccine input, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/saude-e-vigilancia-sanitaria/2021/05/fiocruz-e-autorizada-a-produzir-o-insumo-da-vacina-astrazeneca>

⁸³⁵⁹ Vaccines and patents – Joint Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/vacinas-e-patentes-2013-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-do-ministerio-da-economia-do-ministerio-da-saude-e-do-ministerio-da-ciencia-tecnologia-e-inovacoes

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 14 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced the country's contribution of CAD230 million to procure COVID-19 treatments through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), and CAD255 million as additional support for the ACT-A for the effective deployment of medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing and vulnerable countries. The latter contribution included an investment in the development of a mechanism to equitably reallocate vaccine doses through COVAX.⁸³⁶⁰

On 19 April 2020, the Government of Canada presented the Budget 2021.⁸³⁶¹ The budget provides for a CAD59.2 million investment into the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) to help it develop and manufacture bio-solutions such as vaccines and therapeutics. This builds on previous investments in VIDO, totaling CAD46 million, to accelerate the development of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, support research and enhance its vaccine manufacturing facilities.⁸³⁶²

On 23 April 2021, Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand announced that Canada has secured COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer for 2022 and 2023, with options to extend into 2024. The agreement guarantees access to 65 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, with access to up to 120 million more if all options are exercised.⁸³⁶³

On 29 April 2021, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced an investment of CAD2.25 million through the Immunization Partnership Fund for two projects to support national vaccination efforts. The projects include the University of Alberta's "ScienceUpFirst" and the University of Toronto's CARD (C-Comfort, A-Ask, R-Relax, D-Distract) System. These projects aim to ensure access to information on vaccination, as well as equip healthcare providers and Canadians with strategies to manage pain and fear during vaccination.⁸³⁶⁴

On 14 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland announced the payment of CAD5 billion to the provinces and territories to support vaccination campaigns. The payments were to be distributed on per capita basis.⁸³⁶⁵

⁸³⁶⁰ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁸³⁶¹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

⁸³⁶² Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

⁸³⁶³ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

⁸³⁶⁴ Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

⁸³⁶⁵ Federal government delivers \$5 billion in pandemic support to provinces and territories for vaccines and health care, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/07/federal-government-delivers-5-billion-in-pandemic-support-to-provinces-and-territories-for-vaccines-and-health-care.html>

On 12 August 2021, Minister Gould and Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand, announced the donation of up to 10 million doses of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine to other countries through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility.⁸³⁶⁶

Canada has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both on national level and through international actions and partnerships.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a COVID-19 vaccine production facility which is expected to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase. The production operation is due to begin in eight months.⁸³⁶⁷

On 31 December 2020, it was announced that China had granted conditional marketing authorization for its first self-developed COVID-19 vaccine. It was also announced that the vaccines would be provided completely free of charge to all people of China.⁸³⁶⁸

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.⁸³⁶⁹

On 12 March 2021, Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang announced that the main goals for China in 2021 is to prevent COVID-19 cases and to work on speeding up vaccination.⁸³⁷⁰

On 6 April 2021, China began offering free COVID-19 vaccines to residents of Hong Kong and Macao who are Chinese nationals and are living on the Chinese mainland. It was also mentioned that they will also be entitled to the same treatment and reimbursement policies as mainland residents if they have adverse reactions after inoculation.⁸³⁷¹

⁸³⁶⁶ Canada announces new contribution to global vaccination efforts, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/08/canada-announces-new-contribution-to-global-vaccination-efforts.html>

⁸³⁶⁷ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, Xinhua (Kunming), 21 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

⁸³⁶⁸ Free for all! China's first COVID-19 vaccine was approved for marketing authorization. Injecting confidence during the global fight against the pandemic, Xinhua (Beijing), 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2020-12/31/c_1126932380.htm

⁸³⁶⁹ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

⁸³⁷⁰ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

⁸³⁷¹ Vaccines offered to Macao, HK people, China Daily (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/08/content_WS606e3eb1c6d0719374afc2d3.html

On 11 April 2021, the Chinese government delivered the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Iraq.⁸³⁷²

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that at the end of March the Chinese government has contributed RMB24 billion (approximately USD3.67 billion) to ensure the smooth rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. The funds were provided to vaccine buyers who then paid vaccine manufacturers in advance to help guarantee their operations.⁸³⁷³

On 5 August 2021, President Xi Jinping announced that China will provide two billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to the world throughout 2021 and contribute USD100 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.⁸³⁷⁴

China has taken action to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level but no actions on international level have been founded.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Adnrey Shelepov

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 18 February 2021, it was reported that France pledged to donate 5 per cent of its secured Covid-19 vaccine supplies to poorer countries through COVAX, and called other developed countries to follow suit, and donate from 3-5 percent of their stocks to developing countries.⁸³⁷⁵

On 15 April 2021, France welcomed the finalization of a new agreement between COVAX and Team Europe on the provision of doses, which will ensure the first French and European donations via COVAX can materialize shortly.⁸³⁷⁶

On 19 February 2021, it was announced that the EU pledged to double its contribution to COVAX to EUR1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.⁸³⁷⁷ On the same date, the G7 leaders issued a joint statement after a virtual summit pledged to intensify co-operation on COVID-19 and increase their contribution to the COVAX vaccine-sharing initiative to total USD7.5 billion.

⁸³⁷² Ambassador Zhang Tao attends the handover ceremony of the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines supplied by the Chinese government, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1868175.htm>

⁸³⁷³ Fund injection smooths out vaccine drive, China Daily (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202104/15/content_WS60778e02c6d0df57f98d7d8d.html

⁸³⁷⁴ Wang Yi Hosts the First Meeting of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (Beijing) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1897844.shtml

⁸³⁷⁵ France to Donate 5% of Its Vaccine Doses to Poorer Countries, Bloomberg (New York City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-18/france-to-donate-5-of-its-vaccine-doses-to-poorer-countries>

⁸³⁷⁶ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, ReliefWeb (New York City) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁸³⁷⁷ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_690

On 4 January 2021, France announced the government's pledge to accelerate vaccination campaigns starting with elderly people and health professionals, while recognizing criticism of delays due to logistical reasons.⁸³⁷⁸

By 23 March 2021, France had rolled out around 8.8 million doses. President Emmanuel Macron pledged to increase vaccination pace, offer vaccines to all people over 70 years old and open 35 mass vaccination centers across the country.⁸³⁷⁹ That pledge had taken form already in April 2021, when France reached its 10 million inoculations target a week earlier than expected, while daily vaccination after opening first mass vaccination centers exceeded 510,000 doses on 9 April 2021.⁸³⁸⁰

On 2 May 2021, it was reported that France would send within a month to India 28 tons of medical supplies, including eight large oxygen generation plants, as part of its "solidarity mission" to help the country in its fight against a devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.⁸³⁸¹

On 28 May 2021, speaking at a joint news conference with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria, Macron stated that France would invest in boosting the production of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa, to help close a gap in the availability of the shots between African and Western nations. France plans to deliver 30 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Africa by year-end, part of a total of more than 100 million doses that the European Union plans to deliver to Africa this year.⁸³⁸²

On 4 August 2021, it was reported that France has pledged to provide 200,000 doses of coronavirus vaccines to Armenia to support its government's vaccination campaign that has made slow progress so far.⁸³⁸³

On 30 August 2021, the French presidency said that France will send 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa over the next three months. The vaccines were to be allocated and distributed through the African Union's Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) and Covax. AVAT is a means of enabling group purchases of vaccines by AU members to help them meet at least 50 percent of their needs.⁸³⁸⁴

⁸³⁷⁸ Coronavirus: French government vows to speed up vaccinations, BBC News (London) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55529240>

⁸³⁷⁹ Covid-19: Macron vows to accelerate vaccine rollout as cases 'explode', France24 (Paris) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210323-vaccinations-will-be-open-to-those-over-70-starting-saturday-macron-says>

⁸³⁸⁰ France and Germany's Covid vaccination programmes pick up speed, The Guardian (London) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/apr/10/france-and-germanys-covid-vaccination-programmes-pick-up-speed>

⁸³⁸¹ France to send 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India on Sunday to fight Covid battle, India Today (Noida) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.indiatoday.in/coronavirus-outbreak/story/france-india-covid-medical-supplies-1797968-2021-05-02>

⁸³⁸² France to help Africa boost Covid-19 vaccine production, Macron says, France 24 (Paris) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210528-france-to-help-africa-boost-covid-19-vaccine-production-macron-says>

⁸³⁸³ France To Send 200,000 Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccines To Armenia, Azatutyun (Yerevan) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/31393346.html>

⁸³⁸⁴ France to donate 10 million vaccines to Africa over three month, AfricaNews (Lyon) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/08/30/france-to-donate-10-million-vaccines-to-africa-over-three-months/>

On 14 September 2021, Viet Nam received 672,000 doses of Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine donated by the Government of France through the COVAX Facility.⁸³⁸⁵

France has taken numerous important steps to contribute to affordable and equitable vaccine distribution both domestically and internationally.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 8 February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health, in consultation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, issued the ordinance on the entitlement to vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. It provides for the entitlement to vaccinations, vaccine surveillance procedures, partial financing of costs of vaccination centers, relevant evaluation measures and other aspects regulating access to COVID-19 vaccines within Germany.⁸³⁸⁶

On 19 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced an additional EUR1.5 billion for measures to fight COVID-19. Of that, EUR1 billion is for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and its Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. The rest of the funds is intended to strengthen the World Health Organization and research on vaccines, in particular with regard to mutations.⁸³⁸⁷

On 7 July 2021, Germany announced it would donate at least 500,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to ensure access for poorer countries. Around 80 per cent of the donated vaccines will be given via COVAX, with another 20 per cent given directly to countries in the Western Balkans and members of the EU's Eastern Partnership – Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – and Namibia.⁸³⁸⁸

On 29 September 2021, the Foreign Office announced it would provide up to 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to industrialising and developing countries, with most of them being made available through COVAX.⁸³⁸⁹

Germany has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both at national level and through international actions and partnerships.

⁸³⁸⁵ 1,484,060 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France and Italy through the COVAX Facility arrive in Viet Nam today, UNICEF (New York) 14 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/press-releases/1484060-doses-covid-19-vaccines-donated-france-and-italy-through-covax-facility>

⁸³⁸⁶ Ordinance on the entitlement to vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (Coronavirus-Impfverordnung – CoronalmpfV), Ministry of Health (Berlin) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Verordnungen/CoronalmpfV_EN_080221.pdf.

⁸³⁸⁷ Germany makes available 1.5 billion euros to help fight COVID-19 in developing countries, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-zum-tag-gegen-kindersoldaten-59360>.

⁸³⁸⁸ Germany to donate all remaining AstraZeneca vaccines in Aug, Reuters (Berlin) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-donate-all-remaining-astrazeneca-vaccines-aug-2021-07-07>

⁸³⁸⁹ Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany donates vaccines, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 27 October 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 29 November 2020, India provided another grant to the Department of Biotechnology for Research & Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines. The important objectives of the fund will be accelerating pre-clinical& clinical development; licensure of COVID-19 vaccine candidates that are currently in clinical stages or ready to enter clinical stage of development, establishing clinical trial sites, and strengthening the existing immunoassay laboratories, central laboratories and suitable facilities for animal studies, production facilities and other testing facilities to support COVID-19 vaccine development.⁸³⁹⁰

On 16 January 2021, India launched the pan-India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive, the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3,006 session sites participated in the launch. During this phase, priority groups and health care workers were to be vaccinated.⁸³⁹¹ Moreover, a 24/7 call center has been established for addressing the queries related to COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine rollout.⁸³⁹²

On 13 March 2021, India, along with the United States, Australia and Japan, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁸³⁹³

On 1 April 2021, the Government of India decided to operationalize both public and private sector COVID-19 Vaccination Centers on all days of April. It has also decided that from 1 April the COVID-19 vaccination of people above the age of 45 will start.⁸³⁹⁴

India has taken actions to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level but no actions on international level were taken.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

⁸³⁹⁰ Government Launches Mission COVID Suraksha to accelerate Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 1 February 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1676998>

⁸³⁹¹ PM Launches pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689021>

⁸³⁹² PM Modi to launch Pan India Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccination drive, DD News, 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/pm-modi-launch-pan-india-rollout-covid-19-vaccination-drive>

⁸³⁹³ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁸³⁹⁴ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1708915>

On 21 December 2020, it was reported that Indonesia received the first shipment of China's Sinovac vaccine, which was under consideration by authorities for emergency use.⁸³⁹⁵ It was further reported, that Indonesia's vaccination strategy differed from most of the countries with prioritized front-line health workers, police and military and then – working age population (18-59 years old) so that the problem of asymptomatic transmission among the working-age population was solved. The ultimate goal of the government is to inoculate 181.5 million Indonesians by the end of 2020.⁸³⁹⁶

On 8 April 2021, it was reported that Indonesia had already received by that moment 56 million doses of Sinovac vaccine and was in talks with China to secure additional 90-100 million doses to substitute lagging deliveries of the AstraZeneca vaccine.⁸³⁹⁷ It was further reported that Indonesia would receive additional vaccine doses both from China (10 to 15 million doses in April and May 2021), and via COVAX (two shipments of 3.8 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccines).⁸³⁹⁸

On 9 July 2021, it was reported that Indonesia received desperately needed supplies of oxygen and protective equipment from neighbouring Singapore.⁸³⁹⁹

On 24 July 2021, Switzerland is helping Indonesia to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Swiss Humanitarian Aid sent 600 oxygen concentrators to Jakarta on Saturday, with a total value of nearly CHF1 million.⁸⁴⁰⁰

On 9 August 2021, it was reported that a shipment of medical equipment and medicines donated by Turkey to Indonesia for battling the COVID-19 pandemic arrived at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport. Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the medical aid consisted of 50 sets of ventilators and 600,000 boxes of medicine.⁸⁴⁰¹

Indonesia has taken action to ensure domestic vaccination rollout is executed smoothly and efficiently. However, it has not taken sufficient action internationally.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

⁸³⁹⁵ COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Indonesia faces multiple challenges, Marketplace (Jakarta) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/12/21/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-in-indonesia-faces-multiple-challenges/>

⁸³⁹⁶ Indonesia receives second batch of Covid-19 vaccines from COVAX Facility, The Star (Jakarta) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/04/27/indonesia-receives-second-batch-of-covid-19-vaccines-from-covax-facility>

⁸³⁹⁷ Indonesia turns to China for more vaccines after AstraZeneca delays, Reuters (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-indonesia-vaccine/indonesia-turns-to-china-for-more-vaccines-after-astrazeneca-delays-idUSKBN2BV0C3>

⁸³⁹⁸ Indonesia to get more COVID-19 vaccine doses from China, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/indonesia-to-get-more-covid-19-vaccine-doses-from-china/2221267>

⁸³⁹⁹ Virus-hit Indonesia receives emergency medical supplies, France 24 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210709-virus-hit-indonesia-receives-emergency-medical-supplies>

⁸⁴⁰⁰ COVID-19 in Indonesia: Switzerland sends 600 oxygen concentrators to Jakarta, UNICEF 24 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/covid-19-indonesia-switzerland-sends-600-oxygen-concentrators-jakarta>

⁸⁴⁰¹ Turkey donates medical equipment to help Indonesia's COVID-19 fight, Daily Sabah 9 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-donates-medical-equipment-to-help-indonesias-covid-19-fight>

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Health issued the document Elements of Preparation for the Vaccination Strategy, one of the two constituent parts of the National Strategic Vaccination Plan for the Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Infection. The document identified the values, principles, priorities, as well as logistical and organizational features of the national vaccination campaign.⁸⁴⁰²

On 27 December 2020, after the approval by the European Medicines Agency, the anti-COVID-19 vaccination campaign started in Italy.⁸⁴⁰³ Since 31 December 2020, the real-time data on the vaccination is available on-line. As of mid-May 2021, more than 8.5 million people were fully vaccinated in Italy.⁸⁴⁰⁴

On 2 January 2021, the National Strategic Vaccination Plan for the Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Infection was approved by the Ministry of Health of Italy.⁸⁴⁰⁵

On 10 March 2021, the Interim Recommendations on SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Vaccination Target Groups were issued, updating the population categories to be vaccinated and the priorities of the National Strategic Vaccination Plan.⁸⁴⁰⁶

On 13 March 2021, the Vaccination Plan of the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Execution of the National Vaccination Campaign was released. Developed in accordance with the National Strategic Vaccination Plan, it sets the objective of achieving 500 thousand vaccinations a day and vaccinate at least 80 percent of the population by September 2021.⁸⁴⁰⁷

On 21 May 2021, on the margins of the Global Health Summit Italy has pledged EUR300 million to provide equitable access to vaccines in developing countries via COVAX AMC initiative.⁸⁴⁰⁸

Italy took steps to ensure access to vaccines on both national and international levels.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 4 December 2020, speaking at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga noted that Japan had

⁸⁴⁰² Elements of preparation of the vaccination strategy, Italian Government (Rome) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/renderPdf.spring?seriegu=SG&datagu=24/03/2021&redaz=21A01802&artp=1&art=1&subart=1&subart1=10&vers=1&prog=002>

⁸⁴⁰³ Anti Covid-10 vaccination campaign, Italian Government (Rome) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/campagna-vaccinazione-anti-covid-19/16000>

⁸⁴⁰⁴ COVID-19 Vaccine Report, Italian Government (Rome) 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/cscovid19/report-vaccini/>

⁸⁴⁰⁵ Presidency of the Council of Ministers – the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Implementation and Coordination of Measures to Contain and Fight the COVID-19 Epidemiology Emergency, Official Gazette (Rome) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/01/05/21A00042/sg>

⁸⁴⁰⁶ Interim Recommendations on SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 Vaccination Target Groups, Italian Government (Rome) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/renderPdf.spring?seriegu=SG&datagu=24/03/2021&redaz=21A01802&artp=1&art=1&subart=1&subart1=10&vers=1&prog=002>

⁸⁴⁰⁷ Vaccination Plan of the Extraordinary Commissioner, Italian Government (Rome) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/210313_Piano_Vaccinale_marzo_2021_1.pdf

⁸⁴⁰⁸ L'intervento di apertura del Presidente Draghi al Global Health Summit, Governo Italiano Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <https://www.governo.it/node/16920>

responded rapidly to the call for contributions to the COVAX facility and would promote the supply of therapeutics through voluntary licensing of patents.⁸⁴⁰⁹

On 8 October 2020, Japan pledged USD130 million in funding to the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance COVAX Advance Market Commitment to help accelerate and reserve COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries, enabling lower income countries to reinforce equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁸⁴¹⁰ Further, on 26 November 2020, it was reported that to that date Japan had pledged USD229 million to the vaccination pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (out of initially planned USD2 billion fundraising goal for 2020).⁸⁴¹¹

On 27 February 2021, Japan reached agreement with Pfizer on shipments of sufficient amounts of both vaccine doses to inoculate 36 million elderly people by the end of June (with the biggest part of vaccines starting to arrive in May 2021), and another 36 million people by the end of 2021 (144 million doses in total).⁸⁴¹²

On 10 March 2021, it was reported that Japan would provide USD41 million worth aid to 25 Asian and Pacific Islands nations to help them build a cold-chain distributions network for COVID-19 vaccines.⁸⁴¹³

On 13 March 2021, Japan, along with the United States, Australia and India, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁸⁴¹⁴

On 27 April 2021, the Government of Japan, through the United Nations Children's Fund, extended an emergency aid grant worth USD1.6 million to Uganda to boost the country's COVID-19 response, namely, to provide Uganda with cold chain equipment including medical equipment such as cold-storage facilities and transportation.⁸⁴¹⁵

On 30 June 2021, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a grant agreement with Malawi to provide grant aid of up to JPY401 million for the Program for COVID-19 Crisis

⁸⁴⁰⁹ Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁸⁴¹⁰ Japan pledges US\$ 130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>

⁸⁴¹¹ Japan's Contribution to the Act-A Program: Reaffirming Japan's Global Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York City) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-japan-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁸⁴¹² Japan says it will have enough vaccine for 36m seniors by June, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Japan-says-it-will-have-enough-vaccine-for-36m-seniors-by-June>

⁸⁴¹³ Japan to give \$41 million aid to Asian nations over vaccine supply, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/09/japan-to-give-41-million-aid-to-asian-nations-over-vaccine-supply.html>

⁸⁴¹⁴ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁸⁴¹⁵ Japan Government extends over US\$1,6 million to Uganda to boost its COVID-19 response, UNICEF (New York) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/uganda/press-releases/japan-government-extends-over-us16-million-uganda-boost-its-covid-19-response>

Response Emergency Support, thus contributing to the establishment of an effective and safe vaccination system against COVID-19 through providing cold chain and medical equipment.⁸⁴¹⁶

On 30 June 2021, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Palestinian Authority to provide grant aid of up to JPY897 million for the Program for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support, which is aimed at establishing an effective and safe vaccination system containing a further spread of COVID-19, through providing cold chain equipment such as refrigerated vaccine transport vehicles.⁸⁴¹⁷

On 16 July 2021, JICA signed a grant agreement with Mozambique to provide grant aid of up to JPY430 million for the Program for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support to establish an effective and safe vaccination system and to contain the further spread of the COVID-19, by providing cold chain and medical equipment.⁸⁴¹⁸

On 19 July 2021, JICA signed a grant agreement with Mongolia to provide grant aid of up to JPY883 million for the Programme for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support to improve the vaccination rate in Mongolia and to prevent spread of the COVID-19, through providing cold chain equipment such as refrigerated vaccine transport vehicles and medical equipment.⁸⁴¹⁹

On 23-24 July 2021, first shipments of Japan's COVID-19 vaccine donations via the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment arrived in Cambodia and Iran. These deliveries are part of a donation of over 11 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to countries across Asia, the Pacific Islands and other regions.⁸⁴²⁰

On 23 July 2021, JICA signed a grant agreement with Senegal to provide grant aid of up to JPY514 million for the Programme for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support. The programme aims to establish the effective and safe vaccination system and to contain a further spread of the COVID-19, through providing cold chain and medical equipment as promptly as possible.⁸⁴²¹

On 28 July 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Dominican Republic to provide a loan of up to USD200 million for the Program to Strengthen Public Policy and Fiscal Management in Response to the Health and Economic Crisis Caused by COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic. This program, by co-financing with the Inter-American Development Bank, aims to help strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of public policy and fiscal management of the Government of the Dominican

⁸⁴¹⁶ Signing of Grant Agreement with Malawi: Contributing to the establishment of an effective and safe vaccination system against COVID-19 through providing cold chain and medical equipment, JICA (Tokyo) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210706_en_21.html

⁸⁴¹⁷ Signing of Grant Agreement with Palestine: Contributing to establishment of an effective and safe vaccination system against COVID-19 through providing cold chain and medical equipment, JICA (Tokyo) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210709_41_en.html

⁸⁴¹⁸ Signing of Grant Agreement with Mozambique: Contributing to the establishment of an effective and safe vaccination system against COVID-19 through providing cold chain and medical equipment, JICA (Tokyo) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210719_en_21.html

⁸⁴¹⁹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Mongolia : Contributing to establishment of an effective and safe vaccination system against COVID-19 through providing cold chain and medical equipment, JICA (Tokyo) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210721_30.html

⁸⁴²⁰ First doses donated by Japan to COVAX reach lower-income countries, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/first-doses-donated-japan-covax-reach-lower-income-countries>

⁸⁴²¹ Signing of Grant Agreement with the Republic of Senegal: Contributing to establishment of the effective and safe vaccination system against COVID-19 through providing cold chain and medical equipment, JICA (Tokyo) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210824_en_21.html

Republic in response to the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 through the design and implementation of effective and fiscally responsible policy measures.⁸⁴²²

Japan has taken numerous important steps to contribute to affordable and equitable vaccine distribution both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 25 February 2021, Korea has initiated a nation-wide vaccination campaign. The campaign is based on vaccine batches produced by AstraZeneca. The government plans to immunize at least 10 million high-risk people by July 2021.⁸⁴²³

On 11 March 2021, the Disease Control and Prevention Agency approved usage of AstraZeneca vaccine for elderly population that had been prohibited due to lack of clinical data.⁸⁴²⁴

On 27 April 2021, Korea announced its intention to provide India with medical equipment. South Korea would send oxygen concentrators, COVID-19 diagnostic kits and other supplies to help the South Asian country in its fight against the coronavirus infection.⁸⁴²⁵

On 12 May 2021, the Government of Korea amended the national vaccination plan for the Q2 2021. According to the amended plan, vaccination would cover the 60-64 age group; people under 30 would receive the Pfizer-made vaccine.⁸⁴²⁶

On 12 May 2021, Korea and New Zealand held an intra-ministerial videocall. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation including coordination to ensure equitable access to vaccines under the COVAX Facility.⁸⁴²⁷

On 17 May 2021, Korea announced its intention to import 835,000 doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine through COVAX scheme for domestic use.⁸⁴²⁸

⁸⁴²² Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Dominican Republic: Supporting the Dominican Republic to strengthen public policy and fiscal management in response to the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19, by providing the first budget support in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, JICA (Tokyo) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210804_41_en.html

⁸⁴²³ South Korea kicks off COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Reuters (Seoul) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-southkorea-idUSKBN2AQ02L>

⁸⁴²⁴ S. Korea approves AstraZeneca vaccine for over-65s, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210310009100320>

⁸⁴²⁵ The Latest: S Korea to send medical items to help India, Associated Press (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/technology-pandemics-europe-india-coronavirus-pandemic-adb43be663e6db0ec638f1acf376735>

⁸⁴²⁶ The 60-64 Age Group Is Included in the Q2 Vaccination Plan, with People under 30 to Receive Pfizer Shots, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=365646

⁸⁴²⁷ S. Korea, New Zealand discuss cooperation in vaccines, hydrogen technologies, Yonhap News (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512009000325>

On 3 June 2021, Korea launched the Global Vaccine Production Hub Taskforce “to make a significant contribution to the global vaccine production volume, and ultimately play a vital role in bringing about the resolution of the pandemic as quickly as possible.” The Taskforce was established following the decisions made during Korea-US summit in May 2021. The body would coordinate actions of ten departments of the national government.⁸⁴²⁹

On 5 June 2021, Korea received more than one million Johnson&Johnson vaccine doses from the United States.⁸⁴³⁰

Korea takes actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 3 January 2021, it was announced that Mexico plans to import about 870,000 doses of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine from India in February, as well as producing it locally.⁸⁴³¹

On 4 February 2021, as President pro tempore of the Community Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Government of Mexico took part in a ministerial meeting on “Promoting equitable access to COVID-19 tools in Latin America and the Caribbean through the ACT-Accelerator (ACT-A).” The World Health Organization (WHO) participated in and supported the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to strengthen the region’s communication with the WHO, and to learn first-hand the achievements of the ACT-A, a partnership launched by WHO in April 2020. The participants also discussed current challenges and how to advance regional cooperation to meet the goals of the ACT-A, without leaving anyone behind. The ACT-A has driven global cooperation to develop effective vaccines, identify treatments and other tools to fight COVID-19 effectively, including the COVID-19 Global Vaccine Alliance (COVAX) facility.⁸⁴³²

On 24 February 2021, the Government of Mexico received a first shipment of 200,000 doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine produced in Russia by the Gamaleya National Research Center of

⁸⁴²⁸ 835,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine to Be Imported Through COVAX, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-Si) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=365696

⁸⁴²⁹ Korea as a Global Vaccine Production Hub : Ironing out the Details in the Whole-of-Government Strategy for Scaling-up Production, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-Si) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366323

⁸⁴³⁰ More than 1 Million Vaccine Doses to Arrive at Seoul Air Base on June 5th from the United States, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-si) 6 July 2021.. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=366322

⁸⁴³¹ Mexico to import AstraZeneca vaccine from India, president says, Reuters (Mexico City) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcare-coronavirus-mexico-vaccine-idUSKBN29Z067>

⁸⁴³² CELAC promotes solidarity and equitable access to vaccines and supplies to combat Covid-19, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/celac-promotes-solidarity-and-equitable-access-to-vaccines-and-supplies-to-combat-covid-19?idiom=en>

Epidemiology and Microbiology. These are the first doses of a total of 24 million that Mexico has contracted to purchase through the Russian Direct Investment Fund. They will enable 12 million people to be vaccinated.⁸⁴³³

On 24 February 2021, Social Security Institute for the Mexican Armed Forces explained the procedure for the vaccination for the people older than 60 years. It provides the information on registration process and explains the benefits of getting the vaccine.⁸⁴³⁴

During the compliance period Mexico took actions to provide access to vaccines domestically and expressed readiness and support for international action, but no concrete actions to promote access to vaccines internationally were registered yet.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 26 December 2020, the Ministry of Health approved the Sputnik V vaccine for treatment of patients older than 60. The vaccine proved its safety and more than 90 per cent efficiency and thus might be used to protect vulnerable population amid pandemic.⁸⁴³⁵

On 29 December 2020, Russia has delivered the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine to Belarus. Russian vaccine is said to be the primary component of Belarus-wide vaccination campaign.⁸⁴³⁶

On 10 February 2021, Russia and Iran discussed issues of bilateral cooperation in health sphere. The meeting's agenda included treatment of COVID-19 infection along with plans to start production of Sputnik V vaccine in Iran.⁸⁴³⁷

On 20 February 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the third Russian-made vaccine against COVID-19. KoviVak vaccine has proved its efficiency during the pre-launch testing; however, further testing would be conducted after the formal approval.⁸⁴³⁸

On 15 April 2021, the Direct Investment Fund reached an agreement with Korean GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS on production of Sputnik V vaccine for export. On Korea's side, six other companies besides GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS would join the agreement.⁸⁴³⁹

⁸⁴³³ The Government of Mexico receives first 200,000 doses of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine from Russia, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-receives-first-200-000-doses-of-sputnik-v-covid-19-vaccine-from-russia>

⁸⁴³⁴ Como registrarse para ser vacunado contra el COVID-19, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/issfam/articulos/como-registrarse-para-ser-vacuna-contra-el-covid-19>

⁸⁴³⁵ Ministry of Health Approved 'Sputnik V' for Vaccination of Elderly Population, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow). Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/26/15765-minzdrav-rf-odobril-primeneniye-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-dlya-lyudey-starshe-60-let>

⁸⁴³⁶ M. Murashko Comments on 'Sputnik V' Vaccine Supplies to Belarus, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/29/15778-mihail-murashko-prokommentiroval-nachalo-postavok-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-v-belorussiyu>

⁸⁴³⁷ Ministry of Health Discussed Cooperation with Iran in healthcare and 'Sputnik V' Production, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) Access Date: <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/02/10/16064-v-minzdrave-obsudili-voprosy-sotrudnichestva-s-iranom-v-sfere-zdravoohraneniya-i-organizatsii-proizvodstva-vaktsiny-sputnik-v>

⁸⁴³⁸ Ministry of Health Approved the Third COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow). Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/02/20/16138-minzdrav-rossii-zaregistroval-tretyu-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-ot-covid-19>

On 23 April 2021, Russia delivered the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine to Uzbekistan. The shipment was affected by the Russian Direct Investment Fund. Uzbekistan started the nation-wide vaccination company on the 1 April 2021; on 17 April 2021, Uzbekistan control authorities approved Sputnik V for local use.⁸⁴⁴⁰

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the fourth Russian-made vaccine against COVID-19. Sputnik Lite is a one-component vaccine that demonstrated 100 per cent efficiency in forming cell-immunity against COVID-19.⁸⁴⁴¹

On 27 May 2021, Human Vaccine LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Russian Direct Investment Fund announced the signing of an agreement for the supply of 220 million doses of two-dose Sputnik V Russian COVID-19 vaccine with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. This amount is sufficient to vaccinate 110 million people.⁸⁴⁴²

On 17 July 2021, the Russian Direct Investment Fund and the Serum Institute of India (SII) have reached an agreement on production of the Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V. SII plans to produce more than 300 mln doses annually starting from September 2021.⁸⁴⁴³

On 19 August 2021, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko had a meeting with Carla Vizzotti, the Minister of Health of Argentina. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation in health, including the joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁴⁴⁴

Russia takes actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 11 April 2021, second dose appointments for COVID-19 vaccination were postponed broadening the coverage of the population who can get their first vaccine dose.⁸⁴⁴⁵

⁸⁴³⁹ RDIF, GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS Agreed on Production of 'Sputnik V' Vaccine in Korea, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/#!rfpi_gl_rapha_i_isu_abxis_obyavlyayut_o_sotrudnichestve_dlya_proizvodstva_vakciny_sputnik_v_v_koree

⁸⁴⁴⁰ Russia Delivered the First Batch of Vaccines to Uzbekistan, Gazeta.ru (Moscow) Access Date: 7 May 2021.

https://www.gazeta.ru/tags/organization/rossiiskii_fond_pryamyh_investitsii.shtml

⁸⁴⁴¹ Ministry of Health Approved the Fourth COVID-19 Vaccine Made in Russia, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/05/06/16566-minzdrav-zaregistroval-chetvertuyu-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-ot-covid-19>

⁸⁴⁴² RDIF and UNICEF sign Sputnik V vaccine supply agreement, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (Moscow) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. https://rdif.ru/Eng_fullNews/6854/

⁸⁴⁴³ RDIF and Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, to start production of Sputnik vaccine at Company's facilities in September, the Russian Direct Investments Fund (Moscow) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 22 September 2021. https://rdif.ru/Eng_fullNews/6934/

⁸⁴⁴⁴ Mikhail Murashko met with the Minister of Health of Argentina, who highly appreciated the Russian Sputnik V vaccine, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 August 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/08/19/17188-mihail-murashko-vstretilsya-s-ministrom-zdravoohraneniya-argentiny-kotoraya-vysoko-otsenila-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-sputnik-v>

⁸⁴⁴⁵ Saudi Arabia postpones second COVID-19 dose reservations, Arab News (Riyadh) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1840891/saudi-arabia>

On 22 April 2021, more appointments for vaccination were made available in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah per request from the citizens.⁸⁴⁴⁶

On 12 July 2021, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud directed the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) to provide Tunisia with vaccines, medical and protective equipment and supplies to help the country deal with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The medical support package included one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, 190 ventilators, 319 oxygen concentrators, 150 hospital beds, 50 vital-sign monitoring devices, 4 million medical masks, 500,000 medical gloves, 180 pulse oximeters, 25 intravenous drug pumps, 9 defibrillators, 15 video laryngoscopes, and 5 electrocardiographs (ECGs).⁸⁴⁴⁷ The first batch of AstraZeneca vaccine (608,000 doses) arrived in Tunisia to help the country fight the COVID-19 pandemic on 26 August 2021.⁸⁴⁴⁸

On 25 July 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia would deliver medical aid which includes one million doses of vaccines and various medical supplies and equipment to beef up Malaysia's war against the COVID-19 pandemic. KSrelief adviser at the Royal Court and supervisor general Dr Abdullah Abdulaziz Al Rabeeah said the aid will include one million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, medical devices, care and treatment devices, preventive supplies and other medical needs.⁸⁴⁴⁹

On 10 August 2021, KSrelief delivered USD500,000 worth pandemic prevention medical aid and equipment to Vietnam to help the country combat the COVID-19 virus. This assistance was provided as part of the Kingdom's ongoing commitment to alleviating the suffering of people in need globally, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.⁸⁴⁵⁰

On 21 August 2021, Saudi Arabia pledged to donate oxygen cylinders and oxygen generators to Tunisia. Saudi Arabia would also secure containers to deliver 200 tons of liquid oxygen to the country to facilitate its response to COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁴⁵¹

On 2 September 2021, KSrelief delivered a variety of medical aid items to Mali to combat the COVID-19 virus there. This aid is strong evidence of the deep ties between the two countries and delivered the appreciation of Mali's government to Saudi Arabia, represented by KSrelief, for the aid.⁸⁴⁵²

⁸⁴⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia increases Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines to cater for demand, The National (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-increases-pfizer-biontech-vaccines-to-cater-for-demand-1.1208479>

⁸⁴⁴⁷ Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud directs KSrelief to Provide Tunisia with COVID-19 Vaccines and other Medical Support, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (Riyadh) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/3BC50F15-B37E-4120-B831-858EC7E8CB85>

⁸⁴⁴⁸ KSA Aid Plane Carrying 608,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Arrives in Tunisia, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (Riyadh) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/3D3A90D0-A08F-44B2-A870-09234B59AB74>

⁸⁴⁴⁹ Covid-19: Saudi Arabia to deliver medical aid, including one million doses of vaccines, The Star (Petaling Jaya) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/07/25/covid-19-saudi-arabia-to-deliver-medical-aid-including-one-million-doses-of-vaccines-says-wisma-putra>

⁸⁴⁵⁰ Saudi Arabia's KSrelief delivers \$500k of pandemic aid to Vietnam, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1908521/saudi-arabia>

⁸⁴⁵¹ Saudi Arabia to donate oxygen cylinders, generators to help Tunisia fight COVID-19, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 27 October 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1914396/saudi-arabia>

⁸⁴⁵² KSrelief Delivers COVID-19 Medical Support to Mali, KSrelief (Riyadh) 24 September 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/d9e0e350-1fad-46c6-9089-156f363c2013>

On 26 August 2021, a relief cargo plane carrying the first batch of AstraZeneca vaccine (608,000 doses) arrived in Tunisia to help the country fight the COVID-19 pandemic⁸⁴⁵³

Saudi Arabia has taken steps to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives the score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 16 February 2021, South Africa received the first delivery of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Shortly before that the Health Product Authority approved the vaccine for local usage.⁸⁴⁵⁴

On 17 February 2021, South Africa started a nationwide vaccination program using the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.⁸⁴⁵⁵ The government plans to immunize 67 per cent of the population by the end 2021.⁸⁴⁵⁶

On 6 April 2021, South Africa signed a deal for 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses to be delivered later in April. With Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccine deliveries combined, South Africa has secured enough doses to reach the goals of national vaccination campaign.⁸⁴⁵⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Department of Science and Innovation announced that the government would allocate ZAR25 million (approximately USD1.7 million) to the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to continue with health threats research.⁸⁴⁵⁸

On 20 July 2021, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Lamola has announced the launch of the nation-wide vaccination program among services officials and inmates.⁸⁴⁵⁹

On 23 July 2021, Minister of Higher Education Science and Innovation Dr. Blade Nzimande presented the negotiation results between Biovac (47.5 per cent owned by the State) and Pfizer-Biotech. The parties agreed on giving Biotech the right to produce the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine that

⁸⁴⁵³ KSA Aid Plane Carrying 608,000 Doses of AstraZeneca Vaccine Arrives in Tunisia, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (Riyadh) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 1 September 2021.

<https://www.ksrelief.org/Pages/NewsDetails/3D3A90D0-A08F-44B2-A870-09234B59AB74>

⁸⁴⁵⁴ Government receives Johnson & Johnson Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccine, 16 Feb, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-receives-johnson-johnson-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-16-feb-16-feb-2021-0000>

⁸⁴⁵⁵ Coronavirus: South Africa rolls out vaccination programme, BBC News (London) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55675806>.

⁸⁴⁵⁶ COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccine strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/covid-19/vaccine/strategy>

⁸⁴⁵⁷ South Africa signs deal for 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses, Reuters (Johannesburg) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-safrica-pfizer-idUSKBN2BT13M>

⁸⁴⁵⁸ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁸⁴⁵⁹ Minister Ronald Lamola: Launch of Vaccination Rollout Programme for correctional services officials and inmates, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ronald-lamola-launch-vaccination-rollout-programme-correctional-services-officials>

includes on-site development and equipment installation activities. The produced vaccine would be distributed within the African Union.⁸⁴⁶⁰

South Africa has taken actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 11 January 2021, the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Turkey was announced following the agreement to purchase 50 million doses of Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccine and delivery of initial 3 million doses, as well as agreement to procure 4.5 million doses of the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, with an option to procure 30 million more doses later.⁸⁴⁶¹

On 17 March 2021, Turkey pledged to donate 30,000 coronavirus vaccines to Bosnia and Herzegovina as an outcome of the two countries' summit;⁸⁴⁶² further, on 17 April 2021, Ankara had already sent two shipments of 10,000 vaccines to Bosnia in line with the above agreement.⁸⁴⁶³

On 4 April 2021, Turkey ranked sixth globally in terms of administered COVID-19 vaccines (16.6 million doses, 9.5 million people to that date had received their first doses, while second doses had been given to over 7.13 million) following the U.S., China, India, the U.K. and Brazil.⁸⁴⁶⁴ Having concluded the first stage of vaccination rollout (critical front-line health care staff, people over the age of 65, elderly and disabled adults living in crowded places and those living at nursing homes), on 19 April 2021 Turkey started the second stage with turning to vaccinate the population aged 55 and older.⁸⁴⁶⁵

On 9 April 2021, it was reported that the studies for Turkey's seven vaccine candidates had progressed, with three of them in the human trial stage.⁸⁴⁶⁶

On 14 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey had delivered its donation of 150,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses to Libya.⁸⁴⁶⁷

⁸⁴⁶⁰ Minister Blade Nzimande congratulates Biovac for appointment to manufacture and distribute Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19 vaccine doses within Africa, South Africa Government (Pretoria) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-congratulates-biovac-appointment-manufacture-and-distribute-pfizer>

⁸⁴⁶¹ Turkey to start Covid-19 vaccination this week – latest updates, TRT Online (Istanbul) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trtworld.com/life/turkey-to-start-covid-19-vaccination-this-week-latest-updates-43137>

⁸⁴⁶² Turkey to donate 30,000 Doses of Vaccines to Bosnia, Sarajevo Times (Sarajevo) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.sarajevotimes.com/turkey-to-donate-30000-doses-of-vaccines-to-bosnia/>

⁸⁴⁶³ Turkey donates 10,000 more vaccine doses to Bosnia, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/health/turkey-donates-10-000-more-vaccine-doses-to-bosnia/2212159>

⁸⁴⁶⁴ Turkey ranks 6th globally in COVID-19 vaccination numbers, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-ranks-6th-globally-in-covid-19-vaccination-numbers/news>

⁸⁴⁶⁵ Turkey enters new phase of COVID-19 vaccination, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/turkey-enters-new-phase-of-covid-19-vaccination/2213781>

⁸⁴⁶⁶ Turkey says 3 Covid-19 vaccines in human trial stage – latest updates, TRT Online (Istanbul) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trtworld.com/life/turkey-says-3-covid-19-vaccines-in-human-trial-stage-latest-updates-45736>

On 21 April 2021, it was reported that the first batch of vaccines allocated through COVAX facility (53,800 AstraZeneca doses) had been delivered to Syria's Idlib region with Turkey's assistance.⁸⁴⁶⁸

On 26 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey's pharmaceutical firm Viscoran İlaç would mass-produce Russia's Sputnik V vaccine at its plants, with manufacturing to be launched within months; in addition to production agreements, licensing processes, as well as storage and distribution matters, the execution of some clinical studies on the product would also be part of cooperation between Russia and Turkey.⁸⁴⁶⁹

On 25 June 2021, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) provided medical supplies including masks, disinfectants, and protective coveralls to the Ministry of Health of Eswatini, as part of Turkey's assistance activities in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of these projects, TIKA has provided Eswatini with modern sewing machines for mask production; delivered 2000 bottles of disinfectants, 200,000 gloves, and 2,000 N95 masks to 3 hospitals and clinics in the most impoverished regions;⁸⁴⁷⁰

On 15 July 2021, a consignment of medical aid from Turkey to fight the coronavirus arrived in Tunisia. Aid includes 50,000 vaccines delivered via Turkish Air Force cargo plane.⁸⁴⁷¹

On 9 August 2021, a shipment of medical equipment and medicines donated by the Turkish government to Indonesia for battling COVID-19 arrived at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport Sunday evening. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the medical aid consisted of 50 sets of ventilators and 600,000 boxes of medicine.⁸⁴⁷²

On 31 August 2021, TIKA delivered 50 oxygen concentrators to Algeria to combat COVID-19 as the number of cases were increasing. TIKA had previously provided 5 tonnes of hygiene products, 12 tonnes of food, 130,000 masks, and 2,500 coveralls to Algeria during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁴⁷³

⁸⁴⁶⁷ Turkey sends COVID-19 vaccine donation to Libya, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-sends-covid-19-vaccine-donation-to-libya/2208746>

⁸⁴⁶⁸ 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Syria's Idlib through Turkey, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/syrian-crisis/1st-batch-of-covid-19-vaccines-arrive-in-syrias-idlib-through-turkey>

⁸⁴⁶⁹ Turkish firm to produce Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkish-firm-to-produce-russias-sputnik-v-covid-19-vaccine/news>

⁸⁴⁷⁰ TIKA Supports the Fight of the Kingdom of Eswatini against COVID19, TIKA (Antalya) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_the_fight_of_the_kingdom_of_eswatini_against_covid19-63824

⁸⁴⁷¹ Medical aid from Turkey arrives in Tunisia amid pandemic, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/medical-aid-from-turkey-arrives-in-tunisia-amid-pandemic/2304860>

⁸⁴⁷² Turkey donates COVID equipment, medicines to Indonesia, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/turkey-donates-covid-equipment-medicines-to-indonesia/2328607>

⁸⁴⁷³ Coronavirus - Algeria: Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Supports Algeria in Its Fight Against COVID-19, AfricaNews (Lyon) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/08/31/coronavirus-algeria-turkish-cooperation-and-coordination-agency-t-ka-supports-algeria-in-its-fight-against-covid-19/>

On 17 September 2021, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority has distributed more than 2,000 aid packages containing food and hygiene kits to people in quarantine due to the coronavirus in northern Syria.⁸⁴⁷⁴

Turkey has taken a number of important steps to contribute to affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 15 December 2020, the UK government published the Spending Review 2020. The document made available GBP6 billion in total to research and procure COVID-19 vaccines.⁸⁴⁷⁵

On 3 March 2021, the details of the new UK budget were published. An extra GBP1.65 billion will be spent on the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in England. GBP28 million were allocated to increase the UK's capacity for vaccine testing, support for clinical trials and improve the UK's ability to rapidly acquire samples of new variants of COVID-19. GBP22 million will be spent on a study to test the effectiveness of combinations of different COVID-19 vaccines. This will also fund the world's first study assessing the effectiveness of a third dose of vaccine to improve the response against current and future variants of COVID-19. A further GBP5 million on top of a previous GBP9 million will be invested to create a 'library' of vaccines that will work against Covid-19 variants for possible rapid response deployment.⁸⁴⁷⁶

On 10 March 2021, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced that the UK had helped to raise USD1 billion for the coronavirus COVAX Advance Market Commitment through match-funding other donors, which combined with the GBP548 million of UK aid pledged can help distribute one billion doses of coronavirus vaccines to 92 developing countries in 2021.⁸⁴⁷⁷

On 11 June 2021 Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the UK would donate 100 million surplus COVID-19 vaccines to other countries within a year. 80 million vaccines will go through COVAX and 20 million will be donated bilaterally. 5 million of these will be donated by the end of September 2021 and 30 million – by the end of 2021.⁸⁴⁷⁸

The United Kingdom has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both at national level and through international actions and partnerships.

⁸⁴⁷⁴ Turkey distributes over 2,000 aid packages in northern Syria, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-distributes-over-2-000-aid-packages-in-northern-syria/2367624>

⁸⁴⁷⁵ Spending Review 2020, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-2020-documents/spending-review-2020>

⁸⁴⁷⁶ Budget 2021: What you need to know, UK Government (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-what-you-need-to-know>

⁸⁴⁷⁷ UK meets £250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, UK Government (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine#history>

⁸⁴⁷⁸ The sharing of 100 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccines with countries in need, UK Development Tracker (London) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301364/summary>

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph Biden issued the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. Among the goals set by the initiative were: “to mount a safe, effective, and comprehensive vaccination campaign;” “mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatments, health care workforce, and clear public health standards;” and “restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness for future threats.”⁸⁴⁷⁹

On 19 February 2021, President Biden announced the United States’ intention to provide USD4 billion, with the initial transfer of USD2 billion, to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, supporting the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 92 low- and middle-income countries.⁸⁴⁸⁰

On 13 March 2021, the US, along with Japan, Australia and India, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁸⁴⁸¹

On 4 May 2021, President Biden announced the interim results of the national vaccination campaign. According to his speech, by May 2021 almost 150 million US nationals had been partially vaccinated, and further 105 million – fully vaccinated. He also announced the targets for the second phase of the campaign: vaccinating children between 12 and 15 years if age; increasing the convenience of vaccination; and encouraging public confidence in vaccines.⁸⁴⁸²

On 5 May 2021, the Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power stated that the US was “exploring both multilateral and bilateral approaches to share” “up to 60 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines with partner countries.”⁸⁴⁸³

On 23 August 2021, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine - the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, designating it as Comirnaty.⁸⁴⁸⁴

⁸⁴⁷⁹ National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, the White House (Washington, DC) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>

⁸⁴⁸⁰ USAID To Provide Initial \$2 Billion to Propel Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, USAID (Washington, DC) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/feb-19-2021-usaid-provide-initial-2-billion-propel-global-access-covid-19>

⁸⁴⁸¹ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁸⁴⁸² Remarks by President Biden on the COVID-19 Response and the Vaccination Program, the White House (Washington, DC) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/05/04/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-response-and-the-vaccination-program/>

⁸⁴⁸³ Administrator Samantha Power’s Intervention G7 Ministerial Session Sustainable Recovery Session Part 1: Health and Vaccines, USAID (Washington, DC) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/node/404771>

⁸⁴⁸⁴ Comirnaty and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, US Food and DRUG Administration (Washington) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/comirnaty-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

The United States took measures to ensure access to vaccines both on national level and through international actions and partnerships.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission signed the Advanced Purchase Agreement with Moderna providing for the initial purchase of 80 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine on behalf of all EU Member States, plus an option to request up to a further 80 million doses.⁸⁴⁸⁵

On 15 December 2020, the Commission decided to purchase 80 million additional doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.⁸⁴⁸⁶

On 15 December 2020, the European Investment Bank agreed EUR400 million of financing to support the participation of low- and middle-income economies in COVAX Advance Market Commitment.⁸⁴⁸⁷

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication calling on member states to speed up the roll out of vaccines across the EU. According to this document, by the end of March 2021, at least 80 per cent of people over the age of 80, and 80 percent of health and social care professionals in every EU member state should have get vaccinated. By summer 2021, member states should have vaccinated a minimum of 70 per cent of the entire adult population.⁸⁴⁸⁸

On 4 February 2021, the European Commission set up a taskforce under the authority of the Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton, in cooperation with the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides. The Task Force aims to ramp up production capacity for vaccines, acting as a one-stop-shop for manufacturers in need of support, and to identify and address bottlenecks in terms of capacity and supply chain.⁸⁴⁸⁹

On 17 February 2021, the European Commission approved a second contract with Moderna, which provides for an additional purchase of 300 million doses (150 million in 2021 and an option to purchase an additional 150 million in 2022) on behalf of all EU member states.⁸⁴⁹⁰

⁸⁴⁸⁵ Coronavirus: Commission approves contract with Moderna to ensure access to a potential vaccine, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2200

⁸⁴⁸⁶ COMMISSION DECISION of 15.12.2020 on implementing Advance Purchase Agreements on COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/commission-decision-implementing-advance-purchase-agreements-covid-19-vaccines.pdf>

⁸⁴⁸⁷ Team Europe contributes €500 million to COVAX initiative to provide one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses for low and middle income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-contributes-eu500-million-covax-initiative-provide-one-billion-covid-19-vaccine_en

⁸⁴⁸⁸ Commission sets out key actions for a united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_143

⁸⁴⁸⁹ EU Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/public-health/eu-vaccines-strategy_en

⁸⁴⁹⁰ Coronavirus: Commission approves second contract with Moderna to ensure up to additional 300 million doses, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_655

On 19 February 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced EUR100 million in humanitarian assistance to support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa, which are spearheaded by the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funding will, among others, contribute to ensuring the cold chains, roll-out registration programs, training of medical and support staff as well as logistics.⁸⁴⁹¹

On 19 February 2021, the EU announced an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, thus doubling its contribution to this global initiative.⁸⁴⁹²

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission reached an agreement with BioNTech-Pfizer for the supply of 4 million more doses of COVID-19 vaccines for member states to tackle coronavirus hotspots and to facilitate free movement across borders. These doses come on top of the schedule of deliveries previously agreed between member states and BioNTech-Pfizer.⁸⁴⁹³

On 21 May 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced a Team Europe initiative on manufacturing and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies in Africa. The initiative will help create an enabling environment for local manufacturing in. It will be backed by EUR1 billion from the EU budget and the European development finance institutions such as the European Investment Bank. On 22 July 2021, President von der Leyen announced the commitment of the Team Europe to deliver at least 200 million doses to low- and middle-income countries by the end of 2021. Most of these doses will be delivered through COVAX.⁸⁴⁹⁴

The European Union has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both at national level and through international actions and partnerships.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

⁸⁴⁹¹ G7: EU to support COVID-19 vaccination strategies and capacity in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g7-eu-support-covid-19-vaccination-strategies-and-capacity-africa_en

⁸⁴⁹² EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-doubles-contribution-covax-eu1-billion-ensure-safe-and-effective-vaccines-low-and-middle_en

⁸⁴⁹³ Commission supports Member States in tackling coronavirus hotspots with offer of four million additional doses of BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine to be delivered this month, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1101

⁸⁴⁹⁴ EU Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/public-health/eu-vaccines-strategy_en

17. Energy: Fossil Fuels

“We reaffirm our joint commitment on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | -1 | | |
| Australia | | 0 | |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | | +1 |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | 0 | |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | -1 | | |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | 0 | |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.40 (70%) | |

Background

G20 leaders first addressed the issue surrounding energy security and climate change in its inaugural Washington Summit in 2008 amid rising concerns over global warming.⁸⁴⁹⁵ The commitment is further emphasized and elaborated at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, where G20 leaders committed to “phase out and rationalize over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest.”⁸⁴⁹⁶ Since then, this statement has been reiterated in every subsequent summit, highlighting the importance of inefficient energy reduction, clean energy development as well as the need to provide necessary support for developing and underdeveloped countries.

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders included the work of finance and energy ministers in delivering “implementation strategies and timeline for acting” to assist the rationalization and

⁸⁴⁹⁵ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, 2008 Washington Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

⁸⁴⁹⁶ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

phasing-out over inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁸⁴⁹⁷ Furthermore, G20 leaders called attention to assisting low-income countries in bringing clean, affordable energy replacement through programs such as the “Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program.”⁸⁴⁹⁸

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders incorporated reports on energy subsidies from the International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as the World Bank in monitoring inefficient fossil fuel subsidies reduction.⁸⁴⁹⁹

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implement strategies to rationalize and reduce the use of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁸⁵⁰⁰ At the subsequent 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 Leaders highlighted the importance of improving the functioning of the energy market as part of their strategy to reduce inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁸⁵⁰¹ The leaders continued to welcome joint reports from the IEA, OPEC, OECD and the World Bank on fossil fuels and other forms of energy measurements.

During the 2013 Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders highlighted the importance of “providing those in need with essential energy services.”⁸⁵⁰² The statement underscored the importance of forming an inclusive global environment surrounding energy transformation where necessary to ensure help is provided for low-income countries.

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed the goal of “below 2°C” as stated in the Lima Call for Action.⁸⁵⁰³ The Summit encouraged all G20 members to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in preparation for the upcoming Paris Conference.⁸⁵⁰⁴ The subsequent 2016 Hangzhou Summit further encouraged G20 members to participate in “voluntary peer review process” as a way of monitoring fossil emissions.⁸⁵⁰⁵ Furthermore, G20 leaders adopted the Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁸⁵⁰⁶

The 2017 Hamburg Summit took note of the United States of America’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement while reiterating the significance of international cooperation as a way to achieve

⁸⁴⁹⁷ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

⁸⁴⁹⁸ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

⁸⁴⁹⁹ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁸⁵⁰⁰ G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

⁸⁵⁰¹ 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: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁸⁵⁰² G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁸⁵⁰³ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

⁸⁵⁰⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

⁸⁵⁰⁵ 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

⁸⁵⁰⁶ 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

the deployment of clean and renewable energy.⁸⁵⁰⁷ The subsequent 2018 Buenos Aires Summit reiterated the United States' decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement while affirming its commitment to “economic growth and energy access and security, utilizing all energy sources and technologies, while protecting the environment.”⁸⁵⁰⁸

At the subsequent 2019 Osaka Summit, the “3E+S” (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Safety) energy transformation program is highlighted.⁸⁵⁰⁹ Furthermore, G20 leaders recognized the role of international cooperation in relation to “energy access, affordability and energy efficiency, and energy storage,” while reaffirming the commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁸⁵¹⁰

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders recapitulated the goal of providing affordable, reliable and clean energy for all “in accordance with national circumstances” such as access to clean cooking and electricity.⁸⁵¹¹ Furthermore, G20 leaders acknowledged the importance of maintaining an undisrupted energy market while welcoming “recommendations of the Energy Focus Group (EFG), as endorsed by the Energy Ministers party to the EFG, to rebalance the energy markets and continue short and long-term investments.”⁸⁵¹²

Commitment Features

To define the key terms of this commitment, reaffirm is understood as “affirm again” while affirm is defined as “to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.”⁸⁵¹³ To reaffirm the commitment requires the G20 members to continue rationalizing and phasing-out inefficient fossil fuels subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest.

“Rationalization” is understood to be facilitated by various factors. To achieve the goal of “medium term rationalization,” the G20 member must fulfill one of the requirements including “(i) identify and quantify all fossil fuel consumer subsidies and one type of fossil fuel producer subsidies; (ii) use a range of economic models to project the impacts of reform in each country across the economy, households, businesses, the energy sector and the environment, including an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the models themselves; and (iii) assess the capacity of existing social protection systems in each country to mitigate the impacts of fossil fuel subsidy reforms.”⁸⁵¹⁴

“Phasing-out” refers “to bring or come to an end, one stage at a time.”⁸⁵¹⁵ Therefore, to achieve the goal of phasing out on medium term rationalization G20 members are required to take positive actions that will result in a statistically significant reduction of fossil fuel production and

⁸⁵⁰⁷ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁵⁰⁸ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2018buenosaires.html>

⁸⁵⁰⁹ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁵¹⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁵¹¹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁵¹² Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁵¹³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁸⁵¹⁴ Assessment and Implications of Rationalizing and Phasing Out Fossil Fuels Subsidies, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/projects/assessment-and-implications-rationalizing-and-phasing-out-fossil-fuel-subsidies>

⁸⁵¹⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

consumption. “Inefficient” refers to “not producing the effect intended or desired.”⁸⁵¹⁶ This includes fossil fuel subsidies that result in the reduction of energy security and undermine efforts in fighting climate change.

G20 members have not agreed on the criteria for “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies,” as “fossil fuel consumption subsidies are unique in every country and are subject to energy policies designed to adhere to a set of priorities and needs specific to each country.”⁸⁵¹⁷ As such, each G20 member has adopted their own definition of what inefficient fossil fuel subsidies are. Since the commitment at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, several G20 members have engaged in the voluntary peer review process on the reform of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. As of March 2021, China, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico and the United States have published their peer reviews, while Canada and Argentina are undergoing their own.^{8518,8519}

“Subsidy” refers to “financial aid given by the government to individuals or groups.”⁸⁵²⁰ Fossil fuel subsidy is understood as “a form of financial assistance paid to fossil fuel producers or consumers.”⁸⁵²¹ This includes any financial support or monetary fund given to large fossil fuel companies, oil companies as well as natural gas companies.

The term “wasteful” is understood as “not being careful about the amount of resources used for something.” In the context of this commitment, it refers to the utilization of fossil fuels despite the threat they pose to the environment, creating intense carbon emissions that ultimately exacerbate climate change.⁸⁵²² The term “providing” is understood as “to supply or make available (something wanted or needed).”⁸⁵²³

The term “target” is understood as commitments referring to “a set goal, percentage or numerical allocation” and “support” is understood as “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁸⁵²⁴ Therefore, to provide targeted support means that the G20 member is required to take actions that will result in a statistically significant change in areas such as investments in green development, infrastructure, and cooking practices. The “poorest” refer to the demographic of low-income people who are lacking in income, such as the working poor, or those living in poverty and extreme poverty. This relates to low-income people and those living in poverty in every country: the poorest people in their own societies. Those who are the poorest in any country are “lacking enough resources to provide the necessities of life – food, clean water, shelter and clothing. But in today’s world, that can be extended to include access to health care, education and even

⁸⁵¹⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁸⁵¹⁷ Update on recent progress in reform of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Tokyo) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

⁸⁵¹⁸ OECD-IEA Analysis of Fossil Fuels Support, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) n.d. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/fossil-fuels/publication/>

⁸⁵¹⁹ Canada and Argentina to Undergo Peer Reviews of Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Government of Canada (Bariloche) 14 June 2018. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2018/06/canada-and-argentina-to-undergo-peer-reviews-of-inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies.html>

⁸⁵²⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁸⁵²¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁸⁵²² Wasteful, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wasteful?q=wasteful+>

⁸⁵²³ Provide, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wasteful>

⁸⁵²⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

transportation.”⁸⁵²⁵ With regards to this commitment, the G20 member must specifically take into consideration the struggles of the poorest people of the population when phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies as it can disproportionately impact them. Therefore, the rationalization and phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies must occur in parallel to mitigating policies that ensure affordable energy access.⁸⁵²⁶

In order to achieve full compliance, G20 members must take strong actions on the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing the poorest people of the population with adequate support. For full compliance, a G20 member would have to implement policies or pass laws that address inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while implementing policies or passing laws that also ensure affordable energy access. If a G20 member takes action on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, as per the specific G20 members definition, without taking steps to ensure that those actions do not negatively impact the poorest, it would only be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member takes concrete steps and implements policies that increase affordable energy access and providing support for the poorest without addressing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, it would also be considered partial compliance. Furthermore, if a G20 member only takes actions in the form of verbal statements or attending meetings to discuss the matter on both components, it would still only be partial compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member fails to take action on the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies NOR does it provide sufficient support for the poorest. |
| 0 | G20 member takes action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies OR provide sufficient support for the poorest. |
| +1 | G20 member takes action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies AND provide sufficient support for the poorest. |

*Compliance Director: Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao
Lead Analyst: Charlie Zeng*

Argentina: -1

Argentina has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Australia has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of -1.⁸⁵²⁷

Analyst: Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

⁸⁵²⁵ What is poverty? It's not as simple as you think, World Vision (Uxbridge) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/child-sponsorship/what-is-poverty>

⁸⁵²⁶ Update on recent progress in reform of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Tokyo) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/osaka/G20-Update-Report-2019-reform-of-inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies.pdf>

⁸⁵²⁷ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/>, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ciencia>, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente>

On 11 May 2021, the 2021-22 Australian Budget announced a series of initiatives worth AUD1.8 billion that aim to “boost jobs, reduce emissions, and support affordable and reliable energy.” Of this, AUD24.9 million will be used to assist gas generators in becoming hydrogen-ready, AUD1.2 billion will be used for emissions reductions, including AUD639 million for low emissions international technology partnerships, AUD275.5 million to support the development of four clean hydrogen export hubs, and AUD263.7 million for carbon capture technologies.⁸⁵²⁸

On 20 September 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and the Ministry for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction announced AUD150 million for a further two locations under the Clean Hydrogen Industrial Hubs program to enable the rollout of hydrogen hubs across seven priority regional sites. The goal is to accelerate the “commercial deployment of priority low emissions technologies such as hydrogen so they reach cost parity with higher emissions alternatives [as it is] critical to Australia’s technology led approach to reducing emissions.”⁸⁵²⁹ Australia has taken some actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies but has not provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Omar Danaf

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 9 December 2020, Brazil submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the Paris Climate Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.⁸⁵³⁰ Brazil has reaffirmed its commitment to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 37 per cent in 2025 and now aims to also reduce its emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, with an additional objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2060.

On 22-23 April 2021, Brazil participated in the US-hosted Leaders Summit on Climate to discuss climate issues faced by the world. During the summit, the Brazilian government pledged to achieve net-zero economy by 2050, end illegal deforestation by 2030, and double its funding for deforestation enforcement.⁸⁵³¹ The government suggests that it will pursue decarbonization efforts through preventing deforestation. Further, it will promote resilience to subnational and non-state actors on its green recovery plans.

Brazil has taken actions against rationalizing and phasing-out fossil fuel subsidies through its NDC and membership in the MEF, however, it has failed to take any action to provide sufficient support for the poorest.

⁸⁵²⁸ Investing in reliable affordable energy and reducing emissions to secure Australia’s recovery, Ministry for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/investing-reliable-affordable-energy-and-reducing-emissions-secure-australias-recovery>

⁸⁵²⁹ Future hydrogen industry to create jobs, lower emissions and boost regional Australia, Ministry for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/future-hydrogen-industry-create-jobs-lower-emissions-and-boost-regional-australia>

⁸⁵³⁰ Brazil submits its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/brazil-submits-its-nationally-determined-contribution-under-the-paris-agreement>.

⁸⁵³¹ Leaders Summit Showcases Clean Energy Commitments to Tackle Global Climate Crisis (Winnipeg) 28 April 2021. Accessed Date: 30 April 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/leaders-summit-showcases-clean-energy-commitments-to-tackle-global-climate-crisis/>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Julia Gavieta

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 11 January 2021, International Development Minister Karina Gould announced a contribution of up to CAD55 million to the UN Land Degradation Neutrality Fund which would include private sector investments in support of sustainable land management practices and land restoration projects in developing countries.⁸⁵³²

On 12 February 2021, Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson published the results of Canada's review of its regulatory program for light-duty vehicles.⁸⁵³³ The analysis determined that more stringent fuel-efficiency standards for future models would provide net benefits of CAD2.5 billion and contribute to Canada's emissions reductions targets.⁸⁵³⁴

On 4 March 2021, Minister Wilkinson represented Canada at the first Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit, with participants representing various countries, cities, and private-sector entities.⁸⁵³⁵ The summit encouraged continued effort in reducing coal consumption, with Minister Wilkinson noting that the phase-out of coal power must place coal workers and communities "at the centre of the clean-energy transition."⁸⁵³⁶

On 5 March 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced plans for a Federal Greenhouse Gas Offset System which would incentivize regulated industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by introducing carbon credits.⁸⁵³⁷ Companies can sell credits by taking actions to reduce emissions, while facilities

⁸⁵³² Canada announces support to combat land degradation and desertification in developing countries, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/canada-announces-support-to-combat-land-degradation-and-desertification-in-developing-countries.html>

⁸⁵³³ Government of Canada review of fuel efficiency standards confirms the economic and environmental benefits of ambitious action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-review-of-fuel-efficiency-standards-confirms-the-economic-and-environmental-benefits-of-ambitious-action.html>

⁸⁵³⁴ Government of Canada review of fuel efficiency standards confirms the economic and environmental benefits of ambitious action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-review-of-fuel-efficiency-standards-confirms-the-economic-and-environmental-benefits-of-ambitious-action.html>

⁸⁵³⁵ 4 Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit, co-hosted by Minister Wilkinson, shows global momentum toward the phase-out of coal and strengthens resolve to accelerate action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/powering-past-coal-alliance-global-summit-co-hosted-by-minister-wilkinson-shows-global-momentum-toward-the-phase-out-of-coal-and-strengthens-resolv.html>

⁸⁵³⁶ Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit, co-hosted by Minister Wilkinson, shows global momentum toward the phase-out of coal and strengthens resolve to accelerate action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/powering-past-coal-alliance-global-summit-co-hosted-by-minister-wilkinson-shows-global-momentum-toward-the-phase-out-of-coal-and-strengthens-resolv.html>

⁸⁵³⁷ Government of Canada announces next step in creation of domestic carbon offset to further support clean growth, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-announces-next-st-ep-in-creation-of-domestic-carbon-offset-to-further-support-clean-growth.html>

which exceed emission limits can compensate by purchasing credits, thus encouraging market-based solutions to lowering greenhouse gas emissions.⁸⁵³⁸

On 17 March 2021, Minister Gould and the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng, concluded the first Canada-Africa Clean Growth Symposium, which included an announcement of CAD132.9 million to establish the Canada-Africa Development Bank Climate Fund.⁸⁵³⁹ There were 35 African countries that participated in the symposium, which aims to provide private capital investment in support of clean growth in Africa.⁸⁵⁴⁰

On 18 March 2021, Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan Jr. announced investment totalling CAD100,000 to raise awareness of zero-emission vehicles, as part of a broader initiative which includes the development of charging technologies and financial incentives up to CAD5,000 through tax write-offs for Canadians and businesses purchasing such vehicles.⁸⁵⁴¹

On 21 May 2021, Minister Wilkinson attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁵⁴² At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁸⁵⁴³ Additionally, Canada promoted its new Nationally Determined Contribution, where it intends to phase-out “unabated coal-fired electricity” and its “Powering Past Coal Alliance” with the UK.⁸⁵⁴⁴

On 27 May 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne announced an investment of CAD44.3 million for 11 Canadian “cleantech” companies, which will support the development of new technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the environmental impact of energy production.⁸⁵⁴⁵

⁸⁵³⁸ Government of Canada announces next step in creation of domestic carbon offset to further support clean growth, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-announces-next-st-ep-in-creation-of-domestic-carbon-offset-to-further-support-clean-growth.html>

⁸⁵³⁹ Minister Gould and Minister Ng conclude the first Canada-Africa Clean Growth Symposium and announce the Canada-African Development Bank Climate Fund, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/minister-gould-and-minister-ng-conclude-the-first-canada-africa-clean-growth-symposium-and-announce-the-canada-african-development-bank-climate-fund.html>

⁸⁵⁴⁰ Minister Gould and Minister Ng conclude the first Canada-Africa Clean Growth Symposium and announce the Canada-African Development Bank Climate Fund, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/minister-gould-and-minister-ng-conclude-the-first-canada-africa-clean-growth-symposium-and-announce-the-canada-african-development-bank-climate-fund.html>

⁸⁵⁴¹ Canada Raising Awareness on Zero-Emission Vehicles, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/canada-raising-awareness-on-zero-emission-vehicles.html>

⁸⁵⁴² Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁵⁴³ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁵⁴⁴ Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister of Natural Resources participate in G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Meeting, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/05/minister-of-environment-and-climate-change-and-minister-of-natural-resources-participate-in-g7-climate-and-environment-ministers-meeting.html>

⁸⁵⁴⁵ Government of Canada supports cleantech innovation and jobs growth across the country, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-supports-cleantech-innovation-and-jobs-growth-across-the-country.html>

On 31 May 2021, Minister Champagne announced a roadmap for reducing carbon emissions in Canada's cement and concrete industries through new research and investment to reach net-zero by 2050.⁸⁵⁴⁶

On 8 June 2021, Minister Champagne announced an investment of CAD15 million for the Nova Bus Transformation Project, which will support the modernization of public transport by promoting all-electric and battery-powered buses.⁸⁵⁴⁷

On 9 June 2021, Minister Champagne announced a memorandum of understanding signed by both the Government of Canada and Invest Alberta with the company Air Products Canada Ltd., which will support the company's development of clean hydrogen fuel technology.⁸⁵⁴⁸

On 29 June 2021, Minister Champagne announced a CAD20 million investment in ELYSIS, a venture which will develop technologies that, once implemented, can reduce the carbon emissions of Canada's aluminum-smelting industry by nearly 7 million tonnes annually.⁸⁵⁴⁹

On 7 July 2021, Minister Champagne announced a CAD25 million investment in Svante Inc., a company which develops carbon-capture technology for industrial and energy-producing sites.⁸⁵⁵⁰ The investment aims to help Canada work towards a sustainable economic recovery.

On 12 July 2021, Minister Wilkinson submitted Canada's Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations, which commits Canada to reduce its GHG emission by 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and is enshrined under law.⁸⁵⁵¹ The commitment reiterates the importance of reducing carbon emissions and affirms Canada's goal of a sustainable economy.

⁸⁵⁴⁶ Government of Canada and Cement Association of Canada announce partnership to advance global leadership in low-carbon concrete production, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (Ottawa) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-and-cement-association-of-canada-announce-partnership-to-advance-global-leadership-in-low-carbon-concrete-production.html>

⁸⁵⁴⁷ New investment in electric buses to create jobs and cut pollution, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (Ottawa) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/new-investment-in-electric-buses-to-create-jobs-and-cut-pollution.html>

⁸⁵⁴⁸ Government collaboration supporting the future of Alberta's clean hydrogen sector, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/government-collaboration-supporting-the-future-of-albertas-clean-hydrogen-sector.html>

⁸⁵⁴⁹ Investment to help Canada's aluminum industry eliminate its carbon footprint, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/investment-to-help-canadas-aluminum-industry-eliminate-its-carbon-footprint.html>

⁸⁵⁵⁰ Government makes major investment in one of Canada's leading clean technology firms, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (Ottawa) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-makes-major-investment-in-one-of-canadas-leading-clean-technology-firms.html>

⁸⁵⁵¹ Government of Canada confirms ambitious new greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-confirms-ambitious-new-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reduction-target.html>

On 11 August 2021, Minister Champagne announced a CAD19.1 million investment in six Canadian cleantech companies which develop innovative low-emissions technologies.⁸⁵⁵²

On 12 August 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced a federal investment of CAD340 million to support Indigenous-led nature conservation over five years, with new and existing initiatives to conserve and protect land, parks, and waters in Indigenous communities.⁸⁵⁵³

Canada has encouraged private sector innovation towards green technology through financial incentives and regulations which aim to phase-out domestic fossil fuel consumption. Canada has also provided investment towards clean growth in developing countries.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Ku

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 18 January 2021, Chinese state-owned firms China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) and State Power Investment Corp released a timeline of attaining carbon neutrality which aligns with the government's aim to achieve carbon neutrality for the nation by the year 2060. CNOOC announced the establishment of a new research facility in which the firm could plot its course toward carbon neutrality. Likewise, State Power Investment Corp revealed that 56.09 per cent of its energy use in 2020 originated from green energy sources, with a 5.52 per cent improvement from 2019.⁸⁵⁵⁴

On 25 February 2021, the State Council released a guideline which urged a faster transition into a low-carbon and green economy. The document reaffirmed the need for increased efficiency in the nation's use of resources, emphasized the preservation of the environment, and recognized the importance of regulating the emission of greenhouse gasses.⁸⁵⁵⁵

On 9 March 2021, Chen Yulu, the Vice-Governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the nation's central bank, announced that the PBOC will help finance environmentally sustainable projects in its allocation of subsidies to economic and social development initiatives.⁸⁵⁵⁶ Moreover, Chen emphasized the need for further international collaboration in the support of green financing

⁸⁵⁵² Government of Canada supporting Canadian cleantech companies from seed to scale-up, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (Ottawa) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-supporting-canadian-cleantech-companies-from-seed-to-scale-up.html>

⁸⁵⁵³ Government of Canada announces \$340 million to support Indigenous-led conservation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-340-million-to-support-indigenous-led-conservation.html>

⁸⁵⁵⁴ SOEs set out measures on carbon neutrality, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202101/18/content_WS6004dbfac6d0f72576943fc5.html

⁸⁵⁵⁵ China's resolute pursuit of reducing carbon emissions, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202102/25/content_WS603705ebc6d0719374af98be.html

⁸⁵⁵⁶ China's new five-year blueprint paves way for 2060 carbon-neutrality, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/09/content_WS6046cf92c6d0719374afa6a5.html

initiatives to ensure that each country can meet its stated objectives in reducing net carbon emissions.⁸⁵⁵⁷

On 21 April 2021, Vice-Minister of Commerce Qian Kemung declared that China will seek to encourage the pursuit and development of green and low-carbon energy sources in markets within regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. Qian announced that Chinese corporations will be urged to employ environmentally sustainable technology in planning and organizing infrastructure initiatives in the Belt and Road Region, and that the Chinese state will further encourage the use of sustainable development methods within the countries situated within Belt and Road Initiative.⁸⁵⁵⁸

On 18 May 2021, the spokesperson for China's National Development and Reform Commission Jin Xiandong affirmed current progress towards the creation of a strategic blueprint which would observe China's emissions peaking in 2030.⁸⁵⁵⁹ Furthermore, Jin pointed to ongoing studies that would improve low-carbon technologies and strengthen the nation's carbon sink capacity.⁸⁵⁶⁰

On 27 May 2021, Vice-Premier Han Zheng emphasized the need for the Chinese state to meet its carbon emission goals of peaking emissions by 2030 and achieving neutrality by 2060.⁸⁵⁶¹ Vice Premier Han further stressed the need to aid and oversee regional governments and key industries in devising the blueprints of action plans.⁸⁵⁶² In pointing to the importance of international collaboration, Vice Premier Han urged greater cooperation and solidarity from other nations in the transition into green and low-carbon infrastructures.⁸⁵⁶³

On 3 June 2021, the China Electricity Council announced that the nation's installed capacity of non-fossil fuel will increase to 1.12 billion kilowatts by the end of 2021.⁸⁵⁶⁴ The Council also revealed its projections that the installed capacity of non-fossil fuel energy sources will surpass that of coal counterparts by the end of 2021.⁸⁵⁶⁵ Moreover, Zou Ji, the president of Energy Foundation China, stated that the nation's pledge to reduce its dependence on coal as the primary source of energy will result in the decline of coal as an energy source following peak use during the 14th Five-Year Plan period from 2021 to 2025.⁸⁵⁶⁶

⁸⁵⁵⁷ China's new five-year blueprint paves way for 2060 carbon-neutrality, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/09/content_WS6046cf92c6d0719374afa6a5.html

⁸⁵⁵⁸ Nation to spur green projects in BRI areas, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

⁸⁵⁵⁹ China speeds up top-level design for carbon-neutral push, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

⁸⁵⁶⁰ China speeds up top-level design for carbon-neutral push, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/18/content_WS60a3ab19c6d0df57f98d9ac9.html

⁸⁵⁶¹ Vice-premier stresses schedule for carbon peak, neutrality (Beijing) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/hanzheng/202105/27/content_WS60af990bc6d0df57f98da4d7.html

⁸⁵⁶² Vice-premier stresses schedule for carbon peak, neutrality (Beijing) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/hanzheng/202105/27/content_WS60af990bc6d0df57f98da4d7.html

⁸⁵⁶³ Vice-premier stresses schedule for carbon peak, neutrality (Beijing) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/hanzheng/202105/27/content_WS60af990bc6d0df57f98da4d7.html

⁸⁵⁶⁴ China's growth gets boost from clean power, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202106/03/content_WS60b81161c6d0df57f98daa1e.html

⁸⁵⁶⁵ China's growth gets boost from clean power, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202106/03/content_WS60b81161c6d0df57f98daa1e.html

⁸⁵⁶⁶ China's growth gets boost from clean power, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202106/03/content_WS60b81161c6d0df57f98daa1e.html

On 24 July 2021, Vice-Finance Minister Zou Jiayi announced that 4,156 green low-carbon projects following the project-private-partnership model had been ratified in China by the end of June.⁸⁵⁶⁷ Highlighting a total cost of 4.1 trillion yuan, Minister Zou affirmed the Ministry of Finance's commitment to ameliorate China's fiscal and tax policy systems to reach the nation's carbon neutrality objectives.⁸⁵⁶⁸

Through the management of its central bank and state enterprises to promote the use of green and low-carbon technology domestically and within the Belt and Road region, China has taken national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provided sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Chan-Min Rob

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provided sufficient support for the poorest.

On 29 December 2020, the French Government passed its Finance Act for 2021. It aims to put an end to export guarantees linked to exploration or exploitation of liquid hydrocarbons permits. In the Finance Act, it is stated that: "As from 1 January 2025, the State guarantee provided for in this article cannot be granted to cover loans granted to foreign buyers with a view to exporting goods and services in the framework of operations having for object the exploration of deposits or the exploitation of liquid hydrocarbons within the framework of permits corresponding to deposits not yet exploited. No later than 1 January 2035, the State guarantee provided for in this article may not be granted to cover loans granted to foreign buyers with a view to exporting goods and services in the context of operations having for the purpose of exploration of deposits or the exploitation of gaseous hydrocarbons within the framework of permits corresponding to deposits not yet exploited."⁸⁵⁶⁹

On 21 May 2021, Minister of the Environment Barbara Pompili attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁵⁷⁰ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to "phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy" and "commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021."⁸⁵⁷¹

On 11 June 2021, President Emmanuel Macron and his fellow G7 leaders met in Cornwall, England and committed to net zero by 2050.⁸⁵⁷² Towards this goal, they have agreed to halving their collective

⁸⁵⁶⁷ Fiscal policy has key role in green development: vice-minister (Beijing) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/25/content_WS60fca0dec6d0df57f98dd884.html

⁸⁵⁶⁸ Fiscal policy has key role in green development: vice-minister (Beijing) 25 July 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/25/content_WS60fca0dec6d0df57f98dd884.html

⁸⁵⁶⁹ LAW n° 2020-1721 of December 29, 2020 on finances for 2021 (1), Legifrance (Paris) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000042753580>

⁸⁵⁷⁰ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁵⁷¹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁵⁷² Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique (Cornwall) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021.

<https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>

emissions until 2030 and increasing their climate finance by 2025.⁸⁵⁷³ During the meeting, they recognized coal generation as “the single biggest cause of greenhouse gas emissions” and committed to rapidly advance their technology and policies away from unabated coal capacity.⁸⁵⁷⁴ The G7 have all committed to ending “new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation” by the end of this year.⁸⁵⁷⁵ This commitment to end international funding of coal generation is part of their existing commitment to eliminate “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.”⁸⁵⁷⁶ Additionally, they agreed to contribute up to USD2 billion in the upcoming year to Accelerating the Coal Transition and Integrating Renewable Energy programs that will decrease fossil fuel usage.⁸⁵⁷⁷

France has taken some action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and providing sufficient support for the poorest. However, France has only taken partial action.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Julia Garieta

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest.

On 17 December 2020, the Environment Council of the EU, chaired by German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, agreed to raise its 2030 target for greenhouse gas reduction from 40 per cent to 55 per cent. The new Nationally Determined Contribution “sets an example internationally which establishes a credible and prudent path to climate neutrality in 2050,” Minister Schulze said.⁸⁵⁷⁸

On 25 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged an additional EUR220 million toward enhanced support for the least developed countries’ efforts to adapt to climate change at the Climate Adaptation Summit. The fund aims to provide protection against natural disasters for the poorest countries and invest in adaptive measures.⁸⁵⁷⁹

⁸⁵⁷³ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique (Cornwall) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021.

<https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>

⁸⁵⁷⁴ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique (Cornwall) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021.

<https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>

⁸⁵⁷⁵ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique (Cornwall) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021.

<https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>

⁸⁵⁷⁶ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique (Cornwall) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021.

<https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>

⁸⁵⁷⁷ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique (Cornwall) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021.

<https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>

⁸⁵⁷⁸ Minister Schulze: Climate action in Europe now set in stone, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-climate-action-in-europe-now-set-in-stone/>

⁸⁵⁷⁹ Germany Increases Support for Adaptation to Climate Change in Particularly Vulnerable Countries, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2021/januar/210125_pm_03_Global-Climate-Adaptation-Summit_-German-y-increases-support-for-adaptation-to-climate-change-in-particularly-vulnerable-countries/index.html

On 3 February 2021, the German government increased the greenhouse gas reduction quota for fuels from 6 per cent to 22 per cent by 2030. The new provisions add incentives for more renewable energy in the transport sector, while restricting biofuels from palm oil.⁸⁵⁸⁰

On 11 March 2021, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety released its 12-point plan to complete its nuclear phase-out.⁸⁵⁸¹ As part of its plan, it intends to: “(1) Close the nuclear supply facilities in Lingen and Gronau, (2) Accelerate the expansion of renewable energy so that wind and solar power replace nuclear and coal power more quickly, (3) Determined progress on the disposal of high-level nuclear waste with the highest possible level of safety, (4) provide more information and enable more public participation, (5) Close ranks with countries critical of nuclear power, (6) Safety Risk of Ageing Nuclear Power Plants: Call against lifetime extensions and call for participation, (7) No public money for nuclear power plants in the EU and beyond, (8) Nuclear power plants close to borders – strengthen bilateral commissions, (9) Continue radiological emergency preparedness at a high level against the German phase-out and improve international networking, (10) Work internationally for high safety standards, (11) Improve nuclear civil liability – damage prevention and victim protection are our priority, and (12) Retain competence and introduce solid facts in the international nuclear debate and with regard to new reactor concepts.”⁸⁵⁸²

On 21 May 2021, Minister Schulze attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁵⁸³ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁸⁵⁸⁴

Germany has taken actions to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Matthew Barrett

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 8 April 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the India-Seychelles High Level Virtual Event that the country will be “handing over a One Mega Watt solar power plant in Seychelles built

⁸⁵⁸⁰ Minister Schulze: We are promoting fuels that mitigate climate change without destroying nature, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-we-are-promoting-fuels-that-mitigate-climate-change-without-destroying-nature/>

⁸⁵⁸¹ 12-point plan to complete the nuclear phase-out – the position of the Federal Environment Ministry, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/download/12-point-plan-to-complete-the-nuclear-phase-out/>

⁸⁵⁸² 12-point plan to complete the nuclear phase-out – the position of the Federal Environment Ministry, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/download/12-point-plan-to-complete-the-nuclear-phase-out/>

⁸⁵⁸³ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁵⁸⁴ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

with India's assistance."⁸⁵⁸⁵ The assistance aims to help Seychelles transition from using inefficient fossil fuel energy to green and cleaner energy.

India has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, however, it has set to provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 16 December 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi signed the Grant Agreements for Solomon Island, Timor Leste, and Fiji. The grants were given to the three countries in the Pacific region for COVID-19 mitigation. Additionally, Minister Marsudi mentioned that Indonesia and the three Pacific countries which were given grants have developed mutually beneficial cooperation in many fields including development and the economy.⁸⁵⁸⁶

On 15 January 2021, Director General of New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (NREEC) Dadan Kusdiana announced that IDR1,167.8 billion has been allocated to build NREEC infrastructure. NREEC infrastructure involves the implementation of many renewable energy resources, such as the installation of 22,000 solar public lights, the construction of 23 solar power systems, and the revitalization of 8 units of renewable energy infrastructure.⁸⁵⁸⁷

On 19 March 2021, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Arifin Tasrif restated the Indonesian government's commitment to encourage the transition towards renewable energy resources. Tasrif mentioned Indonesia's target of reducing emissions by 314 million tons of carbon dioxide in 2030. The Indonesian government plans to reach this goal through various projects such as the building of a large-scale solar power plant starting in 2021 to 2030.⁸⁵⁸⁸

On 15 April 2021, the Director General of the New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (NREEC) Dadan Kusdiana announced that solar rooftop photovoltaic (PV) systems are being promoted to accelerate Indonesia's 23 per cent target of renewables in their energy mix by the year 2025. Director General Kusdiana hopes that the additional installations of rooftop PV systems can reduce 3.2 million tons of CO2 emissions.⁸⁵⁸⁹

On 4 June 2021, Director General of Electricity of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Rida Mulyana announced that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will increase the share

⁸⁵⁸⁵ Remarks by Prime Minister at India-Seychelles High Level Virtual Event (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710486>

⁸⁵⁸⁶ Indonesian Aid Strengthens Solidarity and Partnership in the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/1987/berita/indonesian-aid-strengthens-solidarity-and-partnership-in-the-pacific>

⁸⁵⁸⁷ Performance Report of 2020 and Work Plan for 2021 of New, Renewable Energy Subsector, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/performance-report-of-2020-and-work-plan-for-2021-of-new-renewable-energy-subsector>

⁸⁵⁸⁸ Launching of IYSRE 2021, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Reaffirms Commitment to Energy Transition, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/launching-iysre-2021-menteri-esdm-kembali-tegaskan-komitmen-terhadap-transisi-energi>

⁸⁵⁸⁹ Indonesia to Invest More in Solar Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/indonesia-to-invest-more-in-solar-energy>

of New, Renewable Energy (NRE) based power plants to 48 per cent.⁸⁵⁹⁰ This is an 18 per cent increase from Indonesia's 2019-2028 draft electricity procurement plan. Mulyana stated that the NRE share increase was implemented to make the state's draft electricity procurement plan "greener."⁸⁵⁹¹

On 18 August 2021, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Arifin Tasrif launched a pilot project that focuses on converting fuel motors in motorcycles to electric ones.⁸⁵⁹² This is a component of Indonesia's Battery-Based Electric Motor Vehicle (KBLBB) program.⁸⁵⁹³ The KBLBB program has the potential to reduce fuel consumption by 6 million kiloliters per year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7.23 million tons.⁸⁵⁹⁴ The pilot project is expected to result in a reduction of CO₂ emissions.⁸⁵⁹⁵

On 9 September 2021, Secretary of the Directorate General of Electricity under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Munir Ahmad, announced the addition of Electric Charging Infrastructure (IPL) to Indonesia's KBLBB program.⁸⁵⁹⁶ The 240 electric charging infrastructure units consist of 166 general and private electric vehicle charging stations along with 74 general electric vehicle battery exchange stations. The Electric Charging Infrastructure was implemented with the intention of bolstering electric car usage.⁸⁵⁹⁷

Through its commitments to transition to renewable energy along with grants given to poorer Pacific countries, Indonesia has both promoted the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provided sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Thérèse Perucho

⁸⁵⁹⁰ Indonesia to Prepare "Greener" RUPTL, Says Electricity Director General, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/indonesia-to-prepare-greener-ruptl-says-electricity-director-general>

⁸⁵⁹¹ Indonesia to Prepare "Greener" RUPTL, Says Electricity Director General, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/indonesia-to-prepare-greener-ruptl-says-electricity-director-general>

⁸⁵⁹² Pilot project for Converting Fuel Motor to Electricity, Indonesia's Commitment to Realize Cleaner Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/pilot-project-konversi-motor-bbm-ke-listrik-komitmen-indonesia-wujudkan-energi-yang-lebih-bersih>

⁸⁵⁹³ Pilot project for Converting Fuel Motor to Electricity, Indonesia's Commitment to Realize Cleaner Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/pilot-project-konversi-motor-bbm-ke-listrik-komitmen-indonesia-wujudkan-energi-yang-lebih-bersih>

⁸⁵⁹⁴ Pilot project for Converting Fuel Motor to Electricity, Indonesia's Commitment to Realize Cleaner Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/pilot-project-konversi-motor-bbm-ke-listrik-komitmen-indonesia-wujudkan-energi-yang-lebih-bersih>

⁸⁵⁹⁵ Pilot project for Converting Fuel Motor to Electricity, Indonesia's Commitment to Realize Cleaner Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/pilot-project-konversi-motor-bbm-ke-listrik-komitmen-indonesia-wujudkan-energi-yang-lebih-bersih>

⁸⁵⁹⁶ Semester I 2021, This is a List of Additional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Indonesia, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/semester-i-2021-ini-daftar-penambahan-infrastruktur-pengisian-kendaraan-listrik-di-indonesia>

⁸⁵⁹⁷ Semester I 2021, This is a List of Additional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Indonesia, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/semester-i-2021-ini-daftar-penambahan-infrastruktur-pengisian-kendaraan-listrik-di-indonesia>

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 16 December 2020, the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic posted a decree which implemented provisions that allow the promotion of sustainable school transport. Through this program, the Ministry of Ecological Transition can give funding to municipalities across Italy to help cover the costs of making school transportation vehicles more sustainable and electric.⁸⁵⁹⁸ The implementation of the program helps to promote the use of green vehicles across the country.⁸⁵⁹⁹

On 15 March 2021, cargo consisting of 12 tonnes of humanitarian goods, relief materials and food aid from Italy landed in South Sudan. The goods were provided specifically by the Italian Cooperation and civil society organisations. This assistance is to help the Sudanese people who were affected by the country's food and health crisis, along with those who were displaced by floods in the country.⁸⁶⁰⁰

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition approved a list of projects eligible for funding under the Reti intelligenti public notice. The Reti intelligenti public notice works to improve infrastructure concerning the distribution of electricity in Italy, thus creating a smart electrical grid aims to help increase the share of energy needs covered by renewable sources.⁸⁶⁰¹

On 16 April 2021, the Italian Cooperation under the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with the Italian Red Cross sent eight tons of medical material to the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The medical materials sent will be used to help the Ethiopian Red Cross in support of the population affected by the humanitarian crisis in Tigray.⁸⁶⁰²

On 30 April 2021, the Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility announced that EUR62 billion would be designated for interventions on infrastructures, mobility, and sustainable logistics found within Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Pnrr). The EUR62 billion will be put towards different projects in the country relating to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Some of the projects under the Pnrr, such as the renewal of trains, buses, and ships, will help to reduce emissions and thus will aid with the phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁸⁶⁰³

⁸⁵⁹⁸ Funding program for the promotion of sustainable school transport, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/programma-di-finanziamento-la-promozione-del-trasporto-scolastico-sostenibile>

⁸⁵⁹⁹ Funding program for the promotion of sustainable school transport, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/programma-di-finanziamento-la-promozione-del-trasporto-scolastico-sostenibile>

⁸⁶⁰⁰ South Sudan. Humanitarian flight by Italian Cooperation to supply humanitarian goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/03/sud-sudan-volo-umanitario-della-cooperazione-italiana-per-la-fornitura-di-beni-umanitari.html

⁸⁶⁰¹ Smart Grid, Projects Approved in Southern Italy for a Value of 207 Million, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/smart-grid-approvati-progetti-nel-sud-italia-un-valore-di-207-milioni>

⁸⁶⁰² Ethiopia. Humanitarian flight of the Italian Cooperation for the supply of humanitarian goods in Tigrè, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/04/etiopia-volo-umanitario-della-cooperazione-italiana-per-la-fornitura-di-beni-umanitari-nel-tigre.html

⁸⁶⁰³ Pnrr: 62 billion euros at Mims for sustainable mobility, infrastructures and logistics, 56% in the South, Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/pnrr/pnrr-al-mims-62-miliardi-di-euro-per-mobilita-infrastrutture-e-logistica>

On 21 May 2021, Minister of the Environment Roberto Cingolani attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁶⁰⁴ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁸⁶⁰⁵

On 5 June 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition announced that EUR2.20 billion of the Pnrr will be used to build new plants for energy communities and self-consumption.⁸⁶⁰⁶ Through this, an increase in the production of renewable energy will be achieved by building small to medium-sized energy production plants mainly for residential use.⁸⁶⁰⁷ This project is expected to be achieved over the next five years.⁸⁶⁰⁸

On 4 August 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures approved guidelines for the preparation and implementation of home-work travel plans.⁸⁶⁰⁹ The preparation and implementation of home-work travel plans contributes to sustainable mobility initiatives by rationalizing and reducing systematic home-work trips.⁸⁶¹⁰ It also works to distribute public transport services more effectively, thus promoting public transportation usage.⁸⁶¹¹

On 18 August 2021, by the request of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Marina Sereni, the Italian Cooperation made an emergency contribution of EUR500,000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.⁸⁶¹² The contribution was made to help with relief operations in Haiti after the 14 August earthquake.⁸⁶¹³

Through the promotion of sustainable school transport, the Reti intelligenti public notice, components of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan, and humanitarian aid for South Sudan

⁸⁶⁰⁴ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁶⁰⁵ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁶⁰⁶ World Environment Day: The Commitment of the MITE to the Restoration of Ecosystems Also Through the Increase of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/giornata-mondiale-dell-ambiente-l-impegno-del-mite-al-ripristino-degli-ecosistemi-anche>

⁸⁶⁰⁷ World Environment Day: The Commitment of the MITE to the Restoration of Ecosystems Also Through the Increase of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/giornata-mondiale-dell-ambiente-l-impegno-del-mite-al-ripristino-degli-ecosistemi-anche>

⁸⁶⁰⁸ World Environment Day: The Commitment of the MITE to the Restoration of Ecosystems Also Through the Increase of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/giornata-mondiale-dell-ambiente-l-impegno-del-mite-al-ripristino-degli-ecosistemi-anche>

⁸⁶⁰⁹ Approved guidelines for the preparation and implementation of home-work travel plans, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/approvate-le-linee-guida-la-redazione-e-l-attuazione-dei-piani-gli-spostamenti-casa-lavoro>

⁸⁶¹⁰ Approved guidelines for the preparation and implementation of home-work travel plans, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/approvate-le-linee-guida-la-redazione-e-l-attuazione-dei-piani-gli-spostamenti-casa-lavoro>

⁸⁶¹¹ Approved guidelines for the preparation and implementation of home-work travel plans, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/approvate-le-linee-guida-la-redazione-e-l-attuazione-dei-piani-gli-spostamenti-casa-lavoro>

⁸⁶¹² Notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Haiti - emergency contribution of Italian Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/08/nota-farnesina-haiti-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana.html

⁸⁶¹³ Notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Haiti - emergency contribution of Italian Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/08/nota-farnesina-haiti-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana.html

and Ethiopia, Italy has taken national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Thérèse Perucho

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga pledged JPY2 trillion to promote ecological businesses and innovation, as a part of his goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.⁸⁶¹⁴ According to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's January 2021 "Overview of Japan's Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050," the Green Innovation Fund will provide the promised JPY2 trillion for 10 years to "simulate 15 trillion yen" worth of private research, green development, and investment.⁸⁶¹⁵

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry composed an industrial policy, "Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality," that aims to initiate positive economic growth alongside environmental protection. The Green Growth Strategy involves collaboration with multiple ministries and agencies to discuss goals and explicate challenges in areas such as "budgets, taxes, regulation reforms and standardization, and international collaboration."⁸⁶¹⁶

On 19 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry formed the Committee on the Green Innovation Project to manage and operate the Green Innovation Fund.⁸⁶¹⁷ Later on 12 March 2021, they created the Basic Policies for the Green Innovation Fund. The Basic Policies are meant to "continuously support companies and other organizations for the coming ten years" as they tackle research and development, and social implementations.⁸⁶¹⁸

On 5 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism constructed the "Study Group on Automobile Policies for Carbon Neutrality" that will interview industrial actors within the automobile-relevant industries, which will revise action plans.⁸⁶¹⁹

On 21 May 2021, Minister of the Environment Shinjiro Koizumi attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁶²⁰ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to

⁸⁶¹⁴ Suga pledges 2 trillion yen to promote ecological businesses, The Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 5 December 2020. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13992005>

⁸⁶¹⁵ Overview of Japan's Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) January 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/pdf/1225_001a.pdf

⁸⁶¹⁶ "Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality" Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

⁸⁶¹⁷ New Body "Committee on the Green Innovation Project" under Industrial Structure Council to be Inaugurated and First Meeting to be Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 February 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021 https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0219_001.html

⁸⁶¹⁸ "The Basic Policies for the Project for the Green Innovation Fund" Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 March 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0312_002.html

⁸⁶¹⁹ New Body "Study Group on Automobile Policies for Carbon Neutrality" to be Inaugurated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0305_002.html

⁸⁶²⁰ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

“phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁸⁶²¹

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced their plan to open a new trading market for renewable energy in November to lower carbon emissions.⁸⁶²² The Ministry emphasized that the market would reduce prices for purchasing renewable energy certificates for companies to decarbonize and become “renewable-energy-based” businesses more easily.⁸⁶²³

On 5 June 2021, Japan Times reported that the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is considering increasing hydroelectric power generation to replace carbon-based energies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁸⁶²⁴ Currently, the ministry discovered that eight of its 128 multipurpose dams can be equipped with hydroelectric equipment to generate energy.⁸⁶²⁵

On 19 June 2021, the Environment Ministry plans to include new prices for the new grant system to help local governments decarbonize in accordance with Japan’s local climate action plans.⁸⁶²⁶ The central government aimed to set up this grant program to provide continuous and comprehensive assistance to local governments until Japan reaches its ultimate goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.⁸⁶²⁷

On 7 July 2021, Japan sought to increase its solar power generation to reduce fossil fuels usage.⁸⁶²⁸ The country aims to have 108 gigawatts of solar capacity by 2030, which is 1.7 times higher than any national target.⁸⁶²⁹ The Environment Ministry reports several strategies: solar panels on 50 per cent of government and municipal buildings; boosting solar usage for corporate buildings and parking garages; and providing 4 gigawatts for public lands and 1,000 cities.⁸⁶³⁰ The government plans to invest in cheaper solar panel installations so they can operate in intervals over farmlands to maintain constant crop growth.⁸⁶³¹

Japan has taken steps to promote the rationalization and phasing-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. Multiple governmental ministries aimed to invest in hydroelectricity, ammonia power, and the renewable energy market to replace carbon-based energies. Japan is also committed to composing a local climate action plan to support local decarbonization. However, Japan has not taken actions to provide support for the poorest countries.

⁸⁶²¹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁶²² New renewable energy trading market to open in November (Osaka) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14361998>

⁸⁶²³ New renewable energy trading market to open in November (Osaka) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14361998>

⁸⁶²⁴ Japan looks to hydroelectric dams to reduce emissions (Tokyo) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/05/national/japan-dams-carbon-emissions/>

⁸⁶²⁵ Japan looks to hydroelectric dams to reduce emissions (Tokyo) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/05/national/japan-dams-carbon-emissions/>

⁸⁶²⁶ Japan considers new grants to help regions decarbonize (Tokyo) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/19/national/japan-regions-greenhouse-gases/>

⁸⁶²⁷ Japan considers new grants to help regions decarbonize (Tokyo) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/19/national/japan-regions-greenhouse-gases/>

⁸⁶²⁸ Every roof in Japan could have solar panels in the future (Tokyo) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/07/business/solar-panel-future/>

⁸⁶²⁹ Every roof in Japan could have solar panels in the future (Tokyo) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/07/business/solar-panel-future/>

⁸⁶³⁰ Every roof in Japan could have solar panels in the future (Tokyo) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/07/business/solar-panel-future/>

⁸⁶³¹ Every roof in Japan could have solar panels in the future (Tokyo) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/07/business/solar-panel-future/>

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Julia Gavieta

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 2 December 2020, Environment Minister Cho Myung-rae announced that the national budget for 2021 would include KRW11.171 trillion for the ministry, up 17 per cent from last year, in order to propel Green New Deal (GND) initiatives.⁸⁶³² KRW1.47 billion of the budget fund for GND initiatives was announced for the hydrogen procurement project in the form of subsidies to hydrogen charging station operators which had deficits in 2020, and a 70 per cent subsidy on hydrogen gas procurement.⁸⁶³³ The budget aims to promote the transition from fossil fuels to green energy.

On 17 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish high-level dialogue in the area of climate change cooperation between the two parties.⁸⁶³⁴ Korea and ASEAN agreed to hold their first Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change in 2021, in order to strengthen cooperation in air pollution, marine pollution, forestry, and carbon mitigation and adaptation.⁸⁶³⁵

On 17 December 2020, Director-General for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Scientific Affairs Chung Keyong attended a virtual signing ceremony in which Korea contributed USD1 million for the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund in response to the environmental disaster in the Aral Sea region.⁸⁶³⁶

On 28 January 2021, Environment Minister Han Jeoung Ae announced plans to reduce carbon consumption in transportation by promoting the production of 136,000 carbon-neutral electric and hydrogen vehicles in 2021, in addition to 179,000 such vehicles produced at the end of 2020.⁸⁶³⁷

⁸⁶³² 2021 Ministry of Environment Budget and Fund Set at 11 Trillion 171.5 Billion Korean Won, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1427370&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁸⁶³³ 2021 Ministry of Environment Budget and Fund Set at 11 Trillion 171.5 Billion Korean Won, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1427370&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁸⁶³⁴ ASEAN and ROK Agree to Establish Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321452&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=14&titleNm=

⁸⁶³⁵ ASEAN and ROK Agree to Establish Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321452&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=14&titleNm=

⁸⁶³⁶ Korea to Contribute 1 Million U.S. Dollars to UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea for 2 years, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321460&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=13&titleNm=

⁸⁶³⁷ Devoting in the era of Pollution-free Vehicles...First On-site Trip of Newly Appointed Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1431520&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

Minister Han also announced a plan to distribute carbon-neutral electric buses and trucks, along with funding of KRW200 million in subsidies for a hydrogen truck development pilot project.⁸⁶³⁸

On 2 March 2021, Minister Han announced the Action Plan 2021 which would guide the country in implementing its 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy by organizing working groups and using research institutes to identify carbon reduction opportunities and communicate plans with civil society and industry.⁸⁶³⁹ Strategies include the promotion and innovation of emission-free vehicles, creating carbon sinks, and supporting the transition towards renewable energy sources.⁸⁶⁴⁰

On 31 May 2021, the Korean Ambassador to Vietnam Park Noh-wan and the Natural Resources and Environment Minister of Vietnam signed the Framework Agreement for Cooperation on Climate Change between the two countries.⁸⁶⁴¹ This Agreement allows for bilateral cooperation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement and will establish a Joint Working Group on Climate Change Cooperation to facilitate its implementation.⁸⁶⁴²

On 5 July 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, jointly with the Rural Development Administration, dispatched a delegation to Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala, for the purposes of increasing cooperation on digital and eco-friendly agricultural technologies and improving climate change resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁸⁶⁴³

On 2 September 2021, Minister Han announced that the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, which legislates achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, was passed by the National Assembly on 31 August and is set for proclamation in September.⁸⁶⁴⁴

Korea has made investments into renewable energy and technologies within its GND project and has introduced new subsidy plans which aim to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels for its domestic

⁸⁶³⁸ Devoting in the era of Pollution-free Vehicles...First On-site Trip of Newly Appointed Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1431520&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁸⁶³⁹ Ministry of Environment unveiled its Action Plan 2021 to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?jsessionId=IOCMh61ZLo68kdIBL67G68vo.mehome1?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1449070&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁸⁶⁴⁰ Ministry of Environment unveiled its Action Plan 2021 to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?jsessionId=IOCMh61ZLo68kdIBL67G68vo.mehome1?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1449070&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁸⁶⁴¹ Signing Ceremony for ROK-Vietnam Climate Change Agreement Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sejong) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321700&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=8&titleNm=

⁸⁶⁴² Signing Ceremony for ROK-Vietnam Climate Change Agreement Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sejong) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321700&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=8&titleNm=

⁸⁶⁴³ Korean Government to send a Delegation to Three Latin American Countries to Strengthen Cooperation on Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sejong) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321750

⁸⁶⁴⁴ Carbon Neutrality Act Passed by National Assembly Heralding Economic and Social Transition Towards 2050 Carbon Neutrality, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1473610&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

economy. Korea has also engaged in dialogues with low-income countries that will help foster greater cooperation and technical assistance in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions and environmental protection.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Ku

Mexico: -1

Mexico has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Mexico has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.⁸⁶⁴⁵

Analyst: Darwin Gumba

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 12 April 2021, Minister of Energy Alexander Novak stated during the final meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Energy, that decreasing cross-subsidization of energy consumption was a government's objective for 2021.⁸⁶⁴⁶ This priority is stipulated in the new draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035,⁸⁶⁴⁷ currently under open review by the Ministry of Energy and public stakeholders. As of late May 2021, the last meeting of the Public council under the Russian Ministry of Energy, which hosted a discussion on the draft Strategy, took place on 2 April 2021. The participants also noted that the adoption and implementation of the Strategy were among the Ministry's goals for 2021.⁸⁶⁴⁸

On 20 April 2021, Deputy Minister of Energy of Russia Pavel Snikkars addressed the State Duma's Committee on Energy, stating that the Energy Ministry was finalizing the draft strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035.⁸⁶⁴⁹ The draft strategy provides for the gradual rationalization and decrease of energy sector cross-subsidization. The paragraph 3.4.1 of the document explicitly states that energy sector cross-subsidization "does not ensure social justice, because in fact the amount of the subsidy is directly proportional to electricity consumption. Thus, the wealthiest household receives a much larger amount of social assistance than a lower-income household." The paragraph 4.3.2 of the Strategy sets the goal of gradual phase-out of cross-

⁸⁶⁴⁵ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en>, <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat>

⁸⁶⁴⁶ Alexander Novak took part in the final meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Energy, the Government of Russia 12 April 2021. Access date: 28 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41944/>

⁸⁶⁴⁷ Draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035, Russian Ministry of Energy 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/system/download-pdf/18940/124832>

⁸⁶⁴⁸ A meeting of the Public council under the Russian Ministry of Energy was held, Russian Ministry of Energy 2 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20486>

⁸⁶⁴⁹ The Ministry of Energy of Russia is finalizing the draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035, Russian Ministry of Energy 20 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20559>

subsidization with specific focus on providing more effective and “better targeted support to low-income and socially protected categories of consumers.”⁸⁶⁵⁰

Russia has taken actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing sufficient support for the poorest. However, Russia has not taken significant concrete actions for this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Chan-Min Rob

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 27 January 2021, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman announced Saudi Arabia’s intention to become a pioneer in hydrogen energy production, aiming to curb its economic reliance on fossil fuel production and allow Saudi Arabia to become a global leader in renewable energy.⁸⁶⁵¹

On 28 January 2021, the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection entered into force new environmental regulations aimed at establishing “stricter emission limits” as well as modernizing energy production to decrease fossil fuel emissions, reforming state oil production.⁸⁶⁵²

On 29 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced its “Green Project initiative” aimed to fight climate change by limiting inefficient fossil usage and significantly increasing the Kingdom’s investments in renewable energy.⁸⁶⁵³ The Saudi Press Agency states that this was in response to the Kingdom’s “presidency of the G20 summit” in 2020, making the initiative a direct response to the Saudi commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel usage.⁸⁶⁵⁴

On 23 April 2021, Saudi Arabia was party to a joint statement announcing the establishment of a Net-Zero Producers Forum, which will attempt to help member states become net zero carbon emitters by 2050.⁸⁶⁵⁵

On 28 April 2021, the National Portal for Governmental Services highlighted Saudi Arabia’s dedication to phasing out inefficient fossil fuel usage, represented by the government’s Vision 2030

⁸⁶⁵⁰ Draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035, Russian Ministry of Energy 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/system/download-pdf/18940/124832>

⁸⁶⁵¹ Saudi Arabia Aims to Become Next Germany of Renewable Energy, Bloomberg News (New York City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-27/saudi-arabia-aims-to-become-the-germany-of-renewable-energy>

⁸⁶⁵² Saudi Arabia’s 2021 Environmental Regulatory Reforms, WKC Group (Dubai) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.wkcgroupp.com/news/saudi-arabias-2021-environmental-regulatory-reforms/>

⁸⁶⁵³ HRH Crown Prince Announces “The Saudi Green, Middle East Green Initiatives,” Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2208791>

⁸⁶⁵⁴ HRH Crown Prince Announces “The Saudi Green, Middle East Green Initiatives,” Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2208791>

⁸⁶⁵⁵ Joint Statement on Establishing a Net-Zero Producers Forum between the Energy Ministries of Canada, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, United States Energy Department (Washington, D.C.) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/joint-statement-establishing-net-zero-producers-forum-between-energy-ministries-canada>

plan which aims to “utiliz[e] renewable energy” to account for 50 per cent of electricity generation by 2030, instead of fossil fuels.⁸⁶⁵⁶

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel usage, mainly through their investment in renewable energy and environmental regulations. However, it has not provided targeted support to the poorest countries.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Omar Danaf

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 17 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed members to the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission. It was formed to coordinate “the just transition towards a low-carbon, inclusive, climate change resilient economy and society.”⁸⁶⁵⁷

On 10 March 2021, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries published the Renewable Energy Development Zones to expand South Africa’s energy mix. They are intended for strategic gas transmission pipeline infrastructure, and large-scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities, as the country transitions away from coal energy.⁸⁶⁵⁸

On 11 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza announced that Cabinet had approved the submission of the Gas Amendment Bill of 2020 to Parliament. This bill will allow for scaling up of gas exploration, in order to “mitigate the decrease in coal production and use.”⁸⁶⁵⁹

On 30 March 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy launched an updated draft Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with a range up to an additional 28 per cent reduction of emissions from previous 2015 targets. The finalized NDC will be tabled with Cabinet for approval in advance of COP26 in November.⁸⁶⁶⁰

On 22 April 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that South Africa’s emissions will begin to decline in 2025, shifting the downturn ahead a decade from the previous commitment of a carbon emissions plateau until 2035.⁸⁶⁶¹

⁸⁶⁵⁶ Environmental Protection in KSA, Unified National Platform SA (Riyadh) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/environmentalProtection!/ut/p/z0/04_Sj9CPyKssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfj08zivQJstAWdDQz9LSw8XQOCnTos3JxDfA0M_A30g1Pz9AuyHRUBPXGyKQ!!/

⁸⁶⁵⁷ Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission appointed, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/presidential-climate-change-coordinating-commission-appointed>

⁸⁶⁵⁸ Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Gazettes Geographical Areas for Development of Renewable Energy, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (Pretoria) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/environment-gazettes-geographical-areas-development-renewable-energy-10-mar-2021-0000>

⁸⁶⁵⁹ Deputy President: Oral Reply in the National Council of Provinces, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-oral-reply-national-council-provinces-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁸⁶⁶⁰ Minister Barbara Creecy launches South Africa’s Nationally Determined Contribution, Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (Cape Town) 30 March 2021. Accessed Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-launches-south-africa%E2%80%99s-nationally-determined-contribution-30-mar>

⁸⁶⁶¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual Leaders' Summit on Climate Change, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 22 April 2021. Accessed Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-leaders-summit-climate-22-apr-2021-0000#>

South Africa has taken steps to promote its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuels but has not provided any specific support for the poorest.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Barrett

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 13 March 2021, the Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez reported that the country received 709 applications for 74 upcoming mini solar Renewable Energy Resource Zone (YEKA) tenders. The YEKA tenders are a component of Turkey's plan to supply 65 per cent of its energy needs from domestic and renewable sources by 2023. The Minister stated that "the mini YEKA scheme will start a new era in renewable energy as it will attract more small and medium-sized investors to the sector."⁸⁶⁶²

On 23 March 2021, the Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez declared that Turkey intends to increase its installed power in solar energy by 10,000 megawatts in the following 10 years by conducting a minimum of 1,000 megawatts of solar YEKA tenders each year. This was stated during the annual meeting of Turkey's Renewable Energy Investors Association. YEKA tenders are a component of Turkey's goal towards self-sufficiency in energy resources.⁸⁶⁶³

On 3 May 2021, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu announced that Turkish companies would be returning to Libya to continue the development of the country.⁸⁶⁶⁴ This was stated during a visit by Minister Çavuşoğlu to Libya where strategic partnerships and bilateral relations between the two states were discussed.⁸⁶⁶⁵ The discussion surrounding such bilateral relationship reiterated the importance of international cooperation to reduce carbon emissions.⁸⁶⁶⁶

On 11 June 2021, Minister Donmez announced that the first phase of the Karapinar Solar Power Plant, Turkey's largest solar plant, had been finalized.⁸⁶⁶⁷ This followed installation of solar panels totaling 271 megawatts of capacity at the plant. Construction of the plant is attributed to the first YEKA tender known as YEKA GES-1.⁸⁶⁶⁸ The finalization of the first phase reflects the country's commitment in promoting clean and sustainable energy.⁸⁶⁶⁹

⁸⁶⁶² Turkey receives 709 applications for mini solar tenders, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=793>

⁸⁶⁶³ Turkey's solar power generation soars 50%: Energy min., Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=797>

⁸⁶⁶⁴ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Libya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-libya-ziyareti-3-5-21.en.mfa>

⁸⁶⁶⁵ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Libya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-libya-ziyareti-3-5-21.en.mfa>

⁸⁶⁶⁶ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Libya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-libya-ziyareti-3-5-21.en.mfa>

⁸⁶⁶⁷ Turkey finalizes first phase of Turkey's biggest solar power plant, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=10857>

⁸⁶⁶⁸ Turkey finalizes first phase of Turkey's biggest solar power plant, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=10857>

⁸⁶⁶⁹ Turkey finalizes first phase of Turkey's biggest solar power plant, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=10857>

On 1 July 2021, Minister Donmez announced that YEKA RES-3, a new renewable energy tender for wind and specifically for locally produced turbines, will be held in the fourth quarter of 2021.⁸⁶⁷⁰ YEKA RES-3 is a part of a larger Turkish plan to supply 65 per cent of its energy needs from domestic and renewable sources by 2023.⁸⁶⁷¹

Through its Renewable Energy Resource Zone tenders, the construction of the Karapinar Solar Power Plant, and its sufficient economic support for Libya, Turkey has taken national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Thérèse Perucho

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new nationally determined contribution targeted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 68 per cent by 2030, relative to 1990 levels. This goal will be supported by the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, which aims to produce 250, 000 jobs by 2030.⁸⁶⁷²

On 12 December 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced that the UK will end direct government support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas. The new policy will complement the North Sea Transition Deal, promoting areas like Teesside and Aberdeen as “global hubs for wind energy, carbon capture and other clean technologies of the future.” The UK also announced a GBP10 million commitment to a Green Recovery Initiative, designed to support developing countries by incorporating renewable solutions into pandemic recovery efforts. Between 2021 and 2026, the UK has dedicated GBP11.6 billion to International Climate Finance.⁸⁶⁷³

On 12 April 2021, the UK dedicated GBP2.7 million to the Rapid Response Facility, an initiative designed to provide technical assistance to developing countries. COP26 President Alok Sharma said the RRF “will play a key role in supporting countries to make real and clear progress in their transition from coal to clean power, ahead of COP26.”⁸⁶⁷⁴

On 20 April 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced a new world-leading emission reduction target of 78 per cent by 2035, which will be enshrined in law by the end of June 2021. Additionally, the

⁸⁶⁷⁰ Turkey's latest solar tender to generate 6 billion Turkish liras of investment, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=10864>

⁸⁶⁷¹ Turkey's latest solar tender to generate 6 billion Turkish liras of investment, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=10864>

⁸⁶⁷² UK sets ambitious new climate target ahead of UN Summit, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sets-ambitious-new-climate-target-ahead-of-un-summit>

⁸⁶⁷³ PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas, Prime Minister's Office (London) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-the-uk-will-end-support-for-fossil-fuel-sector-overseas>

⁸⁶⁷⁴ Second Energy Transition Council Ministerial & Rapid Response Facility launch, Cabinet Office and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/second-energy-transition-council-ministerial-rapid-response-facility-launch>

sixth Carbon Budget will now account for international aviation and shipping emissions, enhancing the consistency of emissions reports.⁸⁶⁷⁵

On 21 May 2021, the UK hosted the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁶⁷⁶ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communique, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁸⁶⁷⁷

On 30 June 2021, Energy and Climate Change Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced that the UK will no longer use coal to generate electricity after 1 October 2024.⁸⁶⁷⁸ This new target shifts the deadline to end unabated coal-fired electricity generation forward by a year, in line with the UK’s pledge to decarbonize the power sector.⁸⁶⁷⁹

On 14 July 2021, the UK Government announced a new commitment of GBP8.8 million towards global energy transitions.⁸⁶⁸⁰ GBP5 million will support the South East Asia Energy Transition Programme and GBP3.8 million, channelled through the World Bank’s Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme, will reinforce South Africa’s clean energy transition.⁸⁶⁸¹

Through its plan to cut support for fossil fuel energy development overseas and its technical assistance to development countries, the UK has taken steps in promoting the phasing out fossil fuel subsidies both internationally and domestically, while pledging financial support for the poorest.

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

Analyst: Matthew Barrett

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 27 January 2021, President Joe Biden signed into effect an executive order concerning the global climate crisis, with the intent of facilitating a “clean energy transition” that greatly decreases

⁸⁶⁷⁵ UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁸⁶⁷⁶ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁶⁷⁷ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁶⁷⁸ End to coal power brought forward to October 2024, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-to-coal-power-brought-forward-to-october-2024>

⁸⁶⁷⁹ End to coal power brought forward to October 2024, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-to-coal-power-brought-forward-to-october-2024>

⁸⁶⁸⁰ UK convenes key ministers to unlock investment for energy transition ahead of COP26, Cabinet Office and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-convenes-key-ministers-to-unlock-investment-for-energy-transition-ahead-of-cop26>

⁸⁶⁸¹ UK convenes key ministers to unlock investment for energy transition ahead of COP26, Cabinet Office and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-convenes-key-ministers-to-unlock-investment-for-energy-transition-ahead-of-cop26>

America's usage of "carbon-intensive" fossil fuels.⁸⁶⁸² The announcement reiterated the importance of climate issues and encouraged the promotion of clean and sustainable energy transition.⁸⁶⁸³

On 19 February 2021, the United States officially rejoined the Paris Climate Accord, signifying their commitment to decreasing fossil fuel emissions and pursuing green energy alternatives.⁸⁶⁸⁴ This signifies a shift from the previous American administration's stance on phasing out fossil fuel usage, making the US a leader within the international community concerning fossil fuel reductions.⁸⁶⁸⁵

On 31 March 2021, President Biden outlined a USD2 trillion public infrastructure plan, planning to decrease oil, gas, and coal usage by drastically increasing the amount of renewable energy sources to power U.S. homes.⁸⁶⁸⁶ President Biden's plan aimed to limit inefficient fossil fuel usage while funding a transition to green energy.⁸⁶⁸⁷

On 23 April 2021, the United States hosted a Leaders Summit on the Climate, bringing together heads of governmental agencies and leaders of international climate-based organizations to further the international dialogue about shifting to green energy and decreasing fossil fuel usage.⁸⁶⁸⁸ The summit reflected the United States' commitment to proactively take actions towards a transition into using green and sustainable energies.⁸⁶⁸⁹

On 21 May 2021, the US attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁶⁹⁰ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to "phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy" and "commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021."⁸⁶⁹¹

The United States has taken significant actions and made collaborative commitments to rationalize and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for poorest countries.

⁸⁶⁸² Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

⁸⁶⁸³ Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

⁸⁶⁸⁴ U.S. Quits Paris Climate Agreement: Questions and Answers, New York Times (New York) 4 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/04/climate/paris-climate-agreement-trump.html>

⁸⁶⁸⁵ U.S. Quits Paris Climate Agreement: Questions and Answers, New York Times (New York) 4 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/04/climate/paris-climate-agreement-trump.html>

⁸⁶⁸⁶ Biden's infrastructure plan aims to turbocharge U.S. shift from fossil fuels, Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/03/31/biden-climate-infrastructure/>

⁸⁶⁸⁷ Biden's infrastructure plan aims to turbocharge U.S. shift from fossil fuels, Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/03/31/biden-climate-infrastructure/>

⁸⁶⁸⁸ FACT SHEET: President Biden's Leaders Summit on Climate, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-president-bidens-leaders-summit-on-climate/>

⁸⁶⁸⁹ FACT SHEET: President Biden's Leaders Summit on Climate, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-president-bidens-leaders-summit-on-climate/>

⁸⁶⁹⁰ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁶⁹¹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

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

Analyst: Omar Danaf

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 10 December 2020, EU leaders gathered in Brussels to declare their goal to cut greenhouse gases by 55 per cent in 2030, rather than the previously agreed 40 per cent.⁸⁶⁹² In order for this reduced carbon footprint to be met, the EU has reaffirmed their commitment to their blueprint drafted in September of 2020, which says that a minimum of 30 per cent of the EU's EUR1.8 trillion budget would be allocated towards climate efforts.⁸⁶⁹³

On 17 December 2020, the Environment Council of the EU, chaired by German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, agreed to raise its 2030 target for greenhouse gas reduction from 40 per cent to 55 per cent. The new Nationally Determined Contribution “sets an example internationally which establishes a credible and prudent path to climate neutrality in 2050,” Minister Schulze said.⁸⁶⁹⁴

On 30 December 2020, EU foreign ministers declared in a meeting that they will commence a global phase out of fossil fuels within their continent and promote similar efforts in developing nations.⁸⁶⁹⁵ As written in the draft statement, “the EU will ensure that its trade policy and its trade agreements are consistent with its climate ambition.”⁸⁶⁹⁶ Furthermore, the EU acknowledges its role as a leading body in the effort to reduce global carbon emissions. It has vocalized its intentions to join other wealthy, industrialized nations in contributing USD100 billion per year towards climate action in developing nations.⁸⁶⁹⁷ In spite of such declarations, countries like France were found to have exaggerated its contribution by USD104 million, stating that USD93 million went to climate efforts in the Philippines when, in reality, only five per cent was allotted. On Monday's meeting, EU foreign ministers reviewed their environmental diplomatic relations with developing nations to ensure greater accuracy of the declared amounts sent to the third world.⁸⁶⁹⁸

⁸⁶⁹² Climate change: EU leaders set 55% target for CO2 emissions cut, BBC News (London, UK). 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55273004>

⁸⁶⁹³ Climate change: EU leaders set 55% target for CO2 emissions cut, BBC News (London, UK). 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55273004>

⁸⁶⁹⁴ Minister Schulze: Climate action in Europe now set in stone, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-climate-action-in-europe-now-set-in-stone/>

⁸⁶⁹⁵ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁶⁹⁶ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁶⁹⁷ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁶⁹⁸ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

On 24 January 2021, the EU declared it will commence a global phase out of fossil fuels within the continent and promote similar efforts in developing nations.⁸⁶⁹⁹ As written in the draft statement, the EU “will ensure that its trade policy and its trade agreements are consistent with its climate ambition.”⁸⁷⁰⁰ Furthermore, the EU acknowledged its role as a leading body in the effort to reduce global carbon emissions.⁸⁷⁰¹ It vocalized its intentions to join other wealthy, industrialized nations in contributing USD100 billion per year towards climate action in developing nations.⁸⁷⁰² The statement reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to finance countries and ensure them a fair access to resources and green technologies.⁸⁷⁰³

On 21 May 2021, Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁸⁷⁰⁴ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁸⁷⁰⁵

On 14 July 2021, the EU proposed a cross-border carbon tax as an effort to reduce carbon emissions.⁸⁷⁰⁶ The proposal entails raising the price of carbon fuel generated and distributed within its borders, as well as imposing tariffs on fossil fuels imported from foreign countries.⁸⁷⁰⁷ President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced that Europe should be “the very first ones to put a concrete roadmap on the table.”⁸⁷⁰⁸ With the total elimination of sales of new gas- and diesel-powered cars in the next 14 years and the gradual increase in price of fossil fuels, the EU hopes to reach a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.⁸⁷⁰⁹ By doing so, the EU leaders has expressed

⁸⁶⁹⁹ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁷⁰⁰ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁷⁰¹ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁷⁰² EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁷⁰³ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁸⁷⁰⁴ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁷⁰⁵ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁸⁷⁰⁶ The EU’s New Climate Plan (OWP The Organization for World Peace). 21 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://theowp.org/the-eus-new-climate-plan/>

⁸⁷⁰⁷ The EU’s New Climate Plan (OWP The Organization for World Peace). 21 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://theowp.org/the-eus-new-climate-plan/>

⁸⁷⁰⁸ The EU’s New Climate Plan (OWP The Organization for World Peace). 21 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://theowp.org/the-eus-new-climate-plan/>

⁸⁷⁰⁹ Europe Unveils Plan to Shift From Fossil Fuels, Setting Up Potential Trade Spats, New York City, New York (The New York Times). 14 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/world/europe/climate-change-carbon-green-new-deal.html>

their intention to be the global leader in reducing carbon emissions and is fulfilling their promises with actionable measures.⁸⁷¹⁰

Through its continued funding to the poorest and development of wind and solar energy sources, the European Union remains committed in leading the continent-wide phase out of coal, gas, and nuclear sources by 2030. It has taken steps in promoting the phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and has provided financial support for the poorest.

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

Analyst: Darwin Gumba

⁸⁷¹⁰ Europe Unveils Plan to Shift From Fossil Fuels, Setting Up Potential Trade Spats, New York City, New York (The New York Times). 14 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/world/europe/climate-change-carbon-green-new-deal.html>

18. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter

“We reaffirm our commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | -1 | | |
| Italy | -1 | | |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | 0 | |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.45 (73%) | |

Background

The accumulation of plastics and microplastics in the world’s oceans pose a significant environmental, health, and economic threat to marine and coastal ecology and biodiversity.⁸⁷¹¹ The large-scale production of plastics and the ongoing trends of rapid population growth, urbanization, and increased resource consumption have contributed to the issue of marine plastic litter.⁸⁷¹² According to the World Economic Forum, without concrete and sustained action, the world’s oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.⁸⁷¹³ Thus, protecting the global marine environment through actions to reduce and prevent the effects of plastics and microplastics has received increasing attention at G20 summits.

⁸⁷¹¹ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁸⁷¹² G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁸⁷¹³ More Plastics than Fish in the Ocean by 2050: Report Offers Blueprint for Change, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 19 January 2016. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2016/01/more-plastic-than-fish-in-the-ocean-by-2050-report-offers-blueprint-for-change/>

The G20 first recognized marine environmental protection as a distinct commitment area at the 2011 Cannes Summit.⁸⁷¹⁴ While safeguarding the marine environment had been mentioned at the Toronto and Seoul Summits, this summit was the first to offer a more serious consideration of the issue. G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents and those relating to offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities.⁸⁷¹⁵ They further called upon the Global Marine Environment Protection working group to report on the progress made on the commitment area the following year and committed to discuss marine environmental protection with relevant international organizations and stakeholders.⁸⁷¹⁶

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders welcomed “the establishment of a Global Marine Environment Protection Best Practices Sharing Mechanism website and look forward to its launch in accordance with the Cannes mandate.”⁸⁷¹⁷ The following year, G20 leaders stated “We appreciate the progress achieved since the establishment of the G20 Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP) Initiative and welcome the launch of the GMEP Initiative website as a key element of the GMEP Mechanism for the voluntary exchange of national best practices to protect the marine environment, in particular to prevent accidents related to offshore oil and gas exploration and development, as well as marine transportation, and to deal with their consequences. We encourage participants to make full use of the website and share relevant information under the auspices of the G20 in cooperation with relevant international organizations in accordance with the GMEP mandates.”⁸⁷¹⁸ The marine environment was not mentioned at the 2014 Brisbane, 2015 Antalya or 2016 Hangzhou Summits.

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized the need to reduce and prevent marine litter for the preservation of human health and marine and coastal ecosystems.⁸⁷¹⁹ To display their commitment to marine environmental protection, the G20 members launched the G20 Marine Litter Action Plan to “prevent and reduce marine litter of all kinds, including from single-use plastics and micro-plastics.”⁸⁷²⁰ Additionally, the summit emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange and dissemination on marine plastic prevention and reduction amongst G20 members.⁸⁷²¹

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members committed to taking “national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans” thereby affirming the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁸⁷²²

⁸⁷¹⁴ 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: 21 February 2021.

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

⁸⁷¹⁵ 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: 21 February 2021.

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

⁸⁷¹⁶ 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: 21 February 2021.

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

⁸⁷¹⁷ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

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

⁸⁷¹⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

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

⁸⁷¹⁹ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁸⁷²⁰ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁸⁷²¹ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁸⁷²² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the Saudi presidency prioritized safeguarding the planet and signalled a strong commitment to the issues of sustainable development, ocean preservation, and the reduction of food loss and waste.⁸⁷²³ Saudi Arabia built on the Japanese G20 presidency and advanced discussions on marine ecosystem preservation.⁸⁷²⁴ The commitment made by G20 leaders to reaffirm the Osaka Blue Vision highlights the growing importance and urgency of collective environmental protection.

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁸⁷²⁵ The Osaka Blue Ocean Vision “aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognising the important role of plastics for society.”⁸⁷²⁶ In this commitment, there are four requirements: 1) to reduce marine plastic litter, 2) to reduce microplastic waste, 3) to prevent marine plastic litter and 4) to prevent microplastic waste.

Marine plastic litter is any human-created plastic, “a synthetic organic polymer made from petroleum” discarded or disposed of in the environment, sea, ocean, or coastlines.⁸⁷²⁷ Plastic litter can come in different shapes or sizes, but plastic pieces less than 5 mm in length are called microplastics.⁸⁷²⁸ There are two categories of microplastics: 1) primary, which are released directly as small particles in the environment and 2) secondary, which originate from degraded larger pieces of plastic litter.⁸⁷²⁹ Examples of materials and products defined as plastic litter include plastic bags, plastic straws, single-use beverage cups, plastic water bottles and caps, plastic packaging, and microbeads, etc.

The “life-cycle approach” to waste management considers the environmental impact (emissions and resource consumption) of a product through its lifetime.⁸⁷³⁰ The life cycle of a product starts from its natural extraction to material processing, its manufacturing, distribution, and use, and ends with its re-use, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal.⁸⁷³¹

The word “reduce” means to “diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”⁸⁷³² The word “additional” is understood as a preventative measure meaning “more than is usual or expected,” whereby “prevent” means “to keep from happening or existing.”^{8733,8734} Therefore, G20 members are

⁸⁷²³ Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁸⁷²⁴ Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁸⁷²⁵ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁷²⁶ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

⁸⁷²⁷ Marine Plastics, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Gland) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/marine-plastics>

⁸⁷²⁸ What are microplastics?, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>

⁸⁷²⁹ Microplastics: sources, effects and solutions, European Parliament (Brussels) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20181116STO19217/microplastics-sources-effects-and-solutions>

⁸⁷³⁰ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁸⁷³¹ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁸⁷³² Reduce, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

⁸⁷³³ Additional, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/addition>

required to take action to lessen the current amount of plastic litter in the oceans and to stop the release of plastic litter into the oceans.

G20 members can take domestic (or in the case of the EU, supranational) and international action to achieve compliance. Domestic actions refer to federal or national government-level initiatives undertaken by G20 members. Examples of domestic action include, but are not limited to, legislation that improves methods of waste management, the national reduction or prohibition of single-use plastics and microbeads, private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic litter and improving water filtration and wastewater treatment systems to reduce or remove microfibers.⁸⁷³⁵ International action refers to efforts undertaken by G20 members at the international or global level. Examples of international action include, but are not limited to, international cooperation with other members or states to improve national technical capacities, waste generation and littering and the promotion of sustainable consumption, engagement in information-sharing and scientific knowledge production on best practices through the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, and international private sector engagement for the advancement of resource-efficient business models and environmentally sound product design.⁸⁷³⁶ Actions can also be partial or strong actions. If a G20 member gives verbal declarations of support towards the implementation of preventative/reduction strategies, organizes ocean clean ups or initiates environmental campaigns on marine plastic litter and microplastic waste, it would only be considered partial action. For strong action, a G20 member would have to engage in strong domestic or international actions listed above.

For full compliance, a G20 member must take domestic and international action to reduce and prevent both marine plastic litter and microplastic waste. Therefore, a G20 member would have to take domestic and international action to reduce marine plastic litter, reduce microplastic waste, prevent marine plastic litter and prevent microplastic waste. If a G20 member only takes action, domestically and/or internationally, to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter and/or microplastic waste, it would still be considered partial compliance. Actions that do not result in the reduction or prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste will receive a negative score.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | The G20 member takes no action to reduce NOR prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste. |
| 0 | The G20 member takes action to EITHER reduce OR prevent marine plastic litter AND/OR microplastic waste. |
| +1 | The G20 member takes actions both domestically and internationally to both reduce AND prevent marine plastic litter AND microplastic waste. |

*Compliance Director: Nammal Khan
Lead Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁷³⁴ Prevent, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

⁸⁷³⁵ Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/index.html>

⁸⁷³⁶ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

On 30 November 2020, Argentina banned the production, importation, and marketing of cosmetic and care products containing microbeads.⁸⁷³⁷ According to the regulation, the cosmetic industry and companies have two years to adapt and exhaust their current stock.⁸⁷³⁸

On 8 April 2021, Argentina and 29 other countries signed on to a new United Nations-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁸⁷³⁹ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁸⁷⁴⁰

On 1 September 2021, representatives from the Government of Argentina attended the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, hosted by the Governments of Germany, Ecuador, Vietnam, and Ghana.⁸⁷⁴¹ Argentina supported the creation of a Global Agreement on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution.⁸⁷⁴²

Argentina has taken domestic action through the ban on microbeads in cosmetic and care products and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 December 2020, Australia passed the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, the first national waste reduction plan.⁸⁷⁴³ The legislation has the objectives of reducing the “impact on human and environmental health of products” and to “develop a circular economy that maximizes the continued use of products and waste material over their life cycle and accounts for their environmental impacts.”⁸⁷⁴⁴ This legislation serves to encourage the prevention of marine plastic

⁸⁷³⁷ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁸⁷³⁸ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁸⁷³⁹ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁸⁷⁴⁰ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

⁸⁷⁴¹ Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁷⁴² Summary report, 1–2 September 2021 Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, International Institute for Sustainable Development Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Winnipeg). Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://enb.iisd.org/ocean/conference-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution/summary>

⁸⁷⁴³ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁸⁷⁴⁴ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

litter by “regulating the export of waste material to promote its management in an environmentally sound way.”⁸⁷⁴⁵

On 17 February 2021, Australia joined the Global Oceans Alliance. The Alliance’s goal is to protect at least 30 per cent of the world’s oceans marine protected areas and marine conservation measures by 2030.⁸⁷⁴⁶ Additionally, Australia pledged AUD67.4 million to protect Australia’s oceans and marine ecosystems, AUD14.8 million to reduce the impacts of ghost nets and plastic litter, and AUD28.3 million to enhance marine parks.⁸⁷⁴⁷

On 4 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment reaffirmed its commitment to the Pacific Ocean Litter Project.⁸⁷⁴⁸ This project works in tandem with Pacific island states to adopt single-use plastic bans, promote ocean cleanup plans, and raise “consumer awareness, support and motivation for reducing the use of single-use plastics.”⁸⁷⁴⁹ The Australian government has committed to investing a total of AUD16 million through 2025 to support this project.⁸⁷⁵⁰ Further, the federal government committed support to “coordinated global action to address marine plastic” with the United Nations.⁸⁷⁵¹

On 4 March 2021, Environment Minister Sussan Ley unveiled the National Plastics Plan 2021, which works to “fast-track the phase-out of particularly problematic plastic materials.”⁸⁷⁵² The plan affirms that by 1 July 2021, unsorted mixed plastic exports will be banned. Unprocessed single polymer plastic exports will be banned by 1 July 2022.⁸⁷⁵³ Minister Ley stated that the plan serves to encourage Australians to change the way they “produce, consume and recycle plastic.”⁸⁷⁵⁴

On 23 April 2021, the Australian government invested an additional AUD100 million towards the management of ocean and coastal environments and global emissions reduction.⁸⁷⁵⁵ The investment

⁸⁷⁴⁵ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁸⁷⁴⁶ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

⁸⁷⁴⁷ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

⁸⁷⁴⁸ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁴⁹ Pacific Ocean Litter Project, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra). Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/international-activities/pacific-ocean-litter-project>

⁸⁷⁵⁰ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁵¹ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia’s plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁸⁷⁵² National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁵³ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁵⁴ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia’s plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁸⁷⁵⁵ Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

aims to cut emissions to create cleaner beaches, improve fish stocks, and offer better protection and assistance for marine animals and indigenous communities reliant on oceans for their livelihoods.⁸⁷⁵⁶

On 2 May 2021, the Australian government announced an investment of AUD14.8 million towards Parks Australia's efforts to track and identify sources of ghost nets and ensure their removal from bodies of water.⁸⁷⁵⁷ The funding will get invested in initiatives that address ghost nets and marine debris litter, such as data collection and new technology.⁸⁷⁵⁸

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government unveiled its 2021-2022 budget, which includes funding for oceans, recycling, biodiversity, and climate resilience.⁸⁷⁵⁹ The budget sets aside AUD5 million to support small and medium-sized businesses to adopt the Australian Recycling Label and an additional AUD5.9 million for investments in industry-led stewardship schemes to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.⁸⁷⁶⁰ The budget further includes a new AUD100.1 million Oceans Leadership Package, which aims to restore blue carbon ecosystems, expand Australia's marine park network to protect 45 per cent of Australian waters, and protect marine species.⁸⁷⁶¹

On 18 May 2021, Minister Ley and Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Trevor Evans announced eight new projects worth AUD111 million towards building and modernizing infrastructure.⁸⁷⁶² The projects include a wastepaper and cardboard recycling plant in the northern suburbs of Adelaide, a material resource facility in the southern suburbs, and a glass processing plant outside of Gawler.⁸⁷⁶³

On 24 May 2021, the Australian government released the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export Plastic) Rules 2021.⁸⁷⁶⁴ The rules come into effect on 1 July 2021 and implement regulations such as requiring licences that cover waste plastic, export declarations for the waste plastics.⁸⁷⁶⁵

On 1 July 2021, the Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources promoted the annual "plastic free July" initiative by the Plastic Free Foundation LTD.⁸⁷⁶⁶ This initiative is designed to help

⁸⁷⁵⁶ Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

⁸⁷⁵⁷ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁸⁷⁵⁸ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁸⁷⁵⁹ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁸⁷⁶⁰ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁸⁷⁶¹ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁸⁷⁶² Joint Media Release: \$111 million boost for SA Recycling Industry, Ministry for the Environment (Canberra) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/111-million-boost-sa-recycling-industry>

⁸⁷⁶³ Joint Media Release: \$111 million boost for SA Recycling Industry, Ministry for the Environment (Canberra) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/111-million-boost-sa-recycling-industry>

⁸⁷⁶⁴ Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Waste Plastic) Rules 2021, Australian Government (Canberra) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00625>

⁸⁷⁶⁵ Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Waste Plastic) Rules 2021, Australian Government (Canberra) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00625>

individuals decrease their single-use plastic usage, and promote habits that will overall prevent more plastic use and disposal.⁸⁷⁶⁷

Australia has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste through its 2021-2022 budget, National Plastics Plan 2021 and Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Matthew Brubacher and Sarah Weiner

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 8 April 2021, Brazil and 29 other countries signed on to a new UN-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁸⁷⁶⁸ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁸⁷⁶⁹

On 1 September 2021, representatives from the Government of Brazil attended the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, hosted by the Governments of Germany, Ecuador, Vietnam, and Ghana.⁸⁷⁷⁰ Brazil did not support the creation of a Global Agreement on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution but supported further discussions.⁸⁷⁷¹

Brazil has taken partial action by supporting international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, it has not taken domestic action to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter or microplastic waste.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁷⁶⁶ Plastic Free July, Australian Government (Canberra) July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021.

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/household-guides/seasonal-advice/plastic-free-july#toc-anchor-5-things-you-can-do-to-encourage-others>

⁸⁷⁶⁷ Plastic Free July, Australian Government (Canberra) July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021.

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/household-guides/seasonal-advice/plastic-free-july#toc-anchor-5-things-you-can-do-to-encourage-others>

⁸⁷⁶⁸ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁸⁷⁶⁹ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

⁸⁷⁷⁰ Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁷⁷¹ Summary report, 1–2 September 2021 Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, International Institute for Sustainable Development Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Winnipeg) Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://enb.iisd.org/ocean/conference-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution/summary>

On 9 December 2020, Canada concluded a public consultation period on a proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution, initiated by a paper on the subject published in October 2020. The purpose of this initiative is to provide “the basis for the developed of an integrated management approach to plastics, including proposed actions across the value chain to achieve zero plastic waste (including a ban on plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and food ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics), as well as systemic improvements to recover and recycle plastic,” with regulations expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. This work directly stems from Canada’s adoption of the Ocean Plastics Charter in June 2018.⁸⁷⁷²

On 5 March 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced four winners of the Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges.⁸⁷⁷³ These small and medium companies, Magemi Mining Inc., CACITH Inc., Met-Tech Inc., and Singular Solutions In., will receive up to CAD150,000 to develop solutions to address plastic waste.⁸⁷⁷⁴ The Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges are a part of the innovative Solutions Canada program and support Canada’s commitment to plastic waste reduction.⁸⁷⁷⁵

On 31 March 2021, Canada’s Parliamentary Committee passed a bill banning the export of non-recyclable plastic waste from Canada to foreign countries.⁸⁷⁷⁶ Bill C-204, sponsored by Member of Parliament Scot Davidson, was adopted by the environmental committee in a 6-5 vote.⁸⁷⁷⁷ The committee also approved an amendment requiring the Canadian government to implement the bill within 12 months of receiving royal assent.⁸⁷⁷⁸

On 9 April 2021, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety Joël Lightbound announced a CAD1 million investment to BOSK Bioproducts Inc.⁸⁷⁷⁹ The investment is a part of the second phase of the Bioplastics Challenge, aimed to help small businesses reduce pollution by

⁸⁷⁷² Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

⁸⁷⁷³ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁸⁷⁷⁴ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁸⁷⁷⁵ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁸⁷⁷⁶ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁸⁷⁷⁷ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁸⁷⁷⁸ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁸⁷⁷⁹ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

turning forest-based residue into sustainable plastic materials.⁸⁷⁸⁰ The BOSK Bioproducts Inc. will focus on installing a small-scale production line for proto-typing the formulations of compostable bioplastics made from forest biomass.⁸⁷⁸¹

On 15 April 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD1.3 million to support five projects that aim to reduce plastic waste, prevent plastic pollution and support Canada's transition to a circular plastics economy.⁸⁷⁸² The projects will include recycling personal protective equipment from hospitals, improving the management of compostable products and supporting the development of new standards for bioplastics. The projects receiving funding from the government include the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, the Canadian Coalition for Green Healthcare, the Conference Board of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Ontario, and Scout Environmental.⁸⁷⁸³

On 16 April 2021, the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, the federal economic development agency for southern Ontario, invested CAD5 million to the City of Guelph to develop the Circular Opportunity Innovation LaunchPad (COIL).⁸⁷⁸⁴ COIL is Canada's first circular economy test platform and is expected "to create 400 jobs, commercialize over 100 new products or services, and support the development and growth of up to 70 businesses."⁸⁷⁸⁵

On 12 May 2021, Canada published the Order Adding a Toxic Substance to Schedule 1 to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 regarding adding plastic manufactured items to the list of toxic substances. The purpose of this is to achieve zero-plastic waste by 2030 as stipulated under the Oceans Plastics Charter.⁸⁷⁸⁶

On 10 June 2021, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan launched a second call for proposals under the Ghost Gear Fund.⁸⁷⁸⁷ The Government of

⁸⁷⁸⁰ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁸⁷⁸¹ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁸⁷⁸² Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁸⁷⁸³ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁴ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁵ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁶ Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

⁸⁷⁸⁷ Government of Canada builds on success under the Ghost Gear Fund with second call for proposals, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-builds-on-success-under-the-ghost-gear-fund-with-second-call-for-proposals-880241940.html>

Canada created the Ghost Gear Fund in 2020 to limit the contribution of lost, abandoned, and discarded fishing gear as one of the largest causes of marine pollution.⁸⁷⁸⁸ In 2020, the fund helped remove 63 tonnes of gear from Canadian waters.⁸⁷⁸⁹

On 14 June 2021, during the 18th EU-Canada summit, Canada and the EU announced that they will step up cooperation and multilateral action on the circular economy, the efficient use of natural resources and the adequate management of chemicals and waste.⁸⁷⁹⁰ In particular, Canada and the EU will work towards a new global treaty on plastics, including efforts to fight ocean plastic pollution. In this regard, they launched an Ocean Partnership Forum under the EU-Canada Ocean Partnership Declaration.⁸⁷⁹¹

Canada has taken domestic action through public and private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic waste and has taken international bilateral action to fight ocean plastic pollution.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, through a video conference, highlighted the importance of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and the marine ecological environment.⁸⁷⁹² According to the consultation suggestions, provincial ecological and environmental departments would further fulfil their primary responsibilities and provide technical guidance and supervision to protect the marine environment.⁸⁷⁹³

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Measures on the Use and Recycling of Disposable Plastic Products in the Commercial Field (Test) to encourage and guide the commercial field to reduce the use and actively recycle plastic bags and other disposable plastic products.⁸⁷⁹⁴ The measures aim to promote recyclable, easy to recycle and biodegradable alternatives, thereby reducing

⁸⁷⁸⁸ Government of Canada builds on success under the Ghost Gear Fund with second call for proposals, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-builds-on-success-under-the-ghost-gear-fund-with-second-call-for-proposals-880241940.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁹ Government of Canada builds on success under the Ghost Gear Fund with second call for proposals, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-builds-on-success-under-the-ghost-gear-fund-with-second-call-for-proposals-880241940.html>

⁸⁷⁹⁰ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁷⁹¹ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁷⁹² The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁸⁷⁹³ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁸⁷⁹⁴ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

the severe threat that plastics pose to the sustainable development of soils, oceans, organisms and people.⁸⁷⁹⁵

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce unveiled a nationwide reporting system to record the use and recycling of disposable plastic products.⁸⁷⁹⁶ The reporting system intends to urge businesses to reduce reliance on single-use plastics and supports China's efforts to control plastic pollution by 2025.⁸⁷⁹⁷

On 8 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced that China will institute a sweeping ban on all solid waste imports, which will come into force on 1 January 2021.⁸⁷⁹⁸

On 9 December 2020, Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, called on all parties to take joint action on building a maritime community with a shared future under the issue of oceans and the law of the sea at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.⁸⁷⁹⁹

On 1 January 2021, China's plastic ban took effect, prohibiting restaurants and stores across the country from providing single-use plastic straws and plastic shopping bags.⁸⁸⁰⁰

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and National Development and Reform Commission issued the Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution, which covers three periods of time: 2020, 2022 and 2025, and sets out tasks and objectives for strengthening the control of plastic pollution in different stages.⁸⁸⁰¹ By 7 January 2021, 31 provinces had issued and enacted implementation or action plans related to plastic pollution control.⁸⁸⁰²

On 4 February 2021, China and Japan, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁸⁸⁰³

On 23 February 2021, the State Council issued the Guidelines on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-Carbon, and Circular Economic System for Development. The Guidelines suggest the consumption of green products, a green and low-carbon lifestyle, the prevention of food and beverage waste, and the sorting, reduction, and recycling of household waste

⁸⁷⁹⁵ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

⁸⁷⁹⁶ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁸⁷⁹⁷ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁸⁷⁹⁸ In green milestone, China to end solid waste, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201208_811909.shtml

⁸⁷⁹⁹ China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations has called for joint efforts to build a maritime community with a shared future, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/09/content_5568474.htm

⁸⁸⁰⁰ China: Single-Use Plastic Straw and Bag Ban Takes Effect, Library of Congress (Washington) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/china-single-use-plastic-straw-and-bag-ban-takes-effect/>

⁸⁸⁰¹ Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁸⁸⁰² Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁸⁸⁰³ China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

per local conditions.⁸⁸⁰⁴ Additionally, they promote the prevention and treatment of plastic pollution throughout the supply chain.⁸⁸⁰⁵

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment held a regular monthly press conference to emphasize the importance of the reduction of marine plastic litter.⁸⁸⁰⁶ The Ministry highlighted four measures, including managing the source of plastic production, strengthening public education, and participation in marine plastic litter prevention, and facilitating the prevention and control of marine plastic litter by coastal local governments, including the marine litter plastic in the overall planning of special actions for pollution prevention and control.⁸⁸⁰⁷

China has taken domestic actions and promoted bi-lateral and international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 January 2021, France enacted several measures as part of its anti-waste law to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics in the country.⁸⁸⁰⁸ In particular, the enacted measures banned the distribution of plastic bottles in public and commercial facilities and professional premises, the use and production of plastic confetti and expandable polystyrene containers and the production and use of single-use plastics.⁸⁸⁰⁹ Additionally, supermarkets in the country are now obligated to provide sorting containers to encourage recycling.⁸⁸¹⁰ Further, France outlined future commitments: amongst them, effective 1 January 2022, public facilities must have at least one drinking water fountain on site, press publications will have to be expedited without plastic wrapping, toys distributed to children as part of menus will have to be plastic-free, and the State will no longer purchase single-use plastic

⁸⁸⁰⁴ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

⁸⁸⁰⁵ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

⁸⁸⁰⁶ Prevention and control of Marine garbage pollution should be strengthened at source, preventive measures taken and timely removal, the National Development and Reform Commission (Beijing) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021.

https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xwdt/ztlz/slwzrlzxd/gzdt01/202108/t20210831_1295787.html?code=&state=123

⁸⁸⁰⁷ Prevention and control of Marine garbage pollution should be strengthened at source, preventive measures taken and timely removal, the National Development and Reform Commission (Beijing) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021.

https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xwdt/ztlz/slwzrlzxd/gzdt01/202108/t20210831_1295787.html?code=&state=123

⁸⁸⁰⁸ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸⁰⁹ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸¹⁰ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

whether for usage in its workplaces or the events it organizes.⁸⁸¹¹ To reduce microplastic in oceans, France announced that effective 1 January 2025, washing machine manufacturers must install a microfibre filter on any new washing machine put on the market.⁸⁸¹²

On 11 January 2021, France participated in the One Planet Summit to discuss accelerating international action against climate change.⁸⁸¹³ France and Costa Rica launched the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, now composed of 52 states, pledging to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030.⁸⁸¹⁴ President Macron announced France's commitment to abide by this level of protection by 2022 and published in January 2021 the National Protected Areas Strategy, which documents the efforts to reach this objective.⁸⁸¹⁵

On 12 January 2021, France, along with Spain and Monaco, launched the Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030.⁸⁸¹⁶ The coalition is built around four commitments of developing a grid of protected areas, putting an end to overfishing, fighting against marine pollution and putting an end to single-use plastic, and "greening up" maritime transport.⁸⁸¹⁷

On 16 April 2021, France issued a decree on the presence of industrial plastics in the environment.⁸⁸¹⁸ The decree stipulates the obligation for all sites producing, manipulating and/or transporting industrial plastic granules to adapt their equipment and set up procedures to prevent plastic leakages into the environments.⁸⁸¹⁹

On 30 April 2021, France published another decree which aims to reduce single use plastic waste by 20 per cent and to reduce "useless" single use plastic by 100 per cent, by the year 2025.⁸⁸²⁰

On 8 June 2021, France's Ministry of the Ecological Transition supported the creation of "Zero wild waste," an online collaborative platform focused on participatory effort.⁸⁸²¹ The platform was

⁸⁸¹¹ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸¹² The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸¹³ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁴ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁵ National Strategy for Protected Areas, French Office for Biodiversity (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ofb.gouv.fr/la-strategie-nationale-pour-les-aires-protgees>

⁸⁸¹⁶ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁷ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁸ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

⁸⁸¹⁹ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

⁸⁸²⁰ Anti-waste law: towards the end of single use plastic, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/emballages-en-plastique-usage-unique>

⁸⁸²¹ Zero wild waste: launching of the national collaborative platform, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-plateforme-zero-dechet-sauvage>

launched by MerTerre aiming to bring together the country, organizations, and stakeholders in contributing to reducing wild waste at the national level.⁸⁸²²

On 3-10 September 2021, France organized and hosted the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress, during which France defended the conclusion of an international treaty on plastic pollution.⁸⁸²³

France has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 11 January 2021, Germany participated in the One Planet Summit, where Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that “Germany would join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC).”⁸⁸²⁴ The HAC for Nature and People is an intergovernmental group, composed of 50 states, committed to protecting 30 per cent of the world’s land and ocean inhabitants by 2030.⁸⁸²⁵

On 9 February 2021, Germany amended the Packaging Act to ban the distribution of lightweight plastic bags at the point of sale of goods, such as malls, grocery stores, and markets.⁸⁸²⁶ The ban will become effective starting 1 January 2022, and merchants will face a fine of up to EUR100,000 for violating the ban.⁸⁸²⁷

On 19 April 2021, Germany entered a partnership with India to establish the “Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment” programme.⁸⁸²⁸ The programme aims to reduce the discharge of waste into bodies of water.⁸⁸²⁹ The project will operate in the Indian states of Uttar

⁸⁸²² Zero wild waste: launching of the national collaborative platform, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-plateforme-zero-dechet-sauvage>

⁸⁸²³ France welcomes international mobilization and advances made to preserve and restore biodiversity, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/france-se-felicite-mobilisation-internationale-et-des-avancees-obtenues-preserve-et-restaure>

⁸⁸²⁴ One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁸⁸²⁵ One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁸⁸²⁶ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁸⁸²⁷ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁸⁸²⁸ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁸⁸²⁹ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi, and Kanpur for a period of three and a half years.⁸⁸³⁰

On 6 May 2021, the German Bundestag adopted the law to “implement the requirements of the single-use plastics directive and the waste framework directive in the packaging act and other laws.” With this action, the European Directive (EU) 2019/904 will be implemented into German law. The aim of the European Single-Use Plastic Directive is to reduce plastic products waste on European beaches, protect the environment from plastics and microplastics, and promote recycling-oriented management of plastics.⁸⁸³¹

On 1 September 2021, Germany in coordination with Ecuador, Vietnam and Ghana co-hosted the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution.⁸⁸³² The conference highlighted the possibility of a global agreement on marine litter plastic.⁸⁸³³

Germany has fully complied with this commitment through bi-lateral initiatives and a verbal declaration of support for an intergovernmental initiative to safeguard the oceans. Additionally, it has taken measures to implement EU Directive 2019/904 to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, India and the UK launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India’s Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁸⁸³⁴ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁸⁸³⁵ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁸⁸³⁶

On 16 February 2021, Minister of Earth Sciences Madhavan Rajeevan announced India’s intent to strengthen collaborations with Japan on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-

⁸⁸³⁰ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁸⁸³¹ Drucksache 19/27634, German Bundestag (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/276/1927634.pdf>

⁸⁸³² Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁸³³ Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁸³⁴ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁸³⁵ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁸³⁶ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

level data sharing.⁸⁸³⁷ Secretary Rajeevan announced this collaboration during the Indo-Japan online seminar “Marine Plastic Prevention and Management.”⁸⁸³⁸

On 19 April 2021, India and Germany signed an agreement to establish the “Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment” program.⁸⁸³⁹ The project aims to enhance practices to prevent plastic accumulation in oceans that adversely affect marine ecosystems on the national level.⁸⁸⁴⁰ The project will operate in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi and Kanpur over a span of three and a half years.⁸⁸⁴¹

On 8 June 2021, India launched a two-month-long plastic waste awareness campaign.⁸⁸⁴² The campaign aimed to raise awareness on plastic waste management and the elimination of identified Single-Use Plastics items.⁸⁸⁴³

India has taken partial action through bilateral efforts to engage in information sharing on best practices for marine plastic reduction. However, India has not taken domestic action to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Tianbe Wang

Indonesia: –1

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Indonesia has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments both domestically and internationally to reduce or prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of –1.⁸⁸⁴⁴

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

⁸⁸³⁷ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸³⁸ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸³⁹ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁸⁸⁴⁰ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁸⁸⁴¹ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁸⁸⁴² World Oceans Day 2021: Plastic Waste And India's Awareness Campaign, NDTV (New Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/world-oceans-day-2021-plastic-waste-management-and-oceans-2458723>

⁸⁸⁴³ World Oceans Day 2021: Plastic Waste And India's Awareness Campaign, NDTV (New Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/world-oceans-day-2021-plastic-waste-management-and-oceans-2458723>

⁸⁸⁴⁴ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.indonesia.go.id/>, <http://www.menlhk.go.id/>, <https://kkp.go.id/>, <https://g20mpl.org>, <https://sdg.iisd.org/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/>, and <https://www.reutersevents.com/>

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 December 2020, Italy published the budget law, which postponed the entry into force of the plastic tax from 1 January 2021 to 1 July 2021 (article 1084).⁸⁸⁴⁵ The plastic tax established the charge of EUR0.45 per kilogram of single-use plastic produced from virgin feedstock (i.e., not recycled).⁸⁸⁴⁶

Although Italy has the intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter, Italy has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.⁸⁸⁴⁷

Analyst: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 18 January 2021, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi gave a speech at the 204th session of the Diet and said that “Japan will accelerate its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle global issues by making active and strategic use of Official Development Assistance. In particular, actively working on solving marine plastic litter issues to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”⁸⁸⁴⁸

In January 2021, the Ministry of the Environment released its initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and reiterated the Ministry’s resolution to promote measures to tackle marine plastic pollution in Japan and abroad.⁸⁸⁴⁹

On 19 January 2021, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment jointly compiled the Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy.⁸⁸⁵⁰ The purpose of the guidance was to improve Japanese companies’ ability to promote a circular economy over the medium or long term and enhance the resource circulation for plastics waste.⁸⁸⁵¹

⁸⁸⁴⁵ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁸⁸⁴⁶ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁸⁸⁴⁷ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <http://www.governo.it/>, www.minambiente.it, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.governo.it/notizie-presidente>, <https://g20mpl.org/partners/italy>, <https://www.thelocal.it/>, and <https://www.corriere.it/>

⁸⁸⁴⁸ Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI to the 204th Session of the Diet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page3e_001106.html

⁸⁸⁴⁹ Japan Environment Quarterly, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/jeq/issue/vol26/vol26l.pdf>

⁸⁸⁵⁰ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

⁸⁸⁵¹ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

On 4 February 2021, Japan and China, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁸⁸⁵²

On 16 February 2021, Japan and India announced their intent to collaborate on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-level data sharing.⁸⁸⁵³ This collaboration got announced during the Indo-Japan online seminar “Marine Plastic Prevention and Management.”⁸⁸⁵⁴

On 20 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the “Marine Initiative” toward the realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050.⁸⁸⁵⁵ The “Marine Initiative” includes three concrete policy measures to advance effective actions to combat marine plastic litter at a global scale.⁸⁸⁵⁶ The policy measures are 1) international Cooperation, including bilateral ODA and assistance through international organizations; 2) international operations by Japanese companies, NGOs, and local governments; and 3) dissemination and sharing of best practices.⁸⁸⁵⁷

Japan has verbally reaffirmed its commitment and encouraged bilateral and international cooperation to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter. Furthermore, it has launched the “Marine Initiative” for the realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 27 May 2021, the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the United States Agency for International Development to implement joint development projects in the Philippines.⁸⁸⁵⁸ The Climate Resilient Cities project aims to strengthen the country's resilience to climate change and address marine plastic pollution through marine litter management initiatives.⁸⁸⁵⁹

⁸⁸⁵² China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

⁸⁸⁵³ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸⁵⁴ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸⁵⁵ Japan's “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

⁸⁸⁵⁶ Japan's “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

⁸⁸⁵⁷ Japan's “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

⁸⁸⁵⁸ U.S. and Korea Strengthen Development Cooperation Partnership Through Joint Projects In The Philippines, USAID (Washington D.C.) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/philippines/press-releases/may-27-2021-us-and-korea-strengthen-development-cooperation-partnership-through-joint-projects-in-the-philippines>

⁸⁸⁵⁹ U.S. and Korea Strengthen Development Cooperation Partnership Through Joint Projects In The Philippines, USAID (Washington D.C.) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/philippines/press-releases/may-27-2021-us-and-korea-strengthen-development-cooperation-partnership-through-joint-projects-in-the-philippines>

On 3 September 2021, Korea launched the first National Action Plan on Marine Litter and Contaminated Sediment (2021-2030).⁸⁸⁶⁰ The National Action Plan aims to address marine plastic waste and microplastics problems using a resource circulation and carbon-neutral approach.⁸⁸⁶¹

Korea has fully complied by supporting bi-lateral initiatives and implementing a National Action Plan on Marine Litter and Contaminated Sediment.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianhe Wang

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 February 2021, Senator Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué, the President of the Commission on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change called for more extensive regulation on the use of plastics and microplastics in Mexico during an Open Parliament session.⁸⁸⁶² Senator Cué has proposed a legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution.⁸⁸⁶³

On 16 February 2021, Senator Xóchitl Gálvez Ruiz affirmed the legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution by placing an emphasis on coordinating state and municipal action.⁸⁸⁶⁴

On 24 May 2021, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and the United States' Environmental Protection Agency launched the Border 2025 Environmental program as a joint effort to protect environmental concerns in the border region.⁸⁸⁶⁵ The policy is a continuation of the Border 2020 program, and builds on information gathered by the prior report.⁸⁸⁶⁶ This region covers

⁸⁸⁶⁰ The 1st National Action Plan on marine litter and marine contaminated sediment, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Kanagawa) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/republicofkorea>

⁸⁸⁶¹ The 1st National Action Plan on marine litter and marine contaminated sediment, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Kanagawa) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/republicofkorea>

⁸⁸⁶² Legislador urge una regulación viable sobre uso de plásticos Portal Ambiental (Ciudad de México) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁸⁸⁶³ Legislador urges viable regulations on the use of plastics, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁸⁸⁶⁴ Management of plastic waste in states and municipalities must be coordinated, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210218/manejo-de-residuos-plasticos-en-estados-y-municipio-debe-ser-coordinado>

⁸⁸⁶⁵ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁸⁶⁶ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

the distance from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.⁸⁸⁶⁷ Trash carried to the ocean is one of the areas of concern that will be monitored under this policy.⁸⁸⁶⁸

Mexico has affirmed its intentions to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Matthew Brubacher and Sarah Weiner

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 5 March 2021, Russia, along with other members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) revealed plans to impose a ban on single-use disposable plastic bags by the end of March 2021.⁸⁸⁶⁹

On 12 March 2021, Russia and Norway began discussing the MPA-5 project which aims to tackle marine litter and microplastics in the Barents Sea.⁸⁸⁷⁰ Several Russian officials in the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia and the Marine Environment Monitoring Department of the Federal State Budgetary Institution attended the meetings. In addition, several Russian Oblasts are taking initiatives to reduce waste.⁸⁸⁷¹

On 12 May 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin reaffirmed the government's intentions of developing a circular economy during the State Duma's annual performance review.⁸⁸⁷² He stated, "we are also going to develop a circular economy, stimulate businesses to stop making products that cannot be recycled, and generally reduce unnecessary packaging."⁸⁸⁷³

⁸⁸⁶⁷ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁸⁶⁸ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁸⁶⁹ Russia & Eurasian Economic Union to Ban Disposable Plastics By End March 2021, Russia Briefing (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021 <https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/russia-eurasian-economic-union-to-ban-disposable-plastics-by-end-march-2021.html/>

⁸⁸⁷⁰ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁸⁸⁷¹ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁸⁸⁷² Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁸⁸⁷³ Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

On 22 June 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved the expansion of MSW management facilities. The project is state sponsored in hopes of creating sustainable development and increasing recycling.⁸⁸⁷⁴

Russia has affirmed its intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete nation actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 November 2020, Saudi Arabia's National Centre for Waste Management issued a new promotion of the circular economy activation.⁸⁸⁷⁵ These new measures include communications with different stakeholders to prevent and reduce plastic waste generation.⁸⁸⁷⁶

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued new environmental regulations to achieve its 2030 vision by using best international practices.⁸⁸⁷⁷ As part of the new environmental regulations, The Saudi Council of Ministers produced an initiative to develop and implement a Marine Litter Prevention Strategy that will commence in 2022.⁸⁸⁷⁸ Some of these practices include the identification of existing initiatives and projects to align and incorporate in the strategy where needed.⁸⁸⁷⁹

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued some of their best practices that evolve in three different sectors: national level, private sector and international cooperation.⁸⁸⁸⁰ The Saudi Council of Ministers will be investing in different national companies such as the Saudi in Saudi Investment Recycling Company.⁸⁸⁸¹ In the private sector, The Saudi Council of Ministers will be

⁸⁸⁷⁴ The government has expanded the list of measures to support the MSW management industry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

⁸⁸⁷⁵ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁸⁸⁷⁶ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁸⁸⁷⁷ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁷⁸ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁷⁹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁸⁰ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁸¹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

investing in a private company named “Sabic” to reduce plastic waste generation.⁸⁸⁸² The Saudi Council of Ministers will also be internationally cooperating with countries like Spain, Sweden, United States, Australia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Germany to protect Marine Areas and practice waste management.⁸⁸⁸³

On 7 July 2021, Saudi Arabia announced their new action plan on the reduction of water pollutants.⁸⁸⁸⁴ Saudi Arabia will improve service levels in order to enhance the quality of the kingdom’s waste management by 42 per cent to avoid further pollutants from entering the water and threatening livestock.⁸⁸⁸⁵

On 26 July 2021, the Saudi Waste Management Centre signed an memorandum of understanding with PepsiCo to introduce innovative solutions to facilitate a more environmentally friendly Hajj once the country starts to welcome back millions of pilgrims.⁸⁸⁸⁶ This partnership has four main pillars which include, plastic collection and recycling projects, educational school activities, awareness campaigns and sponsorship events which are all aligned with Saudi Arabia’s goal of Vision 2030 to improve the efficiency of waste management, establishing recycling projects and reducing pollution.⁸⁸⁸⁷

Saudi Arabia has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 March 2021, South Africa launched its National Water Week, hosted by Plastics SA and their partners.⁸⁸⁸⁸ The initiative aims to promote the importance of clean water and the involvement in marine and coastal clean-ups.⁸⁸⁸⁹

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy made amendments to Plastic Carrier Bags and Plastic Flat Bags Regulations.⁸⁸⁹⁰ These amendments focus

⁸⁸⁸² Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁸⁸⁸³ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁸⁸⁸⁴ Environmental Protection in KSA, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/environmentalProtection#header2_13

⁸⁸⁸⁵ Environmental Protection in KSA, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/environmentalProtection#header2_13

⁸⁸⁸⁶ PepsiCo and SWMC sign MoU to enhance environmental sustainability in Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News182.aspx>

⁸⁸⁸⁷ PepsiCo and SWMC sign MoU to enhance environmental sustainability in Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News182.aspx>

⁸⁸⁸⁸ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

⁸⁸⁸⁹ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

on all policies regarding plastic bags in the country and concentrate on promoting a circular economy.⁸⁸⁹¹ The amendment prohibits the manufacture, trade or commercial distribution of domestically produced or imported plastic flat bags and requires all plastic bags to contain 50 per cent recycled content starting in 2023 and increasing to 100 per cent by 2027.⁸⁸⁹²

On 4 May 2021, South Africa implemented a mandatory extended producer responsibility fee for any company or brand that produces plastic packaging for distribution.⁸⁸⁹³ Existing plastic producers must register with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries between 5 May 2021 to 5 November 2021.⁸⁸⁹⁴

On 14 May 2021, Minister Creecy delivered the budget speech to the National Assembly.⁸⁸⁹⁵ The speech called for the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 and emphasized plastic reduction as a crucial component of managing environmental pollution.⁸⁸⁹⁶

On 8 June 2021, Minister Creecy announced that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment developed the Source-to-Sea initiative which focuses on managing marine litter sources.⁸⁸⁹⁷ The initiative will commence in July 2021.⁸⁸⁹⁸

South Africa has taken domestic action through the ban on plastic production and restriction of commercial plastic bag usage to prevent additional pollution from plastic waste. However, it has not taken domestic or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁸⁹⁰ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁸⁸⁹¹ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁸⁸⁹² Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁸⁸⁹³ South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁴ South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁵ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁶ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁷ Marine litter a global concern, SA News (Cape Town) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/marine-litter-global-concern>

⁸⁸⁹⁸ Marine litter a global concern, SA News (Cape Town) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/marine-litter-global-concern>

On 1 February 2021, Turkey announced that it is working to institute a credit rebate to citizens for recycling beverages and other containers.⁸⁸⁹⁹

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment by working on an initiative that will give a credit rebate for recycling, which will support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, Turkey has not taken concrete action on this commitment.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, the UK and India launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁸⁹⁰⁰ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁸⁹⁰¹ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁸⁹⁰²

On 18 March 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs released plans for a new Waste Prevention Programme for England.⁸⁹⁰³ This program sets out how the UK and industry can minimize waste and its impact on the environment across seven key sectors, including packaging, plastics, and single-use items.⁸⁹⁰⁴ The plan will be open for stakeholder consultation until 10 June 2021.⁸⁹⁰⁵

⁸⁸⁹⁹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/turkey>

⁸⁹⁰⁰ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁹⁰¹ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁹⁰² Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁹⁰³ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁸⁹⁰⁴ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁸⁹⁰⁵ Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource-Efficient Economy, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/>

On 22 March 2021, the UK published an updated Marine Strategy Part Two. This update outlines the monitoring programs that will be used to provide the evidence for the 2024 assessment of progress towards Good Environmental Status within the UK Marine Strategy area.⁸⁹⁰⁶

On 6 April 2021, the UK opened the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme for applications. The scheme will provide GBP6.1 million over 12 months to support the seafood sector, coastal communities and the marine environment. It will work with the fishing industry to reduce emissions and provide environmental improvements.⁸⁹⁰⁷

On 30 April 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rebecca Pow announced that the charge for plastic bags in all UK retail stores would be doubled to GBP0.10, starting on 21 May 2021.⁸⁹⁰⁸ This is a delay from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' original plan to implement the change in April 2021.⁸⁹⁰⁹

On 14 June 2021, at the UK hosted G7 Summit, Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched the GBP500 million Blue Planet Fund. The Blue Planet Fund “aims to support developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty, and seeks outcomes in biodiversity, climate change, marine pollution and sustainable seafood. Specifically, the fund aims to: improve marine biodiversity and support livelihoods by protecting and enhancing marine ecosystems, improve resilience, adaptation to and Prime Minister Launches GBP500m Blue Planet Fund mitigation of climate change, reduce marine pollution through action on land-based and sea-based sources, and ensure that seafood is produced and distributed in ways which support healthy ecosystems. The Fund is managed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and will run for at least 5 years.”⁸⁹¹⁰

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment by reducing and preventing additional pollution in India, has announced a new initiative to minimize waste and has implemented a higher charge for plastic bags. Furthermore, through the UK's Presidency of the G7, the Blue Planet Fund was launched which supports developing countries to improve the health of the marine environment, including by eliminating plastic litter.

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

Analyst: Claire Parish

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁹⁰⁶ Marine Strategy Part Two: UK updated monitoring programmes, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) March 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/971696/uk-marine-strategy-part-two-monitoring-programmes-2021.pdf

⁸⁹⁰⁷ £6.1 million Fisheries and Seafood Scheme opens for applications, Government of the UK (London) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/61-million-fisheries-and-seafood-scheme-opens-for-applications>

⁸⁹⁰⁸ Exclusive: 10p Plastic Bag Charge To Be Rolled Out In All Shops From May 21, Politics Home (London) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/exclusive-10p-plastic-bag-charge-to-be-rolled-out-in-may#.YlwkGYBDHIs.twitter>

⁸⁹⁰⁹ War on plastic waste stepped up with extension of plastic bag charge, Department for Environment-Food & Rural Affairs (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

⁸⁹¹⁰ Prime Minister Launches £500m Blue Planet Fund, CIEEM (Winchester) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://cieem.net/prime-minister-launches-500m-blue-planet-fund/>

On 21 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. This act aims to improve work and research surrounding marine debris and waste management.⁸⁹¹¹ The act created a Marine Debris Foundation and a Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovation, alongside grants for waste management and mitigation studies.⁸⁹¹² It also formalized US policy on international cooperation and federal outreach around Marine debris, encouraging action and cooperation to prevent and reduce marine litter.⁸⁹¹³

On 24 May 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency and Mexico's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources launched the Border 2025 Environmental program as a joint effort to protect environmental concerns in the border region.⁸⁹¹⁴ The policy is a continuation of the Border 2020 program, and builds on information gathered by the prior report.⁸⁹¹⁵ This region covers the distance from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.⁸⁹¹⁶ Trash carried to the ocean is one of the areas of concern that will be monitored under this policy.⁸⁹¹⁷

The United States has partially complied with its commitment by passing a law that will support the reduction and prevention of marine plastic litter. However, the United States has not taken enough significant, concrete actions on the commitment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Claire Parish

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission's Independent Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) unveiled a Scientific Opinion on Plastics' Biodegradability in the Open Environment, a report highlighting recommendations to assess which specific biodegradable plastic applications can offer environmental benefits.⁸⁹¹⁸ According to the Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, the report's conclusions "provide a sound basis for the

⁸⁹¹¹ Bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Signed into Law, Sheldon Whitehouse: US Senator for Rhode Island (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/-bipartisan-save-our-seas-20-act-signed-into-law>

⁸⁹¹² S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁸⁹¹³ S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁸⁹¹⁴ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁵ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁶ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁷ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁸ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

policy framework for biodegradable and compostable plastics announced in the new Circular Economy Action Plan.”⁸⁹¹⁹

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament adopted the revised Drinking Water Directive.⁸⁹²⁰ The initiative aims to grant all individuals in member states better access to drinkable tap water and reduce plastic waste from water bottles.⁸⁹²¹

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission adopted new rules regarding the export, import and intra-EU shipment of plastic waste.⁸⁹²² Moving forward, the export of plastic waste from the EU to non-OECD countries will be banned, with an exception for clean plastic waste destined to be recycled.⁸⁹²³ Additionally, stricter controls will be implemented regarding plastic waste exported from the EU to OECD countries as well as imports within the EU.⁸⁹²⁴

On 14 June 2021, during the 18th EU-Canada summit, the EU and Canada announced that they will step up cooperation and multilateral action on the circular economy, the efficient use of natural resources and the adequate management of chemicals and waste.⁸⁹²⁵ In particular, the EU and Canada will work towards a new global treaty on plastics, including efforts to fight ocean plastic pollution. In this regard, both G20 members launched an Ocean Partnership Forum under the EU-Canada Ocean Partnership Declaration.⁸⁹²⁶

On 3 July 2021, the Single-Use Plastics Directive adopted by the EU in 2019 became officially and legally binding in all EU countries, banning several single-use plastic products such as straws and cups.⁸⁹²⁷

On 7 July 2021, the European Parliament approved the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, which allocates EUR6.1 billion to “support the blue economy, protect biodiversity, and promote international ocean governance.”⁸⁹²⁸ In the EU's budget for 2021-2027, more than 30 per cent of the funds will be dedicated to fulfilling the objectives of the European

⁸⁹¹⁹ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

⁸⁹²⁰ The revised Drinking Water Directive, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/legislation_en.html

⁸⁹²¹ Commission welcomes final agreement on water quality and access to drinking water, European Commission (Brussels) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2417

⁸⁹²² Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁸⁹²³ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁸⁹²⁴ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁸⁹²⁵ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁹²⁶ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁹²⁷ Say NO to Plastic, European Council (Brussels) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/the-pulse-archives/2021_07_13_euandyou_plastic/

⁸⁹²⁸ European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210701IPR07518/EU6-1-billion-to-promote-sustainable-fisheries-and-safeguard-fishing-communities>

Green Deal and contributing to clean and healthy seas and oceans through support for the collection of marine litter, including plastics and microplastics.⁸⁹²⁹

On 2 September 2021, the European Union backed a draft resolution presented by Peru and Rwanda regarding the creation of a committee to negotiate a potential accord on plastic waste.⁸⁹³⁰ The draft will be presented to the UN Environment Assembly in February 2022.⁸⁹³¹

The European Union has taken action through information sharing and regulations to prevent additional pollution from plastic litter, as well as officially implementing the Single-Use Plastics Directive.

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

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

⁸⁹²⁹ Supporting sustainability at sea: EU Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20210701STO07545/supporting-sustainability-at-sea-eu-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund>

⁸⁹³⁰ Countries take steps toward curbing plastic waste in oceans, AP News (New York) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-environment-and-nature-united-nations-3482e67b95a70c1b84f67975a55c05af>

⁸⁹³¹ Countries take steps toward curbing plastic waste in oceans, AP News (New York) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-environment-and-nature-united-nations-3482e67b95a70c1b84f67975a55c05af>

19. Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy

“We endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | 0 | |
| Italy | | 0 | |
| 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 | | +0.55 (78%) | |

Background

According to the United Nations, “the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale,”⁸⁹³² threatening food production, the availability of resources, and economic development. For several decades, international organs such as the UN have begun referring to the rising climate and depletion of resources as a point of significant concern. The first earth conference was hosted by the UN in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972, introducing recommendations for international environmental action.⁸⁹³³ In more recent years, these recommendations have evolved into further commitments, namely the 2015 Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the G20 members have addressed climate change in some capacity at every summit held since the inaugural summit in 2008.⁸⁹³⁴ Accounting for nearly 80 per cent of global emissions, the G20 member states have a

⁸⁹³² Climate Change, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

⁸⁹³³ From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/stockholm-kyoto-brief-history-climate-change>

⁸⁹³⁴ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Research Group (Washington) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

significant role to play in collective actions aimed at addressing climate change and its effects.⁸⁹³⁵ Additionally, bold action on climate change has the potential to produce USD26 trillion in economic benefits, as is cited by the UN.⁸⁹³⁶ Meaning, addressing climate change is and will continue to be a pressing issue for the G20, as their primary goal is to promote “international financial stability.”⁸⁹³⁷

The topic of climate change was addressed at the G20 inaugural summit, the 2008 Washington, D.C. Summit. G20 members acknowledged climate change as a “critical challenge” that needed to be addressed; however, failed to provide further specificity indicating the instruments to do so.⁸⁹³⁸ Nor did they identify a specific goal to meet in this topic area.

At the 2009 London Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their “commitment to address the threat of irreversible climate change, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and to reach agreement at the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009” in their single commitment dedicated towards climate change.⁸⁹³⁹ This marked the first time climate change was addressed in a commitment while referencing specific and measurable goals outlined in the 2009 UN Climate Change Agreement.

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the G20 members dedicated a significant portion of the conference to consider energy security and climate change, marking the first time the members recognized climate change as a multi-faceted issue with multiple factors. In the leaders’ statement, they addressed specific issues concerning climate change, including “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies [that] encourage wasteful consumption, distort markets, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with climate change.”⁸⁹⁴⁰ Members also identified specific steps to address climate change, including “increasing clean and renewable energy supplies, improving energy efficiency, and promoting conservation.”⁸⁹⁴¹

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their previous commitments to addressing climate change but failed to make any further commitments on the topic.⁸⁹⁴² The commitments on climate change at this summit also lack further specificity.

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to fight climate change. More specifically, they made a 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.”⁸⁹⁴³

⁸⁹³⁵ Lagging in climate action, G20 nations have huge opportunities to increase ambition, United Nations (New York) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/lagging-climate-action-g20-nations-have-huge-opportunities-increase>

⁸⁹³⁶ Climate Action Key Findings, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/key-findings>

⁸⁹³⁷ G20 Information Centre, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 November 1999. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/g20whatisit.html>

⁸⁹³⁸ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

⁸⁹³⁹ London Summit – Leader’s Statement, G20 Information Centre (London) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0402.pdf>

⁸⁹⁴⁰ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html#energy>

⁸⁹⁴¹ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html#energy>

⁸⁹⁴² The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqu.html>

⁸⁹⁴³ G20 Seoul Summit, G20 Information Centre (Seoul) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2010seoul.html>

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, the G20 members identified the fight against climate change as a main priority. Specifically, there was a significant focus placed on financing initiatives addressing climate change, primarily supporting “climate-related investments in developing countries” and “assist[ing] developing countries to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.”⁸⁹⁴⁴ Additionally, G20 members committed to “fostering clean energy, green growth and sustainable development [through] promot[ing] low-carbon development strategies.”⁸⁹⁴⁵

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the G20 members acknowledged the significant impact of climate change on the world economy and reaffirmed their commitment to fight climate change. They committed to take action to fulfill their Rio+20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreements, the Green Climate Fund, implementation of Cancun and Durban outcomes and achieving greater outcomes at COP-18. Additionally, they recognized the importance of adapting agriculture to climate change, namely through “improving the efficiency of water and soil use in a sustainable manner.”⁸⁹⁴⁶

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the fight against climate change and committed to the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change outcomes, as well as the Green Climate Fund.⁸⁹⁴⁷ In this, they specified their commitment to adhering to the Kyoto protocol for accounting and reporting emissions, marking the first direct reference to the role of CO₂ emissions in addressing climate change.⁸⁹⁴⁸

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s outcomes, as well as to the Green Climate Fund.⁸⁹⁴⁹ Additionally, they committed to “an Action Plan for Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Efficiency, including new work on the efficiency and emissions performance of vehicles, particularly heavy-duty vehicles; networked devices; buildings; industrial processes; and electricity generation; as well as work on financing for energy efficiency.”⁸⁹⁵⁰

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 members identified climate change as “one of the greatest challenges of our time” and committed to the below 2°C goal in the Lima Call for Action, as well as the commitments made in the “ambitious agreement in Paris.”⁸⁹⁵¹ Additionally, members emphasized

⁸⁹⁴⁴ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building on our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Research Group (Cannes) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

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

⁸⁹⁴⁵ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building on our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Research Group (Cannes) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

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

⁸⁹⁴⁶ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

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

⁸⁹⁴⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

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

⁸⁹⁴⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

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

⁸⁹⁴⁹ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqu.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁰ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqu.html>

⁸⁹⁵¹ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqu.html>

the importance of “improving energy efficiency, increasing investments in clean energy technologies and supporting related research and development activities.”⁸⁹⁵²

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the Green Climate Fund, specifically “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.”⁸⁹⁵³ Additionally, members restated their commitment to “to building well-functioning, open, competitive, efficient, stable and transparent energy markets, fostering more effective and inclusive global energy architecture to better reflect the changing realities of the world’s energy landscape, and shaping an affordable, reliable, sustainable and low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions energy future while utilizing energy sources and technologies.”⁸⁹⁵⁴

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the G20 members recognized that “a strong economy and a healthy planet are mutually reinforcing”⁸⁹⁵⁵ and reaffirmed their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Members also acknowledged the importance of a collaborative effort in keeping in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifying “energy security as one of the guiding principles for the transformation of our energy systems.”⁸⁹⁵⁶ The decision of the United States to withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Agreement was noted, and the leaders of the other G20 members acknowledged the irreversibility of the agreement.

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 members “recognize[d] the importance of comprehensive adaptation strategies, including investment in infrastructure that is resilient to extreme weather events and disasters,” noting the global warming of 1.5 degrees.⁸⁹⁵⁷ Members also reaffirmed the importance of “energy security, sustainability, resilience, efficiency, affordability and stability” in achieving the broader goal of reduced emissions.⁸⁹⁵⁸

From 15-16 June 2019, G20 Energy and Environment Ministers met for the first time. They stated that “We, the G20 Environment Ministers, recognize that improving resource efficiency through policies and approaches, such as circular economy, sustainable materials management, the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and waste to value, supports our belief that economic growth and environmental protection can and should go hand-in-hand, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals” and “We recognize the economic and environmental benefits of resource efficiency and circular economy policies in their potential to reduce all types of emissions, and look forward to pursuing these benefits.”⁸⁹⁵⁹

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the G20 members recognized the “urgent need for addressing complex and pressing global issues and challenges including climate change; resource efficiency; air, land, freshwater and marine pollution; biodiversity loss; sustainable consumption and production; urban

⁸⁹⁵² G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communication.html>

⁸⁹⁵³ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁵ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁶ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁹⁵⁹ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Kaurizawa) 16 June 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-energy-environment-communication.html>

environmental quality; and other environmental issues.”⁸⁹⁶⁰ Key areas of focus on this topic were reducing emissions and fostering resilient development. In regard to resource efficiency, the G20 leaders also emphasized that “We recognize that improving resource efficiency through policies and approaches, such as circular economy, sustainable materials management, the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and waste to value, contributes to the SDGs, as well as to addressing a wide range of environmental challenges, enhancing competitiveness and economic growth, managing resources sustainably, and creating jobs.”⁸⁹⁶¹

On 28 September 2020, G20 Energy Ministers met virtually, dedicating an entire section of the communiqué to the “Circular Carbon Economy for Cleaner and More Sustainable Energy Systems.” G20 Energy Ministers stated “we endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform and its “4Rs” framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove) while acknowledging...and recognizing the key importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances, including its specific resources endowment and its political, economic, environmental, social, and risk-informed development contexts, noting:

- “Reduce: Lower GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions by utilizing technologies and innovations such as renewable energy and nuclear energy, improving energy productivity and efficiency, and better managing energy supply and consumption. Recognizing the vital role that:
 - “Energy efficiency plays an important role in reducing overall energy demand, avoiding energy waste and increasing energy productivity. We acknowledge the achievements of the G20 cooperation on Energy Efficiency and will encourage future international collaboration to fully utilize the potential energy efficiency;
 - “Renewables, such as wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, marine/ocean, bioenergy and biofuels, are important for providing clean energy systems;
 - “Nuclear plays, in providing clean energy, for those who opt to use it, as well as in enhancing energy security. We note the importance of addressing challenges including decommissioning and final disposal of radioactive waste issues;
- “Reuse: Convert emissions into useful industrial feedstock by deploying Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU), including Emissions to Value (E2V) and Carbon Recycling (CR). Noting the potential of CCU as an advanced and cleaner technology that can help mitigate the impacts of emissions by capturing and reusing them;
- “Recycle: Neutralize carbon emissions through natural processes and decomposition, including through the use of renewable sources of energy such as biofuels, bioenergy and energy carriers such as methanol, ammonia, and urea representing the natural cycle and the recycling; and
- “Remove: Remove emissions from the atmosphere as well as from heavy industries and facilities through Carbon Capture and Storage (natural and geological) and Direct Air Capture.”⁸⁹⁶²

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the G20 members identified “preventing environmental degradation, conserving, sustainably using and restoring biodiversity, preserving our oceans, promoting clean air and clean water, responding to natural disasters and extreme weather events, and tackling climate

⁸⁹⁶⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁹⁶¹ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁸⁹⁶² G20 Energy Ministers Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-energy-0928.html>

change” as being among the most “pressing issues of our time.”⁸⁹⁶³ They also reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in addressing climate change, in accordance with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Commitment Features

On 21 November 2020, G20 leaders adopted the present commitment at a virtual summit hosted by Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The commitment reads as the following: “We endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.” This was the first time the G20 leaders used the phrase “circular carbon economy.”

To “endorse” is understood as “to make a public statement of your approval or support for something or someone.”⁸⁹⁶⁴ This verb constitutes a weak politically binding commitment, meaning, this term signifies a firm commitment but is a weak catalyst for compliance.⁸⁹⁶⁵ The definition of this term indicates that actions surrounding this commitment are likely to be more political in nature, rather than policy centered. Actions compliant with this commitment include, but are not limited to, allocating funding towards renewable energy, implementing a more effective waste system, and taking steps towards reducing carbon emissions.

The “circular carbon economy” (CCE), as defined by the G20 in their Riyadh communiqué is a “voluntary, holistic, integrated, inclusive, pragmatic, and complementary approach to promote economic growth while enhancing environmental stewardship through managing emissions in all sectors including, but not limited to, energy, industry, mobility, and food.”⁸⁹⁶⁶ Similarly, the CCE guide defines the CCE as “an integrated and inclusive approach to transitioning toward more comprehensive, resilient, sustainable, and climate-friendly energy systems that support and enable sustainable development. CCE enables countries to take advantage of all technologies, forms of energy, and mitigation opportunities according to resource availability, economics, and national circumstances.”⁸⁹⁶⁷ The CCE Platform incorporates the 4Rs “while acknowledging and recognizing the key importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances, including its specific resources endowment and its political, economic, environmental, social and risk-informed development contexts.”⁸⁹⁶⁸

The CCE “builds on the principles of circular economy and applies them to managing carbon emissions: to reduce the carbon that must be managed in the first place, to reuse carbon as an input to create feedstocks and fuels, to recycle carbon through the natural carbon cycle with bioenergy, and, unique to circular carbon economy, to remove excess carbon and store it.”⁸⁹⁶⁹ To “reduce” refers to carbon reductions and energy efficiency, non-bio renewables, and nuclear electricity. To “reuse” refers to converting CO₂ into fuels, chemicals and building materials, including synthetic

⁸⁹⁶³ Leader’s Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁹⁶⁴ Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/endorse>

⁸⁹⁶⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁸⁹⁶⁶ Leader’s Declaration, G20 Research Group (Riyadh) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁹⁶⁷ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁸⁹⁶⁸ G20 Energy Ministers Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-energy-0928.html>

⁸⁹⁶⁹ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

hydrocarbon fuels. To “recycle” refers to using bioenergy as fuel and feedstock or to generate electricity.⁸⁹⁷⁰ To “remove” refers to carbon capture and storage,⁸⁹⁷¹ which involves “the capture of [CO₂] from fuel combustion or industrial processes, the transport of this CO₂ via ship or pipeline, and either its use as a resource to create valuable products or services or its permanent storage deep underground in geological formations.”⁸⁹⁷² Furthermore, the CCE incorporates the use of hydrogen as “a highly versatile fuel that can help decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors where other low carbon alternatives are not an option (such as transport, industrial applications or buildings) while serving to store energy from renewable generation and assist in balancing its variability.”⁸⁹⁷³ Enabling policies that support the CCE are overcoming barriers to financing the carbon capture, utilization and storage (“remove”) and accelerating innovation.⁸⁹⁷⁴

The term “efficiency” is to be understood as “the good use of time and energy in a way that does not waste any.”⁸⁹⁷⁵ In this context, system efficiency indicates an understanding that policies in accordance with this commitment should be balanced with maintaining the efficiency of existing systems and when possible, should enhance the efficiency of these systems. Examples of systems to be considered include transportation systems, financial systems, and food production systems. These definitions indicate that this commitment takes into account the use of energy and emphasizes policies that reduce energy waste within systems. In cases where a complete shift in policy would disrupt the efficiency of an existing system, policies that commit to transitioning to a CCE will be considered.

In this context, “national circumstance” is to be understood as the consideration of the varying resources available to different G20 members. Meaning, policies in accordance with this compliance will vary between members and should utilize the resources available on a case-by-case basis. For example, members with little access to water as a source of renewable energy due to geographical reasons would be expected to employ other forms of venerable energy. The phrase “national circumstances” also takes into account each member state’s share of global CO₂ emissions when assessing policies aimed at reducing emissions.

To achieve full compliance (+1), G20 members must take actions in all 4Rs, including in the hydrogen or enabling policies aspect of the CCE. These actions must be strong actions where a G20 member takes concrete action on at least three of the 4Rs and partial action on the final of the 4Rs, as well as either hydrogen or enabling policies. Concrete actions include implementing policies, changing or drafting laws, initiating or implementing a new program or project, or contributing technical or financial assistance to an existing program or project. If a G20 member takes concrete action in all 4Rs, without specifically targeting the hydrogen or enabling practices, it would still be considered full compliance.

For partial compliance (0), a G20 member would take strong action in two three of the 4Rs without taking into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.

⁸⁹⁷⁰ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁸⁹⁷¹ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁸⁹⁷² Carbon capture, utilization and storage, International Energy Agency (Paris) 5 November 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.iea.org/fuels-and-technologies/carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage>

⁸⁹⁷³ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁸⁹⁷⁴ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁸⁹⁷⁵ Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/efficiency>

If a G20 member only takes partial action, such as reaffirmation of the commitment or attending a meeting, on one or two of the 4Rs, it would be non-compliance (-1). Similarly, if a G20 member takes no action, it would be considered non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does not take strong action on any of the 4Rs. |
| 0 | G20 member takes strong action in TWO or THREE of the 4Rs, without taking into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies. |
| +1 | G20 member takes strong action on THREE or FOUR of the 4Rs, while also taking into consideration hydrogen AND/OR enabling policies. |

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Lead Analyst: Omar Kassam*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development introduced a working instruction that hopes to promote a Sustainable Public Administration. This methodology was developed to analyze the level of sustainability in areas including: “energy management; water management, waste management; maintenance, order and cleanliness; rationalization of the use of paper and implementation of the electronic process; sustainable shopping; sustainable mobility and telework; surfaces and green spaces, among others.”⁸⁹⁷⁶

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced it would implement a biodigester in the Bolivian Community Fruit and Vegetable Concentrator Market in Buenos Aires. The goal is to reduce organic waste and use the process of biodigestion to generate electricity.⁸⁹⁷⁷

On 12 December 2020, President Alberto Fernández announced Argentina’s goal of reducing greenhouse emissions by 25.7 per cent and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 at the Climate Ambition Summit.⁸⁹⁷⁸ The President stated: “Argentina reaffirms its commitment to the Paris Agreement and adopts climate change as a State policy.”⁸⁹⁷⁹ It was also announced that Argentina

⁸⁹⁷⁶ Cabandié and Montero headed the first meeting of the Internal Control Committee of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-y-montero-encabezaron-la-primera-reunion-del-comite-de-control-interno-deln>

⁸⁹⁷⁷ The fruit and vegetable market "Bolivian Community" of Escobar will soon have a biodigester, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-mercado-frutihorticola-comunidad-boliviana-de-escobar-contara-proximamente-con-un>

⁸⁹⁷⁸ Cabandié: "We are committing ourselves to the world to a much more ambitious reduction of greenhouse gases", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-nos-estamos-comprometiendo-ante-el-mundo-una-reduccion-de-gases-de-efecto>

⁸⁹⁷⁹ Argentina announced its new commitment in the fight against climate change, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-anuncio-su-nuevo-compromiso-en-la-lucha-contra-el-cambio-climatico>

would start preparing its National Plan for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change and involve the participation of actors from public and private sectors.⁸⁹⁸⁰

On 14 December 2020, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Juan Cabandié presented the new Nationally Determined Contribution to the year 2030.⁸⁹⁸¹ It seeks to reaffirm Argentina's commitment to climate action. Through committing to delivering this commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the end of the year. Additionally, President Fernández announced that Argentina has identified carbon neutrality as the goal for 2050.

On 16 December 2020, Minister Cabandié announced the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development's contributions of ARS367 million to Santiago del Estero.⁸⁹⁸² Of the ARS367 million allocated to the city, ARS6.9 million will be used for renovation works, to be carried out through work cooperatives in the area, with the inclusion of recycled materials for urban furniture. Another ARS80 million is allocated for the purchase of machinery aimed at optimizing the management of urban solid waste and enhancing its classification, and separation. The remaining ARS280 million will be used for the national environmental portfolio through the Bosques Nativos y Comunidad project which will incorporate a variety of initiatives, namely forest regeneration, improved wood-burning stoves, and rainwater collection roofs.

On 17 December 2020, Ambassador of Portugal in Argentina José Ludovice and Minister Cabandié reaffirmed their commitment to continue two collaborative environmental and sustainable development projects. One of the projects, called "Program of systematization and online monitoring of the circular economy," aims to solicit statistical information to better understand urban solid waste and reinforce the circular economy.⁸⁹⁸³

On 30 December 2020, Minister Cabandié signed agreements for six projects under the Comprehensive Common House Plan, investing a total of ARS33 million.⁸⁹⁸⁴ The Common House Program aims to promote sustainability and environmentalism, with particular commitment to the circular economy. The six projects are described as the following: the remodeling of the sustainable public space in Plaza Eva Perón, located in Puerto Iguazú, Misiones province; the improvement and development of the sustainable plaza Campanas del Rosario, located in the town of Fray Mamerto Esquiú in the province of Catamarca; the creation of the Villa Pehuena Environmental Park, in the province of Neuquén; the construction of a shed that will allow urban solid waste treatment tasks in

⁸⁹⁸⁰ Cabandié: "We are committing ourselves to the world to a much more ambitious reduction of greenhouse gases", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-nos-estamos-comprometiendo-ante-el-mundo-una-reduccion-de-gases-de-efecto>

⁸⁹⁸¹ Climate change: the government advances in the commitment towards an environmentally sustainable development, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cambio-climatico-el-gobierno-avanza-en-el-compromiso-hacia-un-desarrollo-ambientalmente>

⁸⁹⁸² "We have to do everything in our power to continue reversing the historical disadvantages that the North had.", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/tenemos-que-hacer-todo-lo-que-este-nuestro-alcance-para-seguir-revirtiendolo-las-desventajas>

⁸⁹⁸³ Argentina and Portugal promote cooperation projects in the field of environment and sustainable development, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-portugal-impulsan-proyectos-de-cooperacion-en-materia-de-ambiente-y-desarrollo>

⁸⁹⁸⁴ Cabandié signed agreements of the Comprehensive Common House Plan with municipalities of the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-firmo-convenios-del-plan-integral-casa-comun-con-municipios-del-pais>

El Pingo, Entre Ríos; and finally, the construction of a municipal nursery in Alto Río Senguer and the enhancement of the urban nature reserve located in Cholila, both located in Chubut.⁸⁹⁸⁵

On 30 December 2020, Minister Cabandié stated that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is making deliveries in 60 municipalities throughout Argentina to provide better infrastructure and equipment for waste management workers, investing a total of ARS60 million. The goal is to make improvements within local waste management systems across Argentina.⁸⁹⁸⁶

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development published the Second Contribution Determined at the National Level, which outlines Argentina's commitment to Paris Agreement objectives. This Second Contribution aims to improve adaptations to climate change and promote sustainable development in accordance with the Paris Agreement. In these objectives, Argentina commits to limiting gas emissions to 26 per cent lower than the goal identified in 2016.⁸⁹⁸⁷

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development deposited its ratification instrument of the Escazú Agreement before the Secretary-General of the United Nations on behalf of the Argentine Government. The Agreement, signed by 24 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean, outlines protocols for protecting the environment and points to Argentina's commitment to sustainability.⁸⁹⁸⁸

On 26 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development signed an agreement with the municipality of Escobar and the Asociación Civil Colectividad Boliviana de Escobar to install a biodigester in the region's Fruit and Vegetable Market. The biodigester will generate clean electricity from the organic waste and also produce natural biofertilizer.⁸⁹⁸⁹

On 5 February 2021, the Ministers of Environment of Chile and Argentina announced a collaborative initiative to share good practices for the implementation of climate action. The goal is to uphold the Paris Agreement by sharing resources and working with other Latin American and Caribbean countries.⁸⁹⁹⁰

⁸⁹⁸⁵ Cabandié signed agreements of the Comprehensive Common House Plan with municipalities of the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-firmo-convenios-del-plan-integral-casa-comun-con-municipios-del-pais>

⁸⁹⁸⁶ Cabandié led the delivery of machinery for Escobar's waste management, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-encabezo-la-entrega-de-maquinaria-para-la-gestion-de-residuos-de-escobar>

⁸⁹⁸⁷ Climate change: Environment made official the Second Contribution Determined at the National Level, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cambio-climatico-ambiente-oficializo-la-segunda-contribucion-determinada-nivel-nacional>

⁸⁹⁸⁸ Argentina facilitates the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-facilita-la-entrada-en-vigor-del-acuerdo-de-escazu>

⁸⁹⁸⁹ Environment promotes the generation of renewable energy in the Escobar Fruit and Vegetable Market, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-impulsa-la-generacion-de-energia-renovable-en-el-mercado-frutihorticola-de-escobar>

⁸⁹⁹⁰ Climate finance for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/finanzas-climaticas-para-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced it will implement a biogas plant in the Gualaguaychú Ecopark of Entre Ríos. The plant will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while converting the biogas into electrical energy.⁸⁹⁹¹

On 22 February 2021, Minister Cabandié announced that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development tripled all provincial budgets towards the preservation of forest basins. The increased budget will encourage provinces to work to protect native forests. Additionally, a donation of ARS82 million was made to the Green Climate Fund for the next six years.⁸⁹⁹²

On 1 March 2021, President Fernández highlighted Argentina's commitment to climate sustainability, the circular economy, protection of native forests and the creation of new protected areas. The President stated, "We are absolutely committed to the principles established in the Paris Agreement." The President then announced Argentina's commitment to active policy promotion of the circular economy to "eradicate open-air dumps, improve the final disposal of urban solid waste and the working conditions of urban waste collectors."⁸⁹⁹³

On 16 March 2021, Minister Cabandié and Head of the Ministry of Agrarian Development of Buenos Aires Javier Rodríguez signed an agreement establishing collaboration between the two organizations. The agreement aims to "encourage innovative proposals that incorporate environmental criteria in order to design and implement specific programs, plans and projects at the local level for sustainable development in the provincial territory."⁸⁹⁹⁴

On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development signed a financial and technical collaborative protocol with the Environmental Fund of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action of Portugal.⁸⁹⁹⁵ The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development will receive EUR200,000 as a result.⁸⁹⁹⁶ The protocol will finance two initiatives: a national platform to monitor the progress of the management of urban solid waste, as well as comprehensive waste management in coastal areas.⁸⁹⁹⁷ The goal of the protocol is to strengthen cooperation on education

⁸⁹⁹¹ The Ministry will install a biogas plant in the Gualaguaychú Ecopark, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

⁸⁹⁹² Cabandié: "In the region we are indebted countries, but we are also environmental creditors because the entire planet benefits from our ecosystems", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-en-la-region-somos-paises-endeudados-pero-tambien-somos-acreedores-ambientales>

⁸⁹⁹³ Minister Cabandié accompanied the President at the opening of the ordinary sessions of the National Congress, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-cabandie-acompano-al-presidente-en-la-apertura-de-las-sesiones-ordinarias-del>

⁸⁹⁹⁴ Environment signed an institutional collaboration agreement with the Ministry of Agrarian Development of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-celebro-un-acuerdo-de-colaboracion-institucional-con-el-ministerio-de-desarrollo>

⁸⁹⁹⁵ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁸⁹⁹⁶ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁸⁹⁹⁷ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

for sustainable development, waste management, and circular economy.⁸⁹⁹⁸ This commitment aims to increase awareness surrounding recycling and waste management.⁸⁹⁹⁹

On 30 March 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero and the Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán signed a modification of the 2021 National Budget raising the budget of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to more than ARS11.33 million, 300 per cent more than the 2020 budget.⁹⁰⁰⁰ Also, the Inter-American Development Bank loan financing Argentina's Comprehensive Urban Solid Waste Management Program increased by ARS1.937 million and will go towards the eradication of open pit garbage dumps and optimizing urban solid waste disposal.⁹⁰⁰¹ These budgetary increases will provide more resources for the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and "reaffirms [Argentina's] commitment to environmental policy," said Minister Cabanié.⁹⁰⁰²

On 10 April 2021, President Fernández and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development launched a forest fire prevention campaign, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of protecting native forests.⁹⁰⁰³ The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development recognized the necessity of the country's forests and reported that most forest fires are the result of recreational fires, fires used to burn waste and clearing of the land for livestock or urbanization.⁹⁰⁰⁴ The campaign works towards preserving Argentina's forests, which serve as important carbon sinks.

On 22 April 2021, President Fernández renewed Argentina's commitment to the Paris Agreement while vowing to increase climate ambitions during the Leaders Summit on Climate hosted by President Joseph Biden of the United States.⁹⁰⁰⁵ President Fernández announced that Argentina is committed to ensuring 30 per cent of the national energy matrix is developed using renewable energy

⁸⁹⁹⁸ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁸⁹⁹⁹ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁹⁰⁰⁰ The budget of the Ministry of Environment will be 300% higher than that of 2020, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presupuesto-del-ministerio-de-ambiente-sera-300-mayor-que-el-de-2020>
⁹⁰⁰¹ The budget of the Ministry of Environment will be 300% higher than that of 2020, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presupuesto-del-ministerio-de-ambiente-sera-300-mayor-que-el-de-2020>
⁹⁰⁰² The budget of the Ministry of Environment will be 300% higher than that of 2020, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presupuesto-del-ministerio-de-ambiente-sera-300-mayor-que-el-de-2020>

⁹⁰⁰³ The national government launched a forest fire prevention campaign, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-una-campana-de-prevencion-de-incendios-forestales>

⁹⁰⁰⁴ The national government launched a forest fire prevention campaign, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-una-campana-de-prevencion-de-incendios-forestales>

⁹⁰⁰⁵ "Argentina has put climate and environmental action at the center of its convictions", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-ha-puesto-la-accion-climatica-y-ambiental-en-el-centro-de-sus-convicciones>

and promoting energy efficient measures in transportation and construction industries.⁹⁰⁰⁶ These measures focus on encouraging and increasing the use of renewable energy to lower the country's emissions.

On 1 May 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced it will launch a virtual course on the comprehensive management of electrical and electronic equipment waste.⁹⁰⁰⁷ The course is aiming to strengthen Argentina's initiatives by improving regional environmental management of persistent organic pollutants in electrical and electronic equipment waste.⁹⁰⁰⁸ The goal is to reduce potential emissions that can come from electrical waste and work towards a circular economy.⁹⁰⁰⁹

On 8 May 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced the creation of Argentina's largest national park, located in the province of Córdoba.⁹⁰¹⁰ The park is designed to conserve and expand hectares of protected areas to preserve biodiversity and promote sustainability.⁹⁰¹¹ The region of the national park has ecosystems that can control floods, replenish groundwater, retain sediments and nutrients, purify water, and regulate the regional climate.⁹⁰¹²

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Secretary of Environmental Control and Monitoring and the head of the United Nations Development Program in Argentina signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a cooperation framework.⁹⁰¹³ This framework is focused on strengthening pollution monitoring and control systems, increasing climate action efforts such as air quality monitoring, including citizens in the development of public policies

⁹⁰⁰⁶ "Argentina has put climate and environmental action at the center of its convictions", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-ha-puesto-la-accion-climatica-y-ambiental-en-el-centro-de-sus-convicciones>

⁹⁰⁰⁷ Ambiente will start next Monday a virtual course on comprehensive management of electrical and electronic equipment waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-iniciara-el-lunes-proximo-un-curso-virtual-sobre-gestion-integral-de-residuos-de>

⁹⁰⁰⁸ Ambiente will start next Monday a virtual course on comprehensive management of electrical and electronic equipment waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-iniciara-el-lunes-proximo-un-curso-virtual-sobre-gestion-integral-de-residuos-de>

⁹⁰⁰⁹ Ambiente will start next Monday a virtual course on comprehensive management of electrical and electronic equipment waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-iniciara-el-lunes-proximo-un-curso-virtual-sobre-gestion-integral-de-residuos-de>

⁹⁰¹⁰ Cabandié announced the creation of a new national park in the province of Córdoba, it will be one of the largest in the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-anuncio-la-creacion-de-un-nuevo-parque-nacional-en-la-provincia-de-cordoba-sera>

⁹⁰¹¹ Cabandié announced the creation of a new national park in the province of Córdoba, it will be one of the largest in the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-anuncio-la-creacion-de-un-nuevo-parque-nacional-en-la-provincia-de-cordoba-sera>

⁹⁰¹² Cabandié announced the creation of a new national park in the province of Córdoba, it will be one of the largest in the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-anuncio-la-creacion-de-un-nuevo-parque-nacional-en-la-provincia-de-cordoba-sera>

⁹⁰¹³ Environment signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-suscribio-un-memorando-de-entendimiento-con-el-programa-de-las-naciones-unidas>

and supporting national and regional efforts to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹⁰¹⁴

On 24 June 2021, Minister Cabandié signed an agreement with the Ministry of Energy to invest ARS375 million to supply renewable energy to the buildings of nine national parks.⁹⁰¹⁵ 53 photovoltaic systems will be introduced to protected areas in Neuquén; Quebrada del Condorito, from Córdoba; Islands of Santa Fe, of Santa Fe; El Palmar, from Entre Ríos; Talampaya, from La Rioja; Aconquija, from Tucumán; Los Cardones, from Salta; Calilegua, from Jujuy; and Copo, from Santiago del Estero.⁹⁰¹⁶ These measures focus on encouraging and increasing the use of renewable energy to lower the member's emissions.⁹⁰¹⁷

On 5 July 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development launched the National Program for the Prevention of Environmental Risk, which encourages public policies that seek to inspect and prevent environmental pollution.⁹⁰¹⁸ This initiative aims to strengthen technical-administrative capacities of environmental authorities and recognize problems at the interjurisdictional and provincial level in terms of environmental policy.⁹⁰¹⁹ The goals are to develop a platform for an internal control panel that systematizes environmental data and create a map illustrating environmental risks at the national level.⁹⁰²⁰

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove). It has complied with its commitment to “recycle” and “reuse” carbon emissions through the implementation of a biogas plant and plans to install a biodigester. It has also complied with its commitment to reducing carbon emissions by establishing more ambitious emissions reduction goals and increasing Argentina's use of renewable energy-efficient sources. Argentina has also supported initiatives to remove carbon

⁹⁰¹⁴ Environment signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-suscribio-un-memorando-de-entendimiento-con-el-programa-de-las-naciones-unidas>

⁹⁰¹⁵ Minister Cabandié signed an agreement in Neuquén to supply renewable energy to national parks, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-cabandie-firmo-en-neuquen-un-convenio-para-abastecer-de-energia-renovable>

⁹⁰¹⁶ Minister Cabandié signed an agreement in Neuquén to supply renewable energy to national parks, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-cabandie-firmo-en-neuquen-un-convenio-para-abastecer-de-energia-renovable>

⁹⁰¹⁷ Minister Cabandié signed an agreement in Neuquén to supply renewable energy to national parks, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-cabandie-firmo-en-neuquen-un-convenio-para-abastecer-de-energia-renovable>

⁹⁰¹⁸ The Ministry strengthens its commitment to the prevention of environmental pollution, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-fortalece-su-compromiso-con-la-prevencion-de-la-contaminacion-ambiental>

⁹⁰¹⁹ The Ministry strengthens its commitment to the prevention of environmental pollution, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-fortalece-su-compromiso-con-la-prevencion-de-la-contaminacion-ambiental>

⁹⁰²⁰ The Ministry strengthens its commitment to the prevention of environmental pollution, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-fortalece-su-compromiso-con-la-prevencion-de-la-contaminacion-ambiental>

emissions through its investments in educational campaigns and activities towards forest protection. However, it falls short on its commitment to hydrogen and related enabling policies.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amanda Wang

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 18 December 2020, Australia announced it will fund a feasibility study into turning a former underground coal mine into pumped hydro energy storage, contributing AUD4.16 million to the AUD13.04 million project. If feasible, the site could supply an additional 600 megawatts of renewable energy to the grid. If the trial and study are successful, it could result in repurposing other retired coal sites into producing renewable energy.⁹⁰²¹

On 30 December 2020, Australia submitted a new climate pledge to the United Nations, stating it will “meet and beat” the 2030 targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below the country’s 2005 emission levels. The report states Australia’s reduction funds have been effective and delivered 60 million tons of abatement. The report includes the anticipated investment of AUD18 billion over the period to 2030. The package also includes an additional AUD2 billion for a Climate Solutions Fund to continue investment in low-cost abatement through the Emissions Reduction Fund and to support the adoption of new and emerging low emissions technologies inaccessible sectors.⁹⁰²²

On 17 February 2021, Australia’s Entrepreneurs’ Programme financed research and projects to motivate environmental action through seven grants.⁹⁰²³ The Sea Forest Grant which will cultivate a special seaweed to reduce livestock emission by more than 99 per cent has been granted AUD1 million.⁹⁰²⁴ UPowr, a company that offers end to end service for household solar and battery installations have received an AUD493,746 grant. Monsoon Aquatics has been granted AUD304,058 to commercialize its coral reproduction process to rebuild reefs.⁹⁰²⁵

On 25 February 2021, Australia, through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, finalized their AUD160 million investment in Neoen’s Victorian Big Battery to support the integration of renewable energy into the grid. The battery will secure the state of Victoria’s energy grid while

⁹⁰²¹ Renewable future for retired coal mines, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/renewable-future-retired-coal-mine>

⁹⁰²² Australia’s First Nationally Determined Contribution, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn, Germany) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/Party.aspx?party=AUS&prototype=1>

⁹⁰²³ Grants for environmental game changers, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/grants-environmental-game-changers>

⁹⁰²⁴ Environmental game changes lead the way amongst Entrepreneurs’ Programme grant recipients, Australian Government Business (Canberra, Australia) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/environmental-game-changers-lead-the-way-amongst-entrepreneurs-programme-grant-recipients>

⁹⁰²⁵ Grants for environmental game changers, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/grants-environmental-game-changers>

reducing carbon emissions. This project will play a large part in helping Victoria reach its target of 50 per cent of energy being used from renewable sources.⁹⁰²⁶

On 4 March 2021, Australia launched the National Plastics Plan.⁹⁰²⁷ The plan is set to combat different plastics, on different fronts. Plastics on beaches will be banned. The plan aims to work with the industry to phase out fragmentable plastics by 2022.⁹⁰²⁸ Polyvinyl chloride packaging labels will be phased out by the end of 2022. Expanded polystyrene from loose packaging fills and moulded packaging in consumer packaging will be phased out by July 2022. Ending polystyrene packaging for takeaway containers and phasing in microplastic filters in washing machines by the end of 2022.⁹⁰²⁹ The Australian Recycling Label will be on at least 80 per cent of supermarket products by 2023 and 100 per cent of packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 while also introducing an AUD20 million investment to create a waste data visualization platform.⁹⁰³⁰

On 19 March 2021, Australia signed on as a member of the Gglobal Adaptation Action Coalition. Australia has announced its commitment to practical climate adaptation strategies, with on-ground support for vulnerable communities. Australia's membership in the coalition builds on Prime Minister Scott Morrison's commitment to global climate action. The Ministry for Environment stated that Australia is committed to building partnerships that drive adaptation to protect and grow our economies, communities and the environment. At the conference, Australia also noted that the country is working on climate resilience and adaptation strategy.⁹⁰³¹

On 18 April 2021, the Australian government, in collaboration with the state of South Australia, signed an AUD1.1 billion deal to finance measures aimed at making energy more affordable and to help curb carbon emissions.⁹⁰³² This money will be used in areas such as carbon storage, implementing electric vehicles, hydrogen and other projects with the aim to reduce emissions.⁹⁰³³

On 21 April 2021, Prime Minister Morrison pledged to spend AUD417 million on hydrogen and carbon capture.⁹⁰³⁴ He stated that it is essential for Australia to position itself in a state where industries are supported while also contributing to lower emissions.⁹⁰³⁵ The funding is part of the

⁹⁰²⁶ Boosting the security of Victoria's energy grid, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/boosting-security-victorias-energy-grid>

⁹⁰²⁷ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁹⁰²⁸ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁹⁰²⁹ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁹⁰³⁰ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁹⁰³¹ Australia joins coalition for climate adaptation action, Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-coalition-climate-adaptation-action>

⁹⁰³² Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement with South Australia, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/energy-and-emissions-reduction-agreement-south-australia>

⁹⁰³³ Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement with South Australia, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/energy-and-emissions-reduction-agreement-south>

⁹⁰³⁴ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁹⁰³⁵ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

government's economic blueprint for 2022's fiscal year, and is yet to receive Parliament approval.⁹⁰³⁶ This expenditure is part of the government's pledge to spend AUS18 billion over the next 10 years to meet climate goals.⁹⁰³⁷

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced AUD565.8 million to back low emissions international technology partnerships and initiatives by co-funding research and demonstration projects.⁹⁰³⁸

On 23 April 2021, the Australian government announced a AUS100 million initiative to protect the Australian oceans.⁹⁰³⁹ This ocean and coastal management will contribute to the reduction of Australia's emissions. The investment will target blue carbon systems involving seagrass and mangroves to draw carbon out of the atmosphere.⁹⁰⁴⁰

On 4 May 2021, Australia awarded AUD103 million to back three green hydrogen projects.⁹⁰⁴¹ This commitment increases previous funding by around 50 per cent.⁹⁰⁴² The federal government is seeking to speed up the commercial production of gas using renewable resources to reduce carbon emissions, not only in Australia, but also internationally.⁹⁰⁴³

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government released their budget for 2021-22, which includes significant climate initiatives and funding.⁹⁰⁴⁴ The budget provides over AUD480 million in new funding for the environment, with AUD100 million specifically for protecting oceans. AUD1.6 billion will be used to fund technologies, including hydrogen and energy storage.⁹⁰⁴⁵ Furthermore, AUD1.8 billion will go towards boosting jobs, reducing emissions and supporting affordable and reliable energy. Of this, AUD1.2 billion will be used for emissions reductions, including AUD639 million for low emissions international technology partnerships, AUD275.5 million to support the development of four clean hydrogen export hubs, AUD263.7 million for carbon capture

⁹⁰³⁶ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁹⁰³⁷ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁹⁰³⁸ Cutting emissions and creating jobs with international partnerships, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/cutting-emissions-and-creating-jobs-international-partnerships>

⁹⁰³⁹ Australia Announces \$100 Million Initiative to Protect Our Oceans, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

⁹⁰⁴⁰ Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement with South Australia, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/energy-and-emissions-reduction-agreement-south-australia>

⁹⁰⁴¹ Australia backs three 'green' hydrogen projects with more than A\$100 mln, Financial Post (Toronto) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-backs-three-green-hydrogen-projects-with-more-than-a100-mln>

⁹⁰⁴² Australia backs three 'green' hydrogen projects with more than A\$100 mln, Financial Post (Toronto) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-backs-three-green-hydrogen-projects-with-more-than-a100-mln>

⁹⁰⁴³ Australia backs three 'green' hydrogen projects with more than A\$100 mln, Financial Post (Toronto) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/australia-backs-three-green-hydrogen-projects-with-more-than-a100-mln>

⁹⁰⁴⁴ Budget Paper No. 2 2021-22, The Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://budget.gov.au/2021-22/content/bp2/download/bp2_2021-22.pdf

⁹⁰⁴⁵ Budget Paper No. 2 2021-22, The Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://budget.gov.au/2021-22/content/bp2/download/bp2_2021-22.pdf

technologies, and AUD59.6 million to support new agricultural feed technologies to reduce livestock emissions.⁹⁰⁴⁶

On 10 June 2021, Australia and Singapore partnered to accelerate the deployment of low-emissions technologies. Each country will commit up to AUD10 million over the span of five years, to fund an industry-led pilot and demonstration projects.⁹⁰⁴⁷ The initiative will trial the use of clean hydrogen, clean ammonia and other hydrogen derivatives in shipping and port operations.⁹⁰⁴⁸ This commitment will work towards introducing low emission industries to the nation.⁹⁰⁴⁹

On 30 July 2021, the Morrison government announced the expansion of the functions of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, to support new technologies which will reduce carbon emissions.⁹⁰⁵⁰ The investment will include exploring emerging technologies for clean hydrogen, energy storage, low carbon materials, and carbon capture and storage.⁹⁰⁵¹ The additional funding of AUD192.5 million will go towards electric vehicle charging infrastructure, lowering emissions in Australia's heavy vehicle fleets, and supporting large energy-consuming businesses to identify opportunities to adopt new technologies.⁹⁰⁵²

On 14 July 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced AUD2 million in an initiative to support decarbonisation in industry supply chains across hard-to-abate sectors including iron, steel, alumina, aluminium, liquefied natural gas, other metals including lithium and copper and chemicals such as plastics and fertilisers.⁹⁰⁵³

⁹⁰⁴⁶ Investing in reliable affordable energy and reducing emissions to secure Australia's recovery, Ministry for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/investing-reliable-affordable-energy-and-reducing-emissions-secure-australias-recovery>

⁹⁰⁴⁷ Australia partners with Singapore on hydrogen in maritime sector, Australian Government Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 13 June 2021.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/australia-partners-singapore-hydrogen-maritime-sector>

⁹⁰⁴⁸ Australia partners with Singapore on hydrogen in maritime sector, Australian Government Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 13 June 2021.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/australia-partners-singapore-hydrogen-maritime-sector>

⁹⁰⁴⁹ Australia partners with Singapore on hydrogen in maritime sector, Australian Government Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 13 June 2021.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/australia-partners-singapore-hydrogen-maritime-sector>

⁹⁰⁵⁰ Morrison Government supporting the next generation of low emissions technologies, Australian Government Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/morrison-government-supporting-next-generation-low-emissions-technologies>

⁹⁰⁵¹ Morrison Government supporting the next generation of low emissions technologies, Australian Government Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/morrison-government-supporting-next-generation-low-emissions-technologies>

⁹⁰⁵² Morrison Government supporting the next generation of low emissions technologies, Australian Government Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 23 August 2021. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/morrison-government-supporting-next-generation-low-emissions-technologies>

⁹⁰⁵³ Funding boost to help industry adopt low emissions technology, Ministry for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/funding-boost-help-industry-adopt-low-emissions-technology-0>

On 20 September 2021, Australia announced the Clean Hydrogen Industrial Hubs program, investing AUD464 million in hydrogen hubs as part of its AUD1.2 billion commitment towards building a hydrogen industry to lower emissions and create more jobs.⁹⁰⁵⁴

Australia has taken actions to address three out of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove) and endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform, partially complying with its commitment. By introducing the National Plastics Plan, the Australian government has fulfilled its commitment towards recycling. Through the study funded towards reusing former underground coal mines, Australia has complied with the reuse commitment. Australia has taken many actions towards reducing their carbon emissions, including the implementation of the Big Battery in Victoria which will reduce the state's emissions, and be a source for renewable energy. Further, Australia has taken into consideration hydrogen policies through the investment into hydrogen carbon capture.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Surabhi Pradhan

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 24 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced the signing of an agreement between the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to produce “solutions to strengthen the capital market and the sustainable development of the country.”⁹⁰⁵⁵ The four-year agreement aims for “cooperation between institutions to promote green finance and a favorable environment for fintechs” and consolidating the “partnership between CVM and IDB in favor of the Financial Innovation Laboratory [LAB].”⁹⁰⁵⁶ The LAB will collaborate with the IDB projects titled “Green Finance Program for Latin America and the Caribbean to Mobilize Private Investment in Mitigation Actions and Sustainable and Low Carbon Business Models through National Development Banks” and “Support for the Development of Institutional Frameworks, Policies and Regulations of Fintech in Latin America and the Caribbean.”⁹⁰⁵⁷

On 14 April 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a decree to include nine national parks in the Investment Partnership Program.⁹⁰⁵⁸ This was done with the goal of promoting and improving efforts to conserve and protect the environment in these regions.⁹⁰⁵⁹

⁹⁰⁵⁴ Future hydrogen industry to create jobs, lower emissions and boost regional Australia, Ministry for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/future-hydrogen-industry-create-jobs-lower-emissions-and-boost-regional-australia>

⁹⁰⁵⁵ CVM and IDB sign agreement for exchange on Capital Markets, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-e-bid-firmam-convenio-para-intercambio-sobre-mercado-de-capitais>

⁹⁰⁵⁶ CVM and IDB sign agreement for exchange on Capital Markets, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-e-bid-firmam-convenio-para-intercambio-sobre-mercado-de-capitais>

⁹⁰⁵⁷ CVM and IDB sign agreement for exchange on Capital Markets, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-e-bid-firmam-convenio-para-intercambio-sobre-mercado-de-capitais>

⁹⁰⁵⁸ Presidential decree signed for concession of nine national parks (Brasilia) 14 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/assinado-decreto-presidencial-para-concessao-de-nove-parques-nacionais>

On 20 April 2021, the National Energy Policy Council approved the resolution to institute the Fuel of the Future program.⁹⁰⁶⁰ This program was developed with the primary goal of transitioning Brazil into alternative forms of energy such as low carbon fuels and biofuels, thus decarbonizing the use of energy.⁹⁰⁶¹ The program will also propose measures for the development of technology to capture and store carbon dioxide, either through the production of biofuels or blue hydrogen.⁹⁰⁶²

On 29 April 2021, the Foreign Finance Commission of the Ministry of Economy approved USD767.10 million for 10 projects, some of which will be allocated towards the environment and the prevention of floods.⁹⁰⁶³ More specifically, USD40 million will be allocated towards water security and increased resilience to extreme weather events.⁹⁰⁶⁴

On 3 to 14 May 2021, the Ministry of Mines and Energy participated in a mission to develop a technical cooperation project in the hydrogen area called H2 Brazil.⁹⁰⁶⁵ The goal of this project is to support the implementation of a hydrogen program in Brazil as well as subsidies for energy planning and regulation.⁹⁰⁶⁶ This will be done through disseminating information about hydrogen and promoting innovation to support the optimization of pilot projects on an industrial scale.⁹⁰⁶⁷

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Mines and Energy announced that Brazil would invest BRL400 billion into its energy matrix over the next 10 years.⁹⁰⁶⁸ The announcement was made at the Brazil 2021 Investment Forum, and has the goal of increasing the amount of renewable energy in the energy matrix, which is already made up of 85 per cent renewable energy.⁹⁰⁶⁹

⁹⁰⁵⁹ Presidential decree signed for concession of nine national parks (Brasilia) 14 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021.

<https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/assinado-decreto-presidencial-para-concessao-de-nove-parques-nacionais>

⁹⁰⁶⁰ CNPE approves resolution that creates the Fuel of the Future Program (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-aprova-resolucao-que-cria-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

⁹⁰⁶¹ CNPE approves resolution that creates the Fuel of the Future Program (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-aprova-resolucao-que-cria-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

⁹⁰⁶² CNPE approves resolution that creates the Fuel of the Future Program (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-aprova-resolucao-que-cria-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

⁹⁰⁶³ Cofix approves US \$ 767.10 million in external resources for projects in Brazil (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/cofix-aprova-us-767-10-milhoes-em-recursos-externos-para-projetos-no-brasil>

⁹⁰⁶⁴ Cofix approves US \$ 767.10 million in external resources for projects in Brazil (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/cofix-aprova-us-767-10-milhoes-em-recursos-externos-para-projetos-no-brasil>

⁹⁰⁶⁵ MME Develops Technical Cooperation Project in the Hydrogen Area (Brasilia) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mme-desenvolve-projeto-de-cooperacao-tecnica-na-area-de-hidrogenio-1>

⁹⁰⁶⁶ MME Develops Technical Cooperation Project in the Hydrogen Area (Brasilia) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mme-desenvolve-projeto-de-cooperacao-tecnica-na-area-de-hidrogenio-1>

⁹⁰⁶⁷ MME Develops Technical Cooperation Project in the Hydrogen Area (Brasilia) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mme-desenvolve-projeto-de-cooperacao-tecnica-na-area-de-hidrogenio-1>

⁹⁰⁶⁸ Brazilian energy matrix will receive investments of R\$400 billion in the next ten years (Brasilia) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/matriz-energetica-brasileira-recebera-investimentos-de-r-400-bilhoes-nos-proximos-dez-anos>

⁹⁰⁶⁹ Brazilian energy matrix will receive investments of R\$400 billion in the next ten years (Brasilia) 31 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/matriz-energetica-brasileira-recebera-investimentos-de-r-400-bilhoes-nos-proximos-dez-anos>

On 14 June 2021, the Ministry of the Environment signed a cooperation agreement with a variety of associations under the Zero Waste program.⁹⁰⁷⁰ The goal of the agreement is to boost the energy recovery of solid waste by incentivizing investment in the field. This agreement is said to allow for the closure of dumps and the reduction of waste disposed in landfills.⁹⁰⁷¹

Brazil has taken actions to address two of the four key commitment areas within the four Rs framework to endorse the CCE platform. Their actions, namely the decision to implement the Fuel for the Future program, addresses the reduce and the remove commitment areas. Further, Brazil has done so while taking into consideration the use of hydrogen policies. Nevertheless, no actions have been taken to reuse or recycle.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Aadi Thulasingham and Jenna Im

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 11 December 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's strengthened climate plan, A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, funded by a CAD15 billion investment. Included in this plan are steady annual increases to its carbon tax from CAD50 per ton in 2022 to CAD170 per ton by 2030.⁹⁰⁷²

On 14 December 2020, Transport Canada amended the Canadian Aviation Regulations to require air operators flying internationally to offset their share of increased greenhouse gas emissions. The new amendments would allow Canada to fulfil its international climate change obligations and “require Canada's operators to do their part to maintain the annual global net carbon emissions from international aviation at 2020 levels.”⁹⁰⁷³

On 16 December 2020, Canada released its Hydrogen Strategy for Canada. The strategy “seeks to modernize Canada's energy systems by leveraging Canadian expertise – including increased participation from marginalized and underrepresented groups – through building new hydrogen supply and distribution infrastructure and fostering uptake in various end-uses, that will underpin a low-carbon energy ecosystem in the near- and long-term. It will set the foundation to do this over the next five years.” The strategy outlines opportunities, challenges and recommendations.⁹⁰⁷⁴

⁹⁰⁷⁰ Ministry of the Environment closes agreement for atlas of conversion of waste into energy (Brasilia) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-do-meio-ambiente-fecha-acordo-por-atlas-da-conversao-do-lixo-em-energia>

⁹⁰⁷¹ Ministry of the Environment closes agreement for atlas of conversion of waste into energy (Brasilia) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-do-meio-ambiente-fecha-acordo-por-atlas-da-conversao-do-lixo-em-energia>

⁹⁰⁷² Prime Minister announces Canada's strengthened climate plan to protect the environment, create jobs, and support communities, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/12/11/prime-minister-announces-canadas-strengthened-climate-plan-protect>

⁹⁰⁷³ Regulations Amending the Canadian Aviation Regulations (Parts I and X — Offsetting of CO2 Emissions — CORSIA) Amendments: SOR/2020-275, Canada Gazette (Ottawa) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-12-23/html/sor-dors275-eng.html>

⁹⁰⁷⁴ Hydrogen Strategy for Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 7 July 2021. https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/environment/hydrogen/NRCan_Hydrogen-Strategy-Canada-na-en-v3.pdf

On 18 December 2020, Canada published the proposed regulations for Clean Fuel Standard, as well as initiated the public consultations for the Clean Fuel Standard which will lead to finalized regulations in late 2021. The proposed Clean Fuel Regulations “would require liquid fossil fuel primary suppliers (i.e. producers and importers) to reduce the carbon intensity of the liquid fossil fuels they produce in and import into Canada from 2016 CI [carbon intensity] levels by 2.4 gCO₂e/MJ in 2022, increasing to 12 gCO₂e/MJ in 2030. The proposed Regulations would also establish a credit market whereby the annual CI reduction requirement could be met via three main categories of credit-creating actions: (1) actions that reduce the CI of the fossil fuel throughout its lifecycle, (2) supplying low-carbon fuels, and (3) specified end-use fuel switching in transportation.”⁹⁰⁷⁵

On 10 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD14.9 million for green public transit projects over the next eight years. The investments will reduce pollution and will enhance public transit systems and switching them to cleaner electrical power, including supporting the use of zero-emission vehicles and related infrastructure.⁹⁰⁷⁶

On 5 March 2021, the Government of Canada announced a proposal for a greenhouse gas carbon offset program which will “allow municipalities, farmers, Indigenous communities, businesses and others to earn credits for projects that reduce carbon emissions or take them out of the atmosphere.” The offset program will allow participants to earn credits in four different areas including projects that reduce the use of fluorinated refrigerants in refrigeration systems, projects that reduce methane from landfills, initiatives that improve carbon storage management and farming practices that promote carbon sequestration in soils.⁹⁰⁷⁷

On 10 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities announced a CAD40.8 million investment into 162 schools in Ontario to become more energy efficient. This will be done through the Climate Action Incentive Fund.

On 16 March 2021, during the international energy transition conference in Berlin, Natural Resources Minister Seamus O’Regan signed a memorandum of understanding with Germany outlining Canada’s commitment to green energy. It focuses on liquified natural gas and green hydrogen, which burns cleanly and can be produced using wind and solar power.

On 22 March 2021, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Marie-Claude Bibeau announced CAD4.5 million in funding for five green agriculture projects that will help Canadian farms responsibly manage plastic waste and improve their sustainability.⁹⁰⁷⁸ The projects will help advance organic bioplastics replacing petroleum-based plastics.⁹⁰⁷⁹

⁹⁰⁷⁵ Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 154, Number 51: Clean Fuel Regulations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2020/2020-12-19/html/reg2-eng.html>

⁹⁰⁷⁶ New public transit investments to build strong communities, fight climate change, and create new jobs across Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/10/new-public-transit-investments-build-strong-communities-fight-climate>

⁹⁰⁷⁷ Federal government unveils plan to allow communities, industry to earn carbon offset credits, CBC News (Toronto) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/carbon-offset-credits-proposals-1.5938829>

⁹⁰⁷⁸ Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

⁹⁰⁷⁹ Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

On 31 March 2021, Special representative for the Prairies Jim Carr announced CAD2.890 million in funding to the University of Alberta's biojet technology.⁹⁰⁸⁰ This new investment will support the university's Lipid-to-Hydrocarbon technology by developing pathways to generate renewable jet fuel from a range of feedstocks, including waste materials from the restaurant and livestock industries."⁹⁰⁸¹ The goal of the Lipid-to-Hydrocarbon technology is to reduce emissions from the aviation sector by 90 per cent.⁹⁰⁸²

On 1 April 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources Marc Serré announced CAD3 million investment to Envoy Energy to install three compressed natural gas stations in Northern Ontario.⁹⁰⁸³ The new stations will allow drivers to switch from diesel to compressed natural gas which produces more than 25 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions and can be produced using waste feedstocks.⁹⁰⁸⁴

On 6 April 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal, announced CAD7.6 million in funding for three clean energy projects in Nunavut.⁹⁰⁸⁵ The projects include an installation of a wind turbine that will decrease the use of diesel fuel by 50 per cent and a hybrid wind, solar and energy storage system.⁹⁰⁸⁶

On 7 April 2021, Minister O'Regan announced a CAD23 million investment to Hydro Ottawa through the Green Municipal Fund which will transform 34 acres of brownfield lands between Ottawa and Gatineau into a carbon-neutral community.⁹⁰⁸⁷ The goal of the project is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by using hydroelectricity and waste industrial heat.⁹⁰⁸⁸

On 9 April 2021, Parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Joël Lightbound announced CAD1 million to BOSK Bioproducts Inc to create a small

⁹⁰⁸⁰ Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

⁹⁰⁸¹ Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

⁹⁰⁸² Canada Invests in Innovative Clean Technology at the University of Alberta, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/canada-invests-in-innovative-clean-technology-at-the-university-of-alberta.html>

⁹⁰⁸³ Cleaner Refuelling Options for Northern Ontario Truck Drivers Coming to Trans-Canada Highway, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/cleaner-refuelling-options-for-northern-ontario-truck-drivers-coming-to-trans-canada-highway.html>

⁹⁰⁸⁴ Cleaner Refuelling Options for Northern Ontario Truck Drivers Coming to Trans-Canada Highway, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/cleaner-refuelling-options-for-northern-ontario-truck-drivers-coming-to-trans-canada-highway.html>

⁹⁰⁸⁵ Canada Invests Over \$7.6 Million in Community-Led Clean Energy Projects in Nunavut, Natural Resources Canada (Nunavut) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-over-76-million-in-community-led-clean-energy-projects-in-nunavut.html>

⁹⁰⁸⁶ Canada Invests Over \$7.6 Million in Community-Led Clean Energy Projects in Nunavut, Natural Resources Canada (Nunavut) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-over-76-million-in-community-led-clean-energy-projects-in-nunavut.html>

⁹⁰⁸⁷ Canada and FCM Invest in National Capital Region's First Net-Zero Community, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-national-capital-regions-first-net-zero-community.html>

⁹⁰⁸⁸ Canada and FCM Invest in National Capital Region's First Net-Zero Community, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-national-capital-regions-first-net-zero-community.html>

production line to create compostable bioplastics made from forest biomass. The bioplastics can be used for food packaging and water bottles, therefore reducing pollution.⁹⁰⁸⁹

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna announced the launch of the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program. It will deliver CAD1.5 billion in funding in the next five years to projects that include reductions of energy waste and installations of energy efficient windows.⁹⁰⁹⁰

On 15 April 2021, Minister O'Regan announced a CAD500,000 investment in Compressed Air Energy Storage technology.⁹⁰⁹¹ The goal of this is to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning to a cleaner electricity grid.⁹⁰⁹²

On 15 April 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced a CAD1.3 million to support five projects that aim to reduce plastic waste, prevent plastic pollution and support Canada in transitioning to a national circular plastics economy.⁹⁰⁹³ The projects will include recycling personal protective equipment from hospitals, improving the management of compostable products and supporting the development of new standards for bioplastics.⁹⁰⁹⁴

On 16 April 2021, Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre Marci Ien announced CAD3.3million for Noventa Energy Partners to reduce pollution at the Toronto Western hospital.⁹⁰⁹⁵ The project will supply the hospital with clean energy using recovered heat extracted from wastewater and the sewage system. The cumulative greenhouse gas emissions reductions amounts to 169,000 tonnes.⁹⁰⁹⁶

⁹⁰⁸⁹ Canada Supports Innovation for Compostable Bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec City) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic.html>

⁹⁰⁹⁰ Government of Canada to invest in green and inclusive community buildings, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-to-invest-in-green-and-inclusive-community-buildings.html>

⁹⁰⁹¹ Canada Invests in Innovative Energy Storage Solution, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-innovative-energy-storage-solution.html>

⁹⁰⁹² Canada Invests in Innovative Energy Storage Solution, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-innovative-energy-storage-solution.html>

⁹⁰⁹³ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics.html>

⁹⁰⁹⁴ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics.html>

⁹⁰⁹⁵ Noventa Energy Partners using innovative technology to cut pollution at Toronto Western Hospital, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/noventa-energy-partners-using-innovative-technology-to-cut-pollution-at-toronto-western-hospital.html>

⁹⁰⁹⁶ Noventa Energy Partners using innovative technology to cut pollution at Toronto Western Hospital, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/noventa-energy-partners-using-innovative-technology-to-cut-pollution-at-toronto-western-hospital.html>

On 16 April 2021, Special Representative Carr announced CAD41.1 million for 11 green infrastructure projects.⁹⁰⁹⁷ The projects include improvements to solid waste management and a new solar power plant. The goal of these projects is to reduce emissions in the Prairies.⁹⁰⁹⁸

On 19 April 2021, Canada tabled Budget 2021. It was the first budget to specifically mention carbon capture, utilization and storage and proposed a tax incentive for these actions through “an investment tax credit invested in [carbon capture, utilization and storage] projects with the goal of reducing emissions by at least 15 megatonnes of Co2 annually. This measure will come into effect in 2022.”⁹⁰⁹⁹

On 22 April 2021, the Department of Finance Canada announced key elements of Budget 2021 that will contribute to creating a healthy environment for Canadians. Budget 2021 includes a CAD17.6 billion investment towards fighting climate change, reducing pollution and developing clean technology.⁹¹⁰⁰ Budget 2021 includes zero-interest loans of up to CAD40,000 for 200,00 households planning to make energy efficient upgrades to their homes. Budget 2021 also proposes an investment of CAD5 billion for seven years in the Net Zero Accelerator which will support companies in reducing their emissions.⁹¹⁰¹

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will increase its emissions reductions target by 40-45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.⁹¹⁰²

On 22 April 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Daniel Vandal announced CAD40.4 million from budget 2021 to create hydroelectricity and grid interconnection projects in the North. The projects will reduce the reliance on fuels for electricity and heating.⁹¹⁰³

On 5 May 2021, Member of Parliament for Central Nova Scotia, Sean Fraser announced an investment of CAD25,000 for a pilot project to improve St. Martha’s Regional Hospital’s energy efficiency.⁹¹⁰⁴ The project aims to use existing building commissioning to lower electricity and diesel

⁹⁰⁹⁷ Residents of Saskatoon area to benefit from upgrades to water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, and other community and green infrastructure projects, Infrastructure Canada (Saskatoon) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/residents-of-saskatoon-area-to-benefit-from-upgrades-to-water-wastewater-and-solid-waste-infrastructure-and-other-community-and-green-infrastructur.html>

⁹⁰⁹⁸ Residents of Saskatoon area to benefit from upgrades to water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, and other community and green infrastructure projects, Infrastructure Canada (Saskatoon) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/residents-of-saskatoon-area-to-benefit-from-upgrades-to-water-wastewater-and-solid-waste-infrastructure-and-other-community-and-green-infrastructur.html>

⁹⁰⁹⁹ Canada’s Budget 2021: Carbon Caputre & Storage, International CCS Knowledge Centre (Regina) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://ccsknowledge.com/news/canadas-budget-2021-carbon-capture-and-storage>

⁹¹⁰⁰ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>

⁹¹⁰¹ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>

⁹¹⁰² Prime Minister Trudeau announces increased climate ambition, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/22/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-increased-climate-ambition>

⁹¹⁰³ Minister Vandal highlights clean energy investments in Budget 2021, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2021/04/minister-vandal-highlights-clean-energy-investments-in-budget-2021.html>

⁹¹⁰⁴ Canada Invests in Energy Efficiency Project for Regional Hospital in Nova Scotia, Natural Resources Canada (Antigonish) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

consumption, thus making the building cleaner. This process optimizes performance and reduces greenhouse gas emissions from existing buildings⁹¹⁰⁵

On 5 May 2021, Minister O'Regan announced CAD1.7 million in funding to expand the Electric Vehicle Charging Network Management System developed by the British Columbia Institute of Technology.⁹¹⁰⁶ This investment will improve Electric Vehicle infrastructure to promote electric cars, thus ultimately supporting the reduction of emissions.⁹¹⁰⁷

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Dominic LeBlanc announced an investment of CAD200,000 to support three New Brunswick transport companies in reducing emissions from their heavy-duty vehicle fleets.⁹¹⁰⁸ Together, the companies will save 1,200 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.⁹¹⁰⁹ This will be done through making energy efficient retrofits to over 200 vehicles and providing fuel-efficient training to more than 320 drivers.⁹¹¹⁰

On 7 May 2021, Natural Resources Canada and the National Research Council of Canada, in partnership with Forschungszentrum Jülich and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, announced the German-Canadian Materials Acceleration centre.⁹¹¹¹ A combined sum of CAD8.8 million is being allocated for the centre over a period of five years.⁹¹¹² The centre will help advance technologies related to clean hydrogen production as well as carbon capture.⁹¹¹³

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-energy-efficiency-project-for-regional-hospital-in-nova-scotia.html>

⁹¹⁰⁵ Canada Invests in Energy Efficiency Project for Regional Hospital in Nova Scotia, Natural Resources Canada (Antigonish) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-energy-efficiency-project-for-regional-hospital-in-nova-scotia.html>

⁹¹⁰⁶ Canada Invests in Next-Generation EV Charging Networks in B.C., Natural Resources Canada (Vancouver) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-next-generation-ev-charging-networks-in-bc.html>

⁹¹⁰⁷ Canada Invests in Next-Generation EV Charging Networks in B.C., Natural Resources Canada (Vancouver) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-next-generation-ev-charging-networks-in-bc.html>

⁹¹⁰⁸ Canada Invests in Greening New Brunswick Transport Companies, Natural Resources Canada (Moncton) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-greening-new-brunswick-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹⁰⁹ Canada Invests in Greening New Brunswick Transport Companies, Natural Resources Canada (Moncton) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-greening-new-brunswick-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹¹⁰ Canada Invests in Greening New Brunswick Transport Companies, Natural Resources Canada (Moncton) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-greening-new-brunswick-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹¹¹ Government of Canada Announces New German–Canadian Materials Acceleration Centre, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-announces-new-germancanadian-materials-acceleration-centre.html>

⁹¹¹² Government of Canada Announces New German–Canadian Materials Acceleration Centre, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-announces-new-germancanadian-materials-acceleration-centre.html>

⁹¹¹³ Government of Canada Announces New German–Canadian Materials Acceleration Centre, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

On 19 May 2021, Minister O'Regan announced CAD4.8 million to support 13 climate action projects in Newfoundland and Labrador.⁹¹¹⁴ The city of St. John's will receive CAD77,900 from the government to increase carbon sequestration with 11.4 hectares of reforestation. This investment will result in decreased pollution by removing carbon from the atmosphere.⁹¹¹⁵

On 19 May 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs Yvonne Jones announced a CAD2.8 million investment to help three, community-led, clean energy projects in Labrador.⁹¹¹⁶ The projects' goal is to reduce reliance on diesel and fossil fuels for heat and power in remote communities.⁹¹¹⁷ All three projects are funded through Natural Resource Canada's Clean Energy for Remote and Rural Communities program and share the goals of building a clear energy future, supporting new economic opportunities, and creating more energy resilient communities.⁹¹¹⁸

On 19 May 2021, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence Lawrence MacAulay and the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities announced an investment of CAD14.1 million for communities in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.⁹¹¹⁹ The investment will help finance renewable energy projects and promote energy storage initiatives.⁹¹²⁰

On 19 May 2021, Member of Parliament for Whitby Ryan Turnbull announced a CAD87,000 investment for the town of Whitby, Ontario to lower emissions from 20 municipal buildings.⁹¹²¹ This

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-announces-new-german-canadian-materials-acceleration-centre.html>

⁹¹¹⁴ Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador invest in climate action projects across the province, Environment and Climate Change Canada (St. John's) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/05/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-climate-action-projects-across-the-province.html>

⁹¹¹⁵ Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador invest in climate action projects across the province, Environment and Climate Change Canada (St. John's) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/05/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-climate-action-projects-across-the-province.html>

⁹¹¹⁶ Investing in Indigenous Clean Energy Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador, Natural Resources Canada (Nunatsiavut) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/investing-in-indigenous-clean-energy-projects-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

⁹¹¹⁷ Investing in Indigenous Clean Energy Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador, Natural Resources Canada (Nunatsiavut) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/investing-in-indigenous-clean-energy-projects-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

⁹¹¹⁸ Investing in Indigenous Clean Energy Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador, Natural Resources Canada (Nunatsiavut) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/investing-in-indigenous-clean-energy-projects-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

⁹¹¹⁹ Canada and FCM Invest in Energy Efficiency in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, Natural Resources Canada (Charlottetown) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-energy-efficiency-in-prince-edward-island-and-nova-scotia.html>

⁹¹²⁰ Canada and FCM Invest in Energy Efficiency in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, Natural Resources Canada (Charlottetown) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-energy-efficiency-in-prince-edward-island-and-nova-scotia.html>

⁹¹²¹ Canada Invests in Whitby's Energy Saving Efforts, Natural Resources Canada (Whitby) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-whitbys-energy-saving-efforts.html>

will be accomplished through renewable energy retrofits and improved insulation systems.⁹¹²² These new updates will cut emissions by 30 per cent.⁹¹²³

On 27 May 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a new Canada Greener Homes Grant, which will allow 700,000 homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their houses.⁹¹²⁴ The grant will allow for home improvements such as solar panels, added insulation and updated heating systems to ultimately reduce emissions.⁹¹²⁵

On 27 May 2021, the Government of Canada and Ontario signed a new Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health which will help protect and restore the Great Lakes.⁹¹²⁶ This will be done through preventing toxic algae from growing, improving wastewater and stormwater management, reducing plastic pollution and excess road salt, restoring native species and habitats, and increasing resilience to climate change.⁹¹²⁷

On 3 June 2021, Minister O'Regan announced a CAD2.3 million investment in the Alberta Zero-Emissions Truck Electrification Collaboration project.⁹¹²⁸ The investment will support the installation and testing of a hydrogen fueling station for heavy-duty trucks.⁹¹²⁹ The goal of this is to decarbonize trucks by switching from fuel to hydrogen.⁹¹³⁰

⁹¹²² Canada Invests in Whitby's Energy Saving Efforts, Natural Resources Canada (Whitby) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-whitbys-energy-saving-efforts.html>

⁹¹²³ Canada Invests in Whitby's Energy Saving Efforts, Natural Resources Canada (Whitby) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada>

⁹¹²⁴ Making homes more energy efficient to reduce energy bills, create jobs, and cut pollution, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/27/making-homes-more-energy-efficient-reduce-energy-bills-create-jobs>

⁹¹²⁵ Making homes more energy efficient to reduce energy bills, create jobs, and cut pollution, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/27/making-homes-more-energy-efficient-reduce-energy-bills-create-jobs>

⁹¹²⁶ Canada and Ontario mark 50th anniversary of Great Lakes Agreement by signing ninth agreement, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/05/canada-and-ontario-mark-50th-anniversary-of-great-lakes-agreement-by-signing-ninth-agreement.html>

⁹¹²⁷ Canada and Ontario mark 50th anniversary of Great Lakes Agreement by signing ninth agreement, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/05/canada-and-ontario-mark-50th-anniversary-of-great-lakes-agreement-by-signing-ninth-agreement.html>

⁹¹²⁸ Canada Invests in Hydrogen Fueling Station for Commercial Fleet in Alberta, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-invests-in-hydrogen-fueling-station-for-commercial-fleet-in-alberta.html>

⁹¹²⁹ Canada Invests in Hydrogen Fueling Station for Commercial Fleet in Alberta, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-invests-in-hydrogen-fueling-station-for-commercial-fleet-in-alberta.html>

⁹¹³⁰ Canada Invests in Hydrogen Fueling Station for Commercial Fleet in Alberta, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-invests-in-hydrogen-fueling-station-for-commercial-fleet-in-alberta.html>

Canada Invests in Hydrogen Fueling Station for Commercial Fleet in Alberta, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

On 4 June 2021, Minister of Middle-Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance Mona Fortier announced the government of Canada will provide CAD54.9 million for 58 community-based climate action projects.⁹¹³¹ From the fund, CAD5.3 million will be distributed to universities and colleges to help them reduce emissions.⁹¹³²

On 17 June 2021, Member of Parliament for West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country, Patrick Weiler, announced CAD165.7 million for a new Agricultural Clean Technology Program.⁹¹³³ This program will help agri-businesses reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and recycle carbon by using agricultural waste for energy and bio-production generation.⁹¹³⁴

On 29 June 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Terry Duguid announced a CAD5 million funding from the federal government towards the Manitoba Metis Federation for two climate action initiatives.⁹¹³⁵ One project will upgrade the federation's office to make it more energy efficient by installing solar panels and improving the ventilation systems.⁹¹³⁶ The goal of these updates is to reduce about 7,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.⁹¹³⁷

On 29 June 2021, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced CAD1.4 million to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in communities in Northern Ontario.⁹¹³⁸ The town of Espanola will receive support for biosolids management which will lower greenhouse gas emissions to 591 tonnes over the

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-invests-in-hydrogen-fueling-station-for-commercial-fleet-in-alberta.html>

⁹¹³¹ Marking World Environment Day, Canada invests up to \$55 million in 58 local climate action projects (Ottawa) 4 June 2021. Access Date: August 4 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/06/marketing-world-environment-day-canada-invests-up-to-55-million-in-58-local-climate-action-projects.html>

⁹¹³² Marking World Environment Day, Canada invests up to \$55 million in 58 local climate action projects (Ottawa) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/06/marketing-world-environment-day-canada-invests-up-to-55-million-in-58-local-climate-action-projects.html>

⁹¹³³ MP Weiler announces program open to applicants to help farmers and agri-businesses develop and adopt clean technologies to reduce emissions and enhance competitiveness, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Penticton) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/06/mp-weiler-announces-program-open-to-applicants-to-help-farmers-and-agri-businesses-develop-and-adopt-clean-technologies-to-reduce-emissions-and-enh.html>

⁹¹³⁴ MP Weiler announces program open to applicants to help farmers and agri-businesses develop and adopt clean technologies to reduce emissions and enhance competitiveness, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Penticton) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/06/mp-weiler-announces-program-open-to-applicants-to-help-farmers-and-agri-businesses-develop-and-adopt-clean-technologies-to-reduce-emissions-and-enh.html>

⁹¹³⁵ The Manitoba Metis Federation takes on two climate action initiatives with about \$5 million in support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/06/the-manitoba-metis-federation-takes-on-two-climate-action-initiatives-with-about-5-million-in-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

⁹¹³⁶ The Manitoba Metis Federation takes on two climate action initiatives with about \$5 million in support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/06/the-manitoba-metis-federation-takes-on-two-climate-action-initiatives-with-about-5-million-in-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

⁹¹³⁷ The Manitoba Metis Federation takes on two climate action initiatives with about \$5 million in support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/06/the-manitoba-metis-federation-takes-on-two-climate-action-initiatives-with-about-5-million-in-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

⁹¹³⁸ Canada and FCM Announce New Green Investments in Northern Ontario Communities, Natural Resources Canada (Espanola) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-and-fcm-announce-new-green-investments-in-northern-ontario-communities.html>

next 20 years.⁹¹³⁹ The city of Timmins will receive support to turn its wastewater control plant into a net-zero resource recovery facility and increase its biogas production.⁹¹⁴⁰

On 5 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD420 million for Algoma Steel Inc to phase out coal-fired steelmaking processes at their facility.⁹¹⁴¹ This will allow the company to decrease its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 3 million metric tonnes by the year 2030.⁹¹⁴²

On 7 July 2021, Parliamentary Secretary Neil Ellis announced CAD1.48 million in funding for extractX Inc, which will help the company cut its greenhouse gas emissions.⁹¹⁴³ This will be done through adopting an ethanol-based extraction lab for biomass processing.⁹¹⁴⁴

On 8 July 2021, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan announced funding for the installation of three new solar farms in the towns of Antigonish, Berwick and Mahone Bay.⁹¹⁴⁵ The solar farms will produce 10GWh of clean energy, to power 1,000 homes per year, ultimately allowing these communities to produce 50 per cent of their own energy using clean courses⁹¹⁴⁶

On 14 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced over CAD160 million in joint funding between the federal government and the government of Quebec for a renewable energy project with LM Wind power, a renewable energy company.⁹¹⁴⁷ The project will help the company increase its production of wind turbine blades, therefore supporting the reduction of pollution.⁹¹⁴⁸

⁹¹³⁹ Canada and FCM Announce New Green Investments in Northern Ontario Communities, Natural Resources Canada (Espanola) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-and-fcm-announce-new-green-investments-in-northern-ontario-communities.html>

⁹¹⁴⁰ Canada and FCM Announce New Green Investments in Northern Ontario Communities, Natural Resources Canada (Espanola) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/06/canada-and-fcm-announce-new-green-investments-in-northern-ontario-communities.html>

⁹¹⁴¹ New investment in Canada's steel industry to create jobs and build a cleaner future, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/05/new-investment-canadas-steel-industry-create-jobs-and-build-cleaner>

⁹¹⁴² New investment in Canada's steel industry to create jobs and build a cleaner future, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/05/new-investment-canadas-steel-industry-create-jobs-and-build-cleaner>

⁹¹⁴³ Government of Canada supports cutting-edge biotechnology company in Welland, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Welland) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-supports-cutting-edge-biotechnology-company-in-welland.html>

⁹¹⁴⁴ Government of Canada supports cutting-edge biotechnology company in Welland, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Welland) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-supports-cutting-edge-biotechnology-company-in-welland.html>

⁹¹⁴⁵ Canada and Nova Scotia invest in renewable energy infrastructure with three solar farms in Antigonish, Berwick and Mahone Bay, Infrastructure Canada (Mahone Bay) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/07/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-renewable-energy-infrastructure-with-three-solar-farms-in-antigonish-berwick-and-mahone-bay.html>

⁹¹⁴⁶ Canada and Nova Scotia invest in renewable energy infrastructure with three solar farms in Antigonish, Berwick and Mahone Bay, Infrastructure Canada (Mahone Bay) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/07/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-renewable-energy-infrastructure-with-three-solar-farms-in-antigonish-berwick-and-mahone-bay.html>

⁹¹⁴⁷ Supporting renewable energy manufacturing in Quebec to create jobs and build a cleaner future, Prime Minister of Canada (Gaspé) 14 July 2021, Access Date: 21 July 2021.

On 19 July 2021, Minister Bibeau, announced an investment of CAD2.6 million to Canadian Forage and Grassland Association to develop a Canadian grassland carbon offset system.⁹¹⁴⁹ This will allow farmers to produce and sell carbon offsets, therefore reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁹¹⁵⁰ The system will protect 5,000 hectares of Canadian grasslands and will save 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.⁹¹⁵¹

On 26 July 2021, Minister O'Regan announced CAD220,000 to support four Ontario transit companies in improving their energy efficiency and decreasing their emissions.⁹¹⁵² This federal investment comes from the Natural Resources Canada's Green Freight Assessment Program, which is designed to help Canadian companies reduce their emissions.⁹¹⁵³ With this funding, the four transit companies will be able to purchase new fuel-reducing equipment and make further green retrofits to their fleets.⁹¹⁵⁴ The goal of this is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 430 tonnes annually.⁹¹⁵⁵

On 27 July 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth Adam van Koevorden, on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources, announced an investment of CAD2.3 million in the Anvil Crawler Development Corporation to install 36 new electric vehicle chargers across Ontario.⁹¹⁵⁶ The funding for the project comes from Natural Resources Canada's Green Infrastructure-Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Program which aims to promote

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/14/supporting-renewable-energy-manufacturing-quebec-create-jobs-and>

⁹¹⁴⁸ Supporting renewable energy manufacturing in Quebec to create jobs and build a cleaner future, Prime Minister of Canada (Gaspé) 14 July 2021, Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/14/supporting-renewable-energy-manufacturing-quebec-create-jobs-and>

⁹¹⁴⁹ Government of Canada invests \$2.6 million to improve alfalfa growth and develop a grassland carbon offset system, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Sawyerville) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-26-million-to-improve-alfalfa-growth-and-develop-a-grassland-carbon-offset-system.html>

⁹¹⁵⁰ Government of Canada invests \$2.6 million to improve alfalfa growth and develop a grassland carbon offset system, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Sawyerville) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-26-million-to-improve-alfalfa-growth-and-develop-a-grassland-carbon-offset-system.html>

⁹¹⁵¹ Government of Canada invests \$2.6 million to improve alfalfa growth and develop a grassland carbon offset system, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Sawyerville) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-26-million-to-improve-alfalfa-growth-and-develop-a-grassland-carbon-offset-system.html>

⁹¹⁵² Canada Invests in Greening Ontario Transport Companies, Natural resources Canada (Toronto) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/canada-invests-in-greening-ontario-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹⁵³ Canada Invests in Greening Ontario Transport Companies, Natural resources Canada (Toronto) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/canada-invests-in-greening-ontario-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹⁵⁴ Canada Invests in Greening Ontario Transport Companies, Natural resources Canada (Toronto) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/canada-invests-in-greening-ontario-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹⁵⁵ Canada Invests in Greening Ontario Transport Companies, Natural resources Canada (Toronto) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/canada-invests-in-greening-ontario-transport-companies.html>

⁹¹⁵⁶ New EV Chargers Coming to Ontario, Natural Resources Canada (Burlington) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/new-ev-chargers-coming-to-ontario.html>

clean energy across Canada.⁹¹⁵⁷ This new project will help promote zero-emission vehicle sales, therefore reducing transportation emissions in the long run.⁹¹⁵⁸

On 28 July 2021, Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte, on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced an investment of CAD9 million for Conservation Ontario to better conserve and protect lands.⁹¹⁵⁹ The funding comes from the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund which is a 10 year fund for projects supporting the restoration of wetlands and grasslands as well as the storage and capture of carbon.⁹¹⁶⁰ The new investment will help fight climate change in Southern Ontario by capturing and storing carbon.⁹¹⁶¹

On 30 July 2021, Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland announced a federal investment of CAD400 million for ArcelorMittal Dofasco, Canada's largest steel producer.⁹¹⁶² The funding will support the company in phasing out coal-fired steelmaking and transitioning to a hydrogen-ready, direct reduced iron-fed electric arc furnace for the development of steel.⁹¹⁶³ This new low emissions steelmaking technique will benefit many consumer packaging sectors including the automotive and medical sectors.⁹¹⁶⁴ The project will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by three million tonnes per year by the year 2030.⁹¹⁶⁵

On 3 August 2021, Member of Parliament for West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country Patrick Weiler announced on behalf of the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities federal funding of CAD1.3 million to upgrade two health care centres in the communities of Lil'wat Nation

⁹¹⁵⁷ New EV Chargers Coming to Ontario, Natural Resources Canada (Burlington) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/new-ev-chargers-coming-to-ontario.html>

⁹¹⁵⁸ New EV Chargers Coming to Ontario, Natural Resources Canada (Burlington) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/new-ev-chargers-coming-to-ontario.html>

⁹¹⁵⁹ Canada invests \$9 million for nature conservation across southern Ontario, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Newmarket) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-invests-9-million-for-nature-conservation-across-southern-ontario.html>

⁹¹⁶⁰ Canada invests \$9 million for nature conservation across southern Ontario, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Newmarket) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-invests-9-million-for-nature-conservation-across-southern-ontario.html>

⁹¹⁶¹ Canada invests \$9 million for nature conservation across southern Ontario, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Newmarket) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-invests-9-million-for-nature-conservation-across-southern-ontario.html>

⁹¹⁶² Government investing in Hamilton's steel industry to support good jobs and significantly reduce emissions, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Hamilton) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-investing-in-hamiltons-steel-industry-to-support-good-jobs-and-significantly-reduce-emissions.html>

⁹¹⁶³ Government investing in Hamilton's steel industry to support good jobs and significantly reduce emissions, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Hamilton) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-investing-in-hamiltons-steel-industry-to-support-good-jobs-and-significantly-reduce-emissions.html>

⁹¹⁶⁴ Government investing in Hamilton's steel industry to support good jobs and significantly reduce emissions, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Hamilton) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-investing-in-hamiltons-steel-industry-to-support-good-jobs-and-significantly-reduce-emissions.html>

⁹¹⁶⁵ Government investing in Hamilton's steel industry to support good jobs and significantly reduce emissions, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Hamilton) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-investing-in-hamiltons-steel-industry-to-support-good-jobs-and-significantly-reduce-emissions.html>

and N'Quatqua Nation.⁹¹⁶⁶ The projects aim to make the care centres more energy-efficient and climate-friendly through the installation of solar power systems.⁹¹⁶⁷ This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease reliance on backup diesel in case of emergencies.⁹¹⁶⁸

On 4 August 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development Maninder Sidhu announced CAD1.28 million to plant 8,000 trees across the city of Brampton.⁹¹⁶⁹ This investment supports the Canadian government's plan to plant 2 billion trees over 10 years.⁹¹⁷⁰ By planting trees, the city of Brampton will be able to remove emissions from the atmosphere through carbon capture and sequestration.⁹¹⁷¹

On 5 August 2021, Minister Vandal announced funding of CAD1.8 million to the Forks Renewal Corporation to create a district geothermal system for its Winnipeg buildings.⁹¹⁷² The federal funding for this project is derived from the Partnerships stream of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Challenge.⁹¹⁷³ The new system is set to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing gas

⁹¹⁶⁶ Canada and British Columbia support upgrades to two health care centres in the communities of Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua Nation, Infrastructure Canada (Pemberton) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/08/canada-and-british-columbia-support-upgrades-to-two-health-care-centres-in-the-communities-of-lilwat-nation-and-nquatqua-nation.html>

⁹¹⁶⁷ Canada and British Columbia support upgrades to two health care centres in the communities of Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua Nation, Infrastructure Canada (Pemberton) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/08/canada-and-british-columbia-support-upgrades-to-two-health-care-centres-in-the-communities-of-lilwat-nation-and-nquatqua-nation.html>

⁹¹⁶⁸ Canada and British Columbia support upgrades to two health care centres in the communities of Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua Nation, Infrastructure Canada (Pemberton) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/08/canada-and-british-columbia-support-upgrades-to-two-health-care-centres-in-the-communities-of-lilwat-nation-and-nquatqua-nation.html>

⁹¹⁶⁹ Planting Trees in Brampton as Part of Two Billion Trees, Natural Resources Canada (Brampton) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/planting-trees-in-brampton-as-part-of-two-billion-trees.html>

⁹¹⁷⁰ Planting Trees in Brampton as Part of Two Billion Trees, Natural Resources Canada (Brampton) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/planting-trees-in-brampton-as-part-of-two-billion-trees.html>

⁹¹⁷¹ Planting Trees in Brampton as Part of Two Billion Trees, Natural Resources Canada (Brampton) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/planting-trees-in-brampton-as-part-of-two-billion-trees.html>

⁹¹⁷² The Forks Renewal Corporation brings clean energy to downtown Winnipeg buildings with support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/the-forks-renewal-corporation-brings-clean-energy-to-downtown-winnipeg-buildings-with-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

⁹¹⁷³ The Forks Renewal Corporation brings clean energy to downtown Winnipeg buildings with support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/the-forks-renewal-corporation-brings-clean-energy-to-downtown-winnipeg-buildings-with-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

consumption for heating and cooling.⁹¹⁷⁴ Approximately 26,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced over the lifespan of the project.⁹¹⁷⁵

On 9 August 2021, Minister Fortier announced a CAD547,000 investment for the Ottawa Community Housing Corporation to retrofit a four-unit townhome in Ottawa into net-zero homes.⁹¹⁷⁶ The project will include the installation of solar panels, a new roof and windows.⁹¹⁷⁷ The goal of these retrofits is to decrease the building's carbon footprint and cut its energy use by 55 per cent.⁹¹⁷⁸

On 10 August 2021, Parliamentary Secretary Serré announced an investment of CAD4.25 million for Anomera incorporation to build a facility that will produce 250 tonnes per year of carboxylated-cellulose nanocrystals.⁹¹⁷⁹ This new technology has the potential to replace plastic and silica microbeads in many industries but mainly in cosmetics and personal care products.⁹¹⁸⁰ This will reduce plastic usage, therefore reducing pollution.⁹¹⁸¹ The funding for this new project is provided through the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation program and the Regional Economic Growth through Innovation program.⁹¹⁸²

⁹¹⁷⁴ The Forks Renewal Corporation brings clean energy to downtown Winnipeg buildings with support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/the-forks-renewal-corporation-brings-clean-energy-to-downtown-winnipeg-buildings-with-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

⁹¹⁷⁵ The Forks Renewal Corporation brings clean energy to downtown Winnipeg buildings with support from the Government of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/the-forks-renewal-corporation-brings-clean-energy-to-downtown-winnipeg-buildings-with-support-from-the-government-of-canada.html>

⁹¹⁷⁶ Canada Invests in Net-Zero Retrofits for Affordable Housing in Ottawa, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-net-zero-retrofits-for-affordable-housing-in-ottawa.html>

⁹¹⁷⁷ Canada Invests in Net-Zero Retrofits for Affordable Housing in Ottawa, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-net-zero-retrofits-for-affordable-housing-in-ottawa.html>

⁹¹⁷⁸ Canada Invests in Net-Zero Retrofits for Affordable Housing in Ottawa, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-net-zero-retrofits-for-affordable-housing-in-ottawa.html>

⁹¹⁷⁹ Canada Invests in Eco-Friendly Alternative to Plastic Microbeads, Natural Resources Canada (Témiscamingue) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-eco-friendly-alternative-to-plastic-microbeads.html>

⁹¹⁸⁰ Canada Invests in Eco-Friendly Alternative to Plastic Microbeads, Natural Resources Canada (Témiscamingue) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-eco-friendly-alternative-to-plastic-microbeads.html>

⁹¹⁸¹ Canada Invests in Eco-Friendly Alternative to Plastic Microbeads, Natural Resources Canada (Témiscamingue) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-eco-friendly-alternative-to-plastic-microbeads.html>

⁹¹⁸² Canada Invests in Eco-Friendly Alternative to Plastic Microbeads, Natural Resources Canada (Témiscamingue) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/08/canada-invests-in-eco-friendly-alternative-to-plastic-microbeads.html>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove). It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy and improving the energy efficiency of buildings and homes. It has also invested in expanding electric vehicle charging stations, therefore encouraging the transition to electric vehicles. Canada has also complied with its commitment to recycling by promoting the use of bioenergy and investing in recycling projects. It has also complied with its commitment to reuse by investing in carbon capture technologies and storage projects. Additionally, Canada has complied with its commitment to remove carbon emissions by investing in afforestation initiatives. It has also committed to the development of the hydrogen sector, by investing in Hydrogen fueling stations.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Meryem Althani

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment published an interim regulation on the management of carbon trading, allocating carbon emission allowances to 2,225 companies, for the year 2019-2020. The documents issued a rule stating that companies could use China Certified Emission Reductions, generated within the China Greenhouse Gas Voluntary Emission Reduction Program, but that they can only offset 5 per cent of required permits using such reductions.⁹¹⁸³

On 1 February 2021, China put into effect a set of interim rules aimed at establishing its national emissions trading system. This allows 2,225 power entities with assigned carbon dioxide emission caps to trade their emission quotas. Entities who exceed their emission caps can purchase unused quotas from low emitters. The objective of these rules is to meet the country's goals of peaking in carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.⁹¹⁸⁴

On 22 February 2021, the State Council issued a circular outlining its goal for 2025 that “industry, energy and transportation system will see a noticeable improvement, with the manufacturing, circulation and consumption system featuring green, low-carbon and circular development taking initial shape.”⁹¹⁸⁵ It also stated that by 2035, “the endogenous power for green development will be intensified, the scale of green industry will advance to a new level.”⁹¹⁸⁶

⁹¹⁸³ Nation's carbon trading efforts could serve as model, Government of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/07/content_WS5ff643dcc6d0f725769435bd.html

⁹¹⁸⁴ New carbon trading rules take effect to strengthen China's green development, Government of China (Beijing) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202102/02/content_WS6018ad31c6d0f72576944f2e.html

⁹¹⁸⁵ State Council calls for green, low-carbon and circular development, Government of China (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202102/22/content_WS6033af98c6d0719374af946b.html

⁹¹⁸⁶ State Council calls for green, low-carbon and circular development, Government of China (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202102/22/content_WS6033af98c6d0719374af946b.html

On 23 February 2021, the State Council released a guideline to “accelerate the development of a green and low-carbon circular economic development system.”⁹¹⁸⁷ The policy is aimed at efficient resource usage, strengthening environmental protection and curbing greenhouse gas emissions. The guideline calls for a “marked rise in the scale of green industries, a continued drop in major pollutants, and a slashed carbon emission intensity” by 2025. It adds that by 2035, “energy and resource utilization efficiency in key industries and for key products is expected to reach an internationally-advanced level.” The policy measures it outlines include developing “green and low-carbon production, consumption and circulation systems.”⁹¹⁸⁸

On 22 April 2021, the General Office of the State Council issued a notice on “Effectively Strengthening Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection” during a policy briefing.⁹¹⁸⁹ As part of this notice, it was announced that the Ministry of Water Resources, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance and other relevant departments will collaborate on a joint task force to work towards better protecting China’s reservoirs.⁹¹⁹⁰ Reservoirs are one of the crucial engineering measures to support the development and utilization of water resources, including flood control, water supply, and power generation⁹¹⁹¹. As hydropower is a useful form of renewable energy, this action contributes towards reducing emissions in China.

On 28 April 2021, Director of the Eco-Environment Enforcement Bureau of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment Cao Liping announced a commitment to focus special law enforcement resources this year on activities that threaten the environment: the disposal of hazardous waste and environmental violations.⁹¹⁹² This will be done with the goal of preserving the environmental rights of Chinese citizens and achieving a better-quality environment.⁹¹⁹³

On 7 July 2021, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) released its development plan for the resource recycling industry as part of China’s 14th Five-Year Plan 2021-2025.⁹¹⁹⁴ This plan will increase the overall recycle rate for resources and reduce the consumption of energy and water per unit of GDP by around 13.5 per cent and 16 per cent respectively, taking into account the approximate 20 per cent increase in resource output rates over 2020 levels.⁹¹⁹⁵ The NDRC aims to accelerate the construction of resource recycle systems in industrial production and will target high-energy consumption sectors such as petrochemicals, coking, cement and printing.⁹¹⁹⁶ The NDRC also plans to improve the low grade re-use of ores and urban waste treatment, stating

⁹¹⁸⁷ State Council releases guideline to boost green, low-carbon economy, Government of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/business/2021-02/23/content_77239599.htm

⁹¹⁸⁸ State Council releases guideline to boost green, low-carbon economy, Government of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/business/2021-02/23/content_77239599.htm

⁹¹⁸⁹ Strengthening of Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection in China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/23/content_5601541.htm

⁹¹⁹⁰ Strengthening of Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection in China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/23/content_5601541.htm

⁹¹⁹¹ Strengthening of Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection in China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/23/content_5601541.htm

⁹¹⁹² The Ministry of Ecology and Environment will carry out four special law enforcement activities this year (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-04/28/content_5603634.htm

⁹¹⁹³ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment will carry out four special law enforcement activities this year (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-04/28/content_5603634.htm

⁹¹⁹⁴ China’s resource recycling industry output value to reach 5 trillion yuan by 2025: top economic planner, Global Times (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228039.shtml>

⁹¹⁹⁵ China’s resource recycling industry output value to reach 5 trillion yuan by 2025: top economic planner, Global Times (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228039.shtml>

⁹¹⁹⁶ China’s resource recycling industry output value to reach 5 trillion yuan by 2025: top economic planner, Global Times (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228039.shtml>

that China's utility rate of bulk solid waste will increase to 60 per cent by 2025.⁹¹⁹⁷ Furthermore, the plan aims to develop a "green developmental society with a sophisticated resource recycling system", which will include establishing recycling networks for used materials and trade platforms for used items.⁹¹⁹⁸ The agriculture and electronics sectors will also be covered under this enhanced recycling plan, which will support China's commitment to the Circular Carbon Economy.⁹¹⁹⁹

On 25 August 2021, the Chinese government announced plans to plant 33.33 million hectares of forest and grassland by 2025.⁹²⁰⁰ The repopulation of carbon sinks such as forests and grasslands is conducive to China's commitment to peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and sequestering carbon for the purpose of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.⁹²⁰¹

On 26 August 2021, the state-run Power Construction Corporation of China announced a contract with the Iraqi government to build solar power plants in Iraq with a production capacity of 2,000 megawatts.⁹²⁰² The project is conducive to the reduction of carbon emissions through the production of renewable energy sources and will produce up to 750 megawatts of energy as soon as the first phase is complete.⁹²⁰³

China has taken action to address all of the four key commitment areas within the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove) of the Circular Carbon Economy and has additionally advanced hydrogen policies. China has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions by increasing sustainable energy production through hydrogen and reservoir-preservation policies. China has also complied with its commitment to reducing emissions by regulating carbon allowances through its national emissions trading system (ETS). China has complied with its commitment to the "Recycle" component by its planned overhaul of industrial recycling in various sectors. Finally, China has complied with its commitment to remove emissions by installing offshore carbon storage facilities as well as its pledge to create and protect forest and grassland carbon sinks.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Aadi Thulasingham and Karči Aldridge Végi

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

⁹¹⁹⁷ China's resource recycling industry output value to reach 5 trillion yuan by 2025: top economic planner, Global Times (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228039.shtml>

⁹¹⁹⁸ China's resource recycling industry output value to reach 5 trillion yuan by 2025: top economic planner, Global Times (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228039.shtml>

⁹¹⁹⁹ China's resource recycling industry output value to reach 5 trillion yuan by 2025: top economic planner, Global Times (Beijing) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1228039.shtml>

⁹²⁰⁰ China announces massive greening plan to achieve carbon goals, Government of China (Beijing) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/25/content_WS61258116c6d0df57f98df156.html

⁹²⁰¹ China announces massive greening plan to achieve carbon goals, Government of China (Beijing) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202108/25/content_WS61258116c6d0df57f98df156.html

⁹²⁰² Iraqi government signs contract with Power China to build solar plants, Global Times (Beijing) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232519.shtml>

⁹²⁰³ Iraqi government signs contract with Power China to build solar plants, Global Times (Beijing) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202108/1232519.shtml>

On 22 November 2020, the French Development Agency and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources announced a EUR10 million grant agreement, as part of the ongoing Minka Middle East Initiative, to fund ecologically responsible and economically accessible updates to Jordan's agricultural sector. The project seeks to modernize farms in order to make them more productive and resource efficient, (particularly to reduce water-use).⁹²⁰⁴

On 12 December 2020, France co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit with the UK and the EU. The summit saw new commitments from 75 world leaders and reaffirmed the global community's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. At the conference, President Emmanuel Macron noted that the COVID-19 crisis presented an opportunity to accelerate ecological transition and reaffirmed France's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to climate financing.⁹²⁰⁵

On 14 December 2020, Minister of Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili, and Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced 60 projects that will receive EUR16 million in aid to support the continued recycling of plastics. This funding initiative is part of the circular economy portion of France's COVID-19 economic recovery initiative, France Relance. Propping up these businesses is conducive to France's goal of having 100 per cent recycled plastics by 2025. The funds will be distributed by the French Ecological Transition Agency.⁹²⁰⁶

On 14 December 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that 4,214 projects were selected to receive funding for renovations of government, public and higher education buildings. The renovations, all of which will be finished by 2023, will improve energy efficiency allowing for a reduction in energy use. The total funding for these projects amounts to EUR2.7 billion.⁹²⁰⁷

On 11 January 2021, Minister Pompili, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal and Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced the formation of the National Hydrogen Council. The council will oversee the development of the French hydrogen sector and the implementation of the national strategy for the development of carbon-free hydrogen. This announcement included a commitment to invest EUR7 billion into this strategy by 2030.⁹²⁰⁸

On 11 January 2021, France co-hosted the One Planet Summit along with the United Nations and the World Bank. The summit discussed the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, agroecology, financing biodiversity and protecting forests.⁹²⁰⁹ At the summit, France, Spain, and Monaco launched the Coalition for an Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030. The coalition intends to

⁹²⁰⁴ A 10 Million Euros Grant To Support The Development Of Ecologically Responsible And Economically Accessible Agricultural Solutions And Techniques In Jordan, the French Development Agency (Amman) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/10-million-euros-grant-support-development-ecologically-responsible-and-economically-accessible-agricultural-solutions-and-techniques-jordan>

⁹²⁰⁵ Climate Ambition Summit Builds Momentum for COP26, UNFCCC Secretariat (New York, London, Paris) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-ambition-summit-builds-momentum-for-cop26>

⁹²⁰⁶ The Government supports the circular economy of plastics: 16 million euros in emergency aid for the plastics industry, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-soutient-leconomie-circulaire-des-plastiques-16-millions-deuros-daide-durgence-secteur>

⁹²⁰⁷ Thermal renovation for 4,214 state and higher education buildings by 2023, State Real Estate Department (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://immobilier-etat.gouv.fr/actualites/renovation-thermique-pour-4214-batiments-letat-lenseignement-superieur-dici-2023>

⁹²⁰⁸ Installation of the National Hydrogen Council, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/installation-du-conseil-national-lhydrogene>

⁹²⁰⁹ One Planet Summit – Commitments to act in favor of biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-one-planet-movement/article/one-planet-summit-commitments-to-act-in-favor-of-biodiversity-12-jan-2021>

develop a network of protected areas, fight marine pollution, ban single-use plastics and reduce the environmental impact of maritime transport.⁹²¹⁰ France also announced its support for the initiative undertaken by the Great Green Wall to plant 7,000 kilometres of hedgerows by 2022.⁹²¹¹ This initiative is part of a plan to sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon, and restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.⁹²¹²

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Environment and Energy Management Agency announced the #LesBonnesHabitudes awareness campaign. The goal of this campaign is to inform and encourage French citizens to act according to the 3 Rs of individual consumption, reduce, reuse, and recycle, and in doing so contribute towards the development of a circular economy.⁹²¹³

On 28 January 2021, the French Development Agency signed an agreement with the Indian government to support the development of the Surat metro. The project is financed by a EUR250 million loan from the French Development Agency. The goal of the project is to support emission reduction and provide sustainable and easily accessible transportation as the metro will reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tons and service 400,000 people.⁹²¹⁴

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Environment and Energy Management Agency launched the “Springboard for the ecological transition of [small and medium sized enterprises]” initiative, which provides funding to small and medium businesses who are conducting studies on ecological studies or renovating their businesses for improved energy efficiency. A flat rate between EUR5,000 and EUR20,000 depending on the project. This fund is part of France’s COVID-19 recovery program, France Relance, which has dedicated EUR30 billion to matters of ecological transition including promoting the circular economy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁹²¹⁵

On 23 February 2021, Minister Pompili and Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Electronic Communications Cédric O released the digital and environment roadmap, the national strategy on the transition to digital technology and its impact and role in ecological transitions. This national strategy focuses on developing knowledge of the impact of digital technology on the environment, reducing the environmental footprint of digital technology and using digital technology to innovate for the purpose of ecological transition.⁹²¹⁶

⁹²¹⁰ One Planet Summit – Commitments to act in favor of biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-one-planet-movement/article/one-planet-summit-commitments-to-act-in-favor-of-biodiversity-12-jan-2021>

⁹²¹¹ One Planet Summit – Commitments to act in favor of biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-one-planet-movement/article/one-planet-summit-commitments-to-act-in-favor-of-biodiversity-12-jan-2021>

⁹²¹² 4th edition of the One Planet Summit: mobilizing and taking action for biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/4th-edition-of-the-one-planet-summit-mobilizing-and-taking-action-for>

⁹²¹³ #LesBonnesHabitudes: launch of a campaign to reduce, reuse and recycle, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-campagne-les-bonnes-habitudes>

⁹²¹⁴ France and India sign 250M€ credit financing agreement to build Surat Metro, the French Embassy in India (New Delhi) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://in.ambafrance.org/France-and-India-sign-250MEUR-credit-financing-agreement-to-build-Surat-Metro>

⁹²¹⁵ Launch of the “Springboard for the Ecological Transition of SMEs,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://presse.ademe.fr/2021/01/lancement-de-linitiative-tremplin-pour-la-transition-ecologique-des-pme.html>

⁹²¹⁶ Digital and environment: new stage of the Government's roadmap, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/environnement-numerique-feuille-de-route-gouvernement>

On 17 March 2021, Minister Pompili and Minister Delegate in charge of Transport Jean-Baptiste announced a microcredit for low-income purchasers of low-polluting vehicles. EUR1.9 billion has been dedicated to the plan, and eligible recipients can receive up to EUR5,000.⁹²¹⁷

On 7 April 2021, the French Development Agency approved a EUR50 million loan and a EUR500,000 technical assistance grant in order to support Serbia's agenda on climate change and low carbon development in accordance with its commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁹²¹⁸

On 9 April 2021, Secretary of State for Biodiversity Bérangère Abba announced the creation of a new nature reserve "Étangs et Rigoles d'Yveline."⁹²¹⁹ The new reserve will protect 310 hectares of land including the former Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines reserve. The protection of this land places 308 hectares under strong protection.⁹²²⁰ The new reserve also contains wetlands, valuable carbon sinks, whose inclusion in the protected area is consistent with the government's focus on wetland protection in its 2021-2030 national strategy for protected areas.⁹²²¹

On 19 April 2021, Minister of Agriculture and Food Julien Denormandie, Minister responsible for Housing Emmanuelle Wargon, and Minister Pannier-Runacher signed an amendment to the timber sector strategy contract.⁹²²² This action aims to achieve France's decarbonization goals by promoting construction of wood buildings which will serve as carbon sinks.⁹²²³ To this end, environmental regulations for new buildings will also be modified, promoting the use of mixed materials in buildings.⁹²²⁴

On 22 April 2021, the French Development Agency announced funding for sustainable and green development projects in Montenegro⁹²²⁵. The French Development Agency signed two financing agreements with the Development Fund of Montenegro, in which the French Development Agency will provide a EUR50 million line of credit and EUR400,000 grant for the purpose of promoting and

⁹²¹⁷ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Djebbari announce the establishment of the "Clean vehicles" microcredit for low-income households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-djebbari-annoncent-mise-en-place-du-microcredit-vehicules-propres>

⁹²¹⁸ AFD Approves EUR 50 Million to Support Serbia's Reform Agenda on Climate Change, the French Development Agency (Belgrade), 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/afd-approuve-eur-50-million-support-serbia-reform-agenda-climate-change>

⁹²¹⁹ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁹²²⁰ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁹²²¹ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁹²²² Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁹²²³ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁹²²⁴ Low-carbon transition: the Government places the timber industry at the heart of its strategy, Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood, and Forestry (Paris) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/transition-bas-carbone-le-gouvernement-place-la-filiere-bois-au-coeur-de-sa-strategie>

⁹²²⁵ Climate Finance and Post-COVID-19 Recovery: AFD Supports Sustainable and Inclusive Development Projects in Montenegro, the French Development Agency (Paris) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/climate-finance-afd-support-sustainable-and-inclusive-development-projects-in-montenegro>

funding green investment projects undertaken by Montenegrin municipalities and small and medium sized businesses.⁹²²⁶

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition published its climate action plan. This action plan will complement France's National Low Carbon Strategy and the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in the ministry's policy and decision-making.⁹²²⁷ The plan focuses on mitigation primarily through the reduction of emissions and on adaptation, limiting the effects of climate change on human societies and the environment.⁹²²⁸

On 28 April 2021, France announced the fifth phase of the Energy Saving Certificate scheme.⁹²²⁹ This scheme impacts energy producers, requiring them to undertake actions to improve energy efficiency such as improving company infrastructure or producing energy saving products.⁹²³⁰ This fifth phase sets the target for energy savings at 2,500 terawatt hours with 730 terawatt hours set aside for energy reduction projects on houses with the lowest incomes.⁹²³¹ This fifth phase of the scheme will help France meet its energy reduction goals outlined in the National Low Carbon Strategy (SNBC).⁹²³²

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery presented its climate action plan.⁹²³³ The ministry presented an 11-point action plan that will guide its actions in accordance with the SNBC, the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change and France's commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁹²³⁴

On 30 April 2021, Minister Pompili and Minister Djebbari announced the signing of a contract of objectives and performance with Waterways of France providing additional funding of EUR175

⁹²²⁶ Climate Finance and Post-COVID-19 Recovery: AFD Supports Sustainable and Inclusive Development Projects in Montenegro, the French Development Agency (Paris) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/climate-finance-afd-support-sustainable-and-inclusive-development-projects-in-montenegro>

⁹²²⁷ Climate mission letters: The Ministry of Ecological Transition publishes its action plan, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lettres-mission-climat-ministere-transition-ecologique-publie-plan-dactions>

⁹²²⁸ Climate mission letters: The Ministry of Ecological Transition publishes its action plan, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lettres-mission-climat-ministere-transition-ecologique-publie-plan-dactions>

⁹²²⁹ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁹²³⁰ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁹²³¹ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁹²³² The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁹²³³ Environment: Bercy publishes its climate action plan, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/environnement-bercy-plan-action-clima>

⁹²³⁴ Environment: Bercy publishes its climate action plan, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/environnement-bercy-plan-action-climat>

million.⁹²³⁵ The purpose of the contract is to provide funding for diversifying river infrastructure and make transporting goods by river a more viable alternative to road transport.⁹²³⁶ The funding will also enable Waterways of France to modernize France's waterways and provide water management support globally. Modernization measures would include introducing green technology such as hydrogen powered boats as well as the installation of hydroelectric dams and water turbines along waterways.⁹²³⁷

On 17 May 2021, the French government announced an additional EUR350 million in funding to the brownfield fund for the rehabilitation of previously developed, contaminated land for commercial and residential purposes.⁹²³⁸ The purpose of this fund is to provide financial aid to various projects that are seeking to recycle land in order to make more efficient use of urban spaces, control urban sprawl and limit soil artificialization.⁹²³⁹

On 26 May 2021, the French Development Agency signed an agreement to provide the Investment and Development Bank of Vietnam with a EUR100 million line of credit to encourage investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.⁹²⁴⁰ As part of the agreement, the French Development Agency will also provide the Investment and Development Bank of Vietnam with assistance in transitioning to a green finance model.⁹²⁴¹

On 30 June 2021, director of the French Development Agency in Vietnam Fabrice Richey and vice-president of Vietnam Electricity Nguyen Xuan Nam signed a loan agreement of EUR74.7 million for the purpose of financing an extension of the Ialy hydroelectric power station by 360 megawatts.⁹²⁴² This will enable the station to increase its electricity production without having to increase the flooded area and will help reduce the use of electricity produced by fossil fuels avoiding 68,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.⁹²⁴³

⁹²³⁵ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Dejabbari signed today with Voies Navigables de France a contract of objectives providing for an additional € 175 million in State support, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-dejabbari-ont-signé-jour-voies-navigables-france-contrat-dobjectifs>

⁹²³⁶ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Dejabbari signed today with Voies Navigables de France a contract of objectives providing for an additional € 175 million in State support, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-dejabbari-ont-signé-jour-voies-navigables-france-contrat-dobjectifs>

⁹²³⁷ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Dejabbari signed today with Voies Navigables de France a contract of objectives providing for an additional € 175 million in State support, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-dejabbari-ont-signé-jour-voies-navigables-france-contrat-dobjectifs>

⁹²³⁸ Waste land recycling: the government doubles the dedicated fund to reach 650 million euros, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/recyclage-des-friches-gouvernement-double-fonds-dedie-atteindre-650-millions-deuros>

⁹²³⁹ Waste land recycling: the government doubles the dedicated fund to reach 650 million euros, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/recyclage-des-friches-gouvernement-double-fonds-dedie-atteindre-650-millions-deuros>

⁹²⁴⁰ Green Finance For The Energy Transition in Vietnam, the French Development Agency (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/finance-verte-transition-energetique-vietnam>

⁹²⁴¹ Green Finance For The Energy Transition in Vietnam, the French Development Agency (Paris) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/finance-verte-transition-energetique-vietnam>

⁹²⁴² Energy Transition: In Vietnam, AFD Supports The Extension Of The Ialy Hydropower Plant, the French Development Agency (Hanoi) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/transition-energetique-au-vietnam-lafd-soutient-lextension-de-la-centrale-hydroelectrique-de-ialy>

⁹²⁴³ Energy Transition: In Vietnam, AFD Supports the Extension of The Ialy Hydropower Plant, the French Development Agency (Hanoi) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/transition-energetique-au-vietnam-lafd-soutient-lextension-de-la-centrale-hydroelectrique-de-ialy>

On 5 July 2021, Minister Pompili and Minister Delegate in charge of Small and Medium Enterprises Alain Griset announced, in partnership with the French Agency for Ecological Transition, the Chamber of Trades and Crafts and the Chamber of Commerce, funding of EUR15 million in order to provide small and medium businesses with diagnostic reports by an advisor from the Chamber of Trades and Crafts or the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.⁹²⁴⁴ These reports outline steps that businesses can take to optimize energy efficiency and resource use, as well as information on funding and training for employees.⁹²⁴⁵ The funding will allow for 35,000 diagnostic reports as well as 10,000 instances of additional support.⁹²⁴⁶

On 7 July 2021, Minister Djebbari signed a commitment outlining plans for green growth of industries that rely on water-borne transportation.⁹²⁴⁷ This includes a commitment to reduce GHG emissions from the sector by 20 per cent within 10 years, which will be achieved in part by introducing electric terminals in quays and through researching and using alternative low-emission engine solutions.⁹²⁴⁸

On 15 July 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition announced a decree that gives renewable energy producers the option to request an alternative connection from energy grid operators, allowing renewable energy to be attached to the grid at a lower cost and greater speed than the standard connection.⁹²⁴⁹ The goal of this decree is to simplify the process of connecting renewable energy producers to the electrical grid and accelerate the production and use of renewable energies up to an additional 750 megawatts of additional power by 2030.⁹²⁵⁰

On 20 July 2021, the National Assembly announced the adoption of the Climate and Resilience Bill.⁹²⁵¹ The bill promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency and reduction through stricter housing insulation standards and mandatory energy audits, creating low emission zones in metropolitan areas with more than 150,000 citizens to improve air quality and restrict car traffic by 2024, prohibiting short domestic flights, carbon offsets for all domestic flights by 2024, ending the sale of high emission automobiles by 2030, instituting consumer labels explaining the environmental

⁹²⁴⁴ The Government is accelerating the ecological transition of artisans, traders and independent workers in collaboration with ADEME, CCI France and CMA France, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-accelere-transition-ecologique-des-artisans-commerçants-et-independants-en>

⁹²⁴⁵ The Government is accelerating the ecological transition of artisans, traders and independent workers in collaboration with ADEME, CCI France and CMA France, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-accelere-transition-ecologique-des-artisans-commerçants-et-independants-en>

⁹²⁴⁶ The Government is accelerating the ecological transition of artisans, traders and independent workers in collaboration with ADEME, CCI France and CMA France, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-accelere-transition-ecologique-des-artisans-commerçants-et-independants-en>

⁹²⁴⁷ Jean-Baptiste Djebbari signed the commitments for green growth in the river sector, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/jean-baptiste-djebbari-signe-engagements-croissance-verte-du-secteur-fluvial>

⁹²⁴⁸ Jean-Baptiste Djebbari signed the commitments for green growth in the river sector, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/jean-baptiste-djebbari-signe-engagements-croissance-verte-du-secteur-fluvial>

⁹²⁴⁹ Renewable energies: Barbara Pompili signs a decree to facilitate their connection to public electricity networks, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/energies-renouvelables-barbara-pompili-signe-arrete-faciliter-leur-raccordement-aux-reseaux-publics>

⁹²⁵⁰ Renewable energies: Barbara Pompili signs a decree to facilitate their connection to public electricity networks, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/energies-renouvelables-barbara-pompili-signe-arrete-faciliter-leur-raccordement-aux-reseaux-publics>

⁹²⁵¹ Climate & Resilience Bill - Final vote in the National Assembly and the Senate: ecology in our lives, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-climat-resilience-vote-definitif-lassemblee-nationale-et-au-senat-lecologie-dans-nos-vies>

impact of products and by requiring large buildings to have solar panels or green roofs installed either upon construction or renovation.⁹²⁵²

On 23 July 2021, Minister Pompili announced the publication of an action plan to reduce the emission of fine particulate pollutants from domestic wood burning by 50 per cent by 2030.⁹²⁵³ The plan includes measures to replace 600,000 appliances by 2025, the creation of an indication of obsolescence rates on new appliances and plans to increase supervision of wood burning in heavily polluted areas as well as the promotion of quality fuel.⁹²⁵⁴

On 28 July 2021, Minister Pompili, Deputy Minister in charge of Housing Emmanuelle Wargon and Deputy Minister in charge of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced the signing of a six-year commitment charter with key businesses in logistics real estate.⁹²⁵⁵ The goal of the charter is to create warehouses that are more environmentally friendly which will be achieved by installing solar panels on 50 per cent of roof space, encouraging rehabilitation of current wastelands for new warehouse sites, planting greenery and by committing to providing ecological studies of potential warehouse sites by an ecologist before receiving approval to build, all of which are conducive to France's commitment to transition to reusable energy, reuse underutilized land, reduce reliance on carbon emitting energy in buildings and remove carbon through the planting of carbon sinks.⁹²⁵⁶

On 2 August 2021, the French Development Agency announced a EUR50 million loan agreement with ProCredit Bank to finance green projects and small and medium sized businesses in Serbia.⁹²⁵⁷ The purpose of this loan agreement is to encourage sustainable development and continued green financing in Serbia.⁹²⁵⁸

On 30 August 2021, the Transport Innovation Agency announced the launch of the Propulse program which includes a call for innovative projects in sustainable transportation.⁹²⁵⁹ This is

⁹²⁵² Climate and resilience law: ecology in our lives, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-climat-resilience>

⁹²⁵³ The Government publishes the action plan to reduce the emissions of fine particles from domestic wood heating by 50%, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-publique-plan-daction-reuire-50-emissions-particules-fines-du-chauffage-au-bois>

⁹²⁵⁴ The Government publishes the action plan to reduce the emissions of fine particles from domestic wood heating by 50%, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-publique-plan-daction-reuire-50-emissions-particules-fines-du-chauffage-au-bois>

⁹²⁵⁵ The Government signs a commitment with the main players in logistics real estate in order to improve their environmental performance and their integration into the regions, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-signe-engagement-principaux-acteurs-limmobilier-logistique-afin-dameliorer-leur>

⁹²⁵⁶ The Government signs a commitment with the main players in logistics real estate in order to improve their environmental performance and their integration into the regions, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-signe-engagement-principaux-acteurs-limmobilier-logistique-afin-dameliorer-leur>

⁹²⁵⁷ 50 Million Euros For Small And Medium-sized Enterprises And Green Projects In Serbia, the French Development Agency (Paris) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/50-million-euros-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-and-green-projects-serbia?origin=/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>

⁹²⁵⁸ 50 Million Euros For Small And Medium-sized Enterprises And Green Projects In Serbia, the French Development Agency (Paris) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/50-million-euros-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-and-green-projects-serbia?origin=/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>

⁹²⁵⁹ The Transport Innovation Agency launches the "Propulse" program with 4 calls for projects, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lagence-linnovation-transports-lance-programme-propulse-dote-4-appels-projets>

conducive to the government's goals of decarbonizing the nation's vehicles, reducing energy use and ensuring accessible transportation.⁹²⁶⁰

France has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform with its 4Rs framework, while also taking into consideration hydrogen and hydrogen enabling policies. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy, providing incentives for businesses to take actions to improve energy efficiency and by taking action to prevent waste and unnecessary production of materials. It has also complied with its commitment to reuse and recycle by raising public awareness about waste, the importance of recycling and the energy efficiency of products. Additionally, France has complied with its commitment to remove carbon by promoting the removal of emissions through investment in the conservation and production of carbon sinks. France also announced policies targeted towards hydrogen including the formation of the National Hydrogen Council.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Karči Aldridge Végi

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 4 December 2020, Germany launched a EUR5 million funding program for the production of climate-friendly steel, also known as “green steel,” a s part of a wider industry decarbonization project. The Ministry of Environment intends “to reduce process-related greenhouse gas emissions in energy-intensive industries such as steel, cement, lime, and chemicals” using innovative technologies.⁹²⁶¹

On 12 December 2020, Germany pledged an additional EUR500 million to help developing countries meet their climate targets, agreed upon at the United Nations Climate Summit. Of this investment, EUR50 million is allocated to the Adaptation Fund and EUR100 million to the NAMA facility which helps developing countries cut emissions.⁹²⁶²

On 15 December 2020, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy released its call for funding for CO₂ capture and use in the primary industry. The call aims to “help close technical gaps that currently hinder the use of technologies and processes for CO₂ capture and use on a large scale.” Those eligible to apply include “universities and non-university research institutions as well as regional authorities or public administrations, clubs, associations and foundations.”⁹²⁶³

On 11 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that Germany would join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, making a minimum of 30 per cent of land and sea in

⁹²⁶⁰ The Transport Innovation Agency launches the "Propulse" program with 4 calls for projects, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lagence-linnovation-transports-lance-programme-propulse-dote-4-appels-projets>

⁹²⁶¹ Germany launches funding programme for 'green steel', Euractiv (Berlin) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/germany-launches-funding-programme-for-green-steel/>

⁹²⁶² AS IT HAPPENED: World leaders upgrade climate commitments on Paris anniversary, Climate Change News (Broadstairs) 12 December 2020. Access Date: April 5 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/12/12/live-world-leaders-upgrade-climate-commitments-paris-anniversary-summit/>

⁹²⁶³ Call for funding for CO₂ capture and use in the primary industry, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2021.

<https://www.energieforschung.de/antragsteller/foerderangebote/co2-abscheidung-und-nutzung>

Germany protected areas. The goal is to protect biological diversity, as well as the indigenous communities in these regions. Germany also agreed to support the funding of protecting areas in developing countries and emerging Geconomies through the Legacy Landscapes Fund.⁹²⁶⁴

On 10 March 2021, Germany updated its sustainable development strategy. This update included a broader commitment to promoting and supporting climate action globally, rather than within Germany alone. Additionally, the updated strategy outlines a plan for the quicker implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.⁹²⁶⁵

On 24 March 2021, Germany announced their decision to compensate payments to energy companies for residual electricity volumes that can no longer be generated due to the phaseout of nuclear power.⁹²⁶⁶ In return, energy companies will remove any barriers preventing the phaseout of nuclear power.⁹²⁶⁷ The decision to phase out nuclear power will contribute to Germany's climate and renewable energy goals.

On 20 April 2021, Germany and Russia signed a Declaration of Intent. The document stipulated the creation of the High-level working group on sustainable energy and its constituent Sub-group on cooperation in the field of hydrogen energy. The Sub-group's goals include the exchange of experience in studying the technology of hydrogen production, storage, use, and transportation.⁹²⁶⁸

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced the German Recovery plan for the European Commission Regarding Corona Recovery Assistance, which included a significant investment and dedication to climate action and energy transformation.⁹²⁶⁹ The various investments into climate action outlined in this plan amount to roughly EUR28 billion.⁹²⁷⁰

On 12 May 2021, the German government adopted its revised Climate Change Act. It is stated that the "purpose of this law is to protect against the effects of global climate change, the fulfillment of the national climate protection targets as well as the compliance with the European [and to] ensure targets are met." To do this, there will be a focus on carbon sinks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and negative emissions by 2050.⁹²⁷¹

On 28 May 2021, the German Federal Council passed the Act on the Provision of Comprehensive Fast Charging Infrastructure for Pure Battery Electric Vehicles or the "Fast Charging Act" which creates the legal basis for the targeted expansion of a nationwide network of fast charging stations for electric vehicles.⁹²⁷² The goal of the act is to ensure proper infrastructure for the charging of battery-

⁹²⁶⁴ Protecting 30 per cent of the world's natural environment, the Federal Government (Berlin) 11 January 2021. Access Date April 5 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/protecting-biodiversity-1836008>

⁹²⁶⁵ New version of the Sustainable Development Strategy, Federal Government (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: April 5 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/sustainable-development-strategy-2021-1875228>

⁹²⁶⁶ Compensation for the phaseout of nuclear power (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: May 3 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/compensation-for-nuclear-phaseout-1881422>

⁹²⁶⁷ Compensation for the phaseout of nuclear power (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/compensation-for-nuclear-phaseout-1881422>

⁹²⁶⁸ The Ministry of Energy of Russia and the Ministry of Economy and Energy of Germany Signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Energy, Russian Ministry of Energy (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20562>

⁹²⁶⁹ 28 billion euros for climate action and digitalisation (Berlin) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/german-recovery-and-resilience-plan-1898532>

⁹²⁷⁰ 28 billion euros for climate action and digitalisation (Berlin) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/german-recovery-and-resilience-plan-1898532>

⁹²⁷¹ Lesefassung des Bundes-Klimaschutzgesetzes 2021 mit markierten Änderungen zur Fassung von 2019, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Klimaschutz/ksg_aendg_2021_bf.pdf

⁹²⁷² Federal Council Adopts Fast Charging Law (Berlin) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/052-scheuer-schnellladegesetz.html>

powered vehicles.⁹²⁷³ Thus, electric vehicles will become more accessible and more accepted, consequently reducing CO2 emissions in the transportation sector.⁹²⁷⁴

On 5 July 2021, the Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, Federal Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer and the president of the German aviation association BDL Peter Gerber signed the PtL Roadmap or market ramp-up of climate friendly electricity-based aviation fuel.⁹²⁷⁵ With this joint roadmap, policy-makers and industry have agreed on the requirements and measures needed to establish and expand production of kerosene from power-to-liquid technologies over the coming years.⁹²⁷⁶ This roadmap will produce 200,000 tonnes of sustainable kerosene for the German aviation industry by 2030, accounting for one third of Germany's current fuel consumption.⁹²⁷⁷

On 15 July 2021, United States President Joe Biden announced the United States-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, under which the two countries will develop policies for reduced carbon emissions, advance the development and production of renewable energy technologies, including sustainable hydrogen technologies, and increase the production and adoption of electric vehicles.⁹²⁷⁸ They will also provide investments in Central and Eastern Europe for mobilizing sustainable energy, including specific investments supporting Ukraine's energy transformation, efficiency, and security.⁹²⁷⁹

On 29 July 2021, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Economics Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker announced a funding decision to grant EUR10.9 million to Air Liquide Germany.⁹²⁸⁰ The grant will be used for the construction of a 20 megawatt electrolyzer for the production of green hydrogen in Oberhausen, Germany.⁹²⁸¹ This decision represents the first project

⁹²⁷³ 1,000 rapid charging stations (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/faq-rapid-charging-act-1916410>

⁹²⁷⁴ 1,000 rapid charging stations (Berlin) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/faq-rapid-charging-act-1916410>

⁹²⁷⁵ Federal government, states and industry agree on roadmap for market ramp-up of climate friendly electricity-based aviation fuel (Berlin) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2021/044-scheuer-roadmap.html>

⁹²⁷⁶ Federal government, states and industry agree on roadmap for market ramp-up of climate friendly electricity-based aviation fuel (Berlin) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2021/044-scheuer-roadmap.html>

⁹²⁷⁷ Federal government, states and industry agree on roadmap for market ramp-up of climate friendly electricity-based aviation fuel (Berlin) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 7 August 2021.

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2021/044-scheuer-roadmap.html>

⁹²⁷⁸ U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, The White House (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/15/fact-sheet-u-s-germany-climate-and-energy-partnership/>

⁹²⁷⁹ U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, The White House (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/15/fact-sheet-u-s-germany-climate-and-energy-partnership/>

⁹²⁸⁰ First BMWi funding decision for green hydrogen project in Germany handed over as part of the national hydrogen strategy (Berlin) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/07/20210729-erster-bmwi-foerderbescheid-gruenes-wasserstoffprojekt-in-deutschland-im-rahmen-nationaler-wasserstoffstrategie.html>

⁹²⁸¹ First BMWi funding decision for green hydrogen project in Germany handed over as part of the national hydrogen strategy (Berlin) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/07/20210729-erster-bmwi-foerderbescheid-gruenes-wasserstoffprojekt-in-deutschland-im-rahmen-nationaler-wasserstoffstrategie.html>

to be funded in Germany under their National Hydrogen Strategy, and will supply a variety of industries with renewable hydrogen.⁹²⁸²

On 2 September 2021, the Federal Minister of Economics Peter Altmaier, the Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate Malu Dreyer, and the Minister of Economic Affairs of Rhineland-Palatinate Daniela Schmitt, announced a joint commitment to provide a grant for a large battery cell factory to be built at the Opel site in Kaiserslautern.⁹²⁸³ The sum of the grant is EUR436.8 million, EUR385.8 of which will come from Germany alone.⁹²⁸⁴ The purpose of this grant is to fund the development of more innovative, sustainable, and efficient batteries for the automotive industry.⁹²⁸⁵

On 3 September 2021, the federal Environment Ministry announced their decision to provide EUR12.6 million to a pilot project for the climate-friendly management of moors.⁹²⁸⁶ The goal of this project is to rewet two previously drained bog areas and establish and test paludiculture as a climate-friendly agricultural use, thus identifying possible solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions⁹²⁸⁷. State Secretary for the Environment Jochen Flasbarth was quoted stating, “Moors are not only unique natural landscapes, they are also important for nature and climate protection.”⁹²⁸⁸ Due to environmental mismanagement, these landscapes in Germany are currently releasing large amounts of emissions, which this project will seek to reduce.⁹²⁸⁹

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), while also taking into consideration hydrogen and hydrogen enabling policies. Germany has taken actions to address three out of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove), partially complying with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform. Their actions towards reducing emissions, as well as

⁹²⁸² First BMWi funding decision for green hydrogen project in Germany handed over as part of the national hydrogen strategy (Berlin) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/07/20210729-erster-bmwi-foerderbescheid-gruenes-wasserstoffprojekt-in-deutschland-im-rahmen-nationaler-wasserstoffstrategie.html>

⁹²⁸³ Funding decision for battery cell production handed over at the Opel site in Kaiserslautern: 437 million euros for sustainable battery cell production (Berlin) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/09/20210902-foerderbescheid-fuer-batteriezellfertigung-am-opel-standort-kaiserslautern-uebergeben-437-millionen-euro-fuer-nachhaltige-batteriezellfertigung.html>

⁹²⁸⁴ Funding decision for battery cell production handed over at the Opel site in Kaiserslautern: 437 million euros for sustainable battery cell production (Berlin) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/09/20210902-foerderbescheid-fuer-batteriezellfertigung-am-opel-standort-kaiserslautern-uebergeben-437-millionen-euro-fuer-nachhaltige-batteriezellfertigung.html>

⁹²⁸⁵ Funding decision for battery cell production handed over at the Opel site in Kaiserslautern: 437 million euros for sustainable battery cell production (Berlin) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/09/20210902-foerderbescheid-fuer-batteriezellfertigung-am-opel-standort-kaiserslautern-uebergeben-437-millionen-euro-fuer-nachhaltige-batteriezellfertigung.html>

⁹²⁸⁶ BMU funds pilot projects for climate-friendly management of moors (Berlin) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-foerdert-pilotvorhaben-zur-klimafreundlichen-bewirtschaftung-von-mooren>

⁹²⁸⁷ BMU funds pilot projects for climate-friendly management of moors (Berlin) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-foerdert-pilotvorhaben-zur-klimafreundlichen-bewirtschaftung-von-mooren>

⁹²⁸⁸ BMU funds pilot projects for climate-friendly management of moors (Berlin) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-foerdert-pilotvorhaben-zur-klimafreundlichen-bewirtschaftung-von-mooren>

⁹²⁸⁹ BMU funds pilot projects for climate-friendly management of moors (Berlin) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-foerdert-pilotvorhaben-zur-klimafreundlichen-bewirtschaftung-von-mooren>

removing harm through investments in biodiversity contribute to their commitment. Contributing to the reuse aspect of the commitment, they have decided to fund a pilot project aimed at revitalizing and reusing moors. Further, Germany has demonstrated its commitment to hydrogen policies through the decision to fund the production of green hydrogen.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Angelo Wijaya, Deinse Wong and Jenna Im

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 22 November 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's aim to "restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030," "encouraging a circular economy."⁹²⁹⁰ This project is aimed at achieving the country's target of producing 175 gigawatts of renewable energy annually by 2022. Prime Minister Modi added that India is "taking a big step ahead by seeking to achieve 450 gigawatts [GW] by 2030."⁹²⁹¹

On 10 March 2021, the Ministry for New and Renewable Energy reported an 419.74 megawatts of renewable energy capacity was added in February 2021, taking the cumulative renewable energy capacity to 92.97 GW as of 28 February 2021.⁹²⁹² The Ministry's report added projects adding 50.15 GW capacity are at different implementation stages and projects adding 27.02 GW of capacity are at different bidding stages.⁹²⁹³ This additional capacity will support India in their transition to renewable energy, and reaffirms their commitment to this goal.

On 7 April 2021, the cabinet approved the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's proposal for "implementation of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme "National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PhotoVoltaic Modules" for achieving manufacturing capacity of [GW] scale in high efficiency solar [photovoltaic] PV modules with an outlay of Rs.4,500 crore."⁹²⁹⁴ As the capacity of solar energy largely depends on solar PV cells, this action works towards the goal of transitioning to renewable energy.⁹²⁹⁵

On 15 April 2021, Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor announced at the "Hydrogen Economy – New Delhi Dialogue" event that India has directed state-run oil and gas companies to establish seven hydrogen

⁹²⁹⁰ G20 Summit | PM Modi calls for integrated approach to combat climate change, The Hindu (New Delhi/Riyadh) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/climate-change-must-be-fought-not-in-silos-but-in-integrated-holistic-way-pm-modi-at-g20/article33155391.ece>

⁹²⁹¹ G20 Summit | PM Modi calls for integrated approach to combat climate change, The Hindu (New Delhi/Riyadh) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/climate-change-must-be-fought-not-in-silos-but-in-integrated-holistic-way-pm-modi-at-g20/article33155391.ece>

⁹²⁹² Monthly Summary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the month of February 2021, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://mnre.gov.in/img/documents/uploads/file_f-1615785529839.pdf

⁹²⁹³ Monthly Summary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the month of February 2021, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://mnre.gov.in/img/documents/uploads/file_f-1615785529839.pdf

⁹²⁹⁴ Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' (New Delhi) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710114>

⁹²⁹⁵ Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' (New Delhi) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710114>

pilot plants by the end of the current financial year.⁹²⁹⁶ This is a significant initiative as part of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's commitment to invest USD200 million for promoting hydrogen use over the next five to seven years.⁹²⁹⁷

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi, addressed the Leaders Summit on Climate 2021, emphasizing the importance of taking action to combat climate change.⁹²⁹⁸ In his address, he reaffirmed India's commitment to achieving its renewable energy target of 450 GW by 2030.⁹²⁹⁹ Further, he announced the launching of the India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership alongside President Joseph Biden of the United States.⁹³⁰⁰

On 29 June 2021, Minister of Power Raj Kumar Singh announced at the BloombergNEF Summit the government's planned new rules to allow companies to purchase renewable electricity from state distributors at weighted average prices, which are called "green tariffs."⁹³⁰¹ The government's regulatory framework also includes easing hurdles for businesses looking to purchase clean power directly from generators and will cut down their waiting periods to get access to the distribution network.⁹³⁰² This set of actions will accelerate clean energy usage in offices and factories and help India realize its 2030 decarbonization goal of expanding its renewable power capacity by nearly five-fold.⁹³⁰³

On 15 August 2021, Prime Minister Modi announced India's National Hydrogen Mission.⁹³⁰⁴ Under this plan, India will aim to become a global hub for green hydrogen production, hydrogen export and renewable energy.⁹³⁰⁵ According to Prime Minister Modi, this initiative will help India in obtaining energy self-reliance by 2047 and will reduce its historic reliance on imported fossil fuels.⁹³⁰⁶

On 9 September 2021, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardsheep Singh Puri and United States Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm held a meeting where they relaunched the U.S-India

⁹²⁹⁶ India to spend \$200 mln in next 5-7 years to promote hydrogen use, Reuters (New Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-spend-200-mln-next-5-7-years-promote-hydrogen-use-2021-04-15/>

⁹²⁹⁷ India to spend \$200 mln in next 5-7 years to promote hydrogen use, Reuters (New Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-spend-200-mln-next-5-7-years-promote-hydrogen-use-2021-04-15/>

⁹²⁹⁸ Address by Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021 (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1713442>

⁹²⁹⁹ Address by Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021 (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1713442>

⁹³⁰⁰ Address by Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021 (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1713442>

⁹³⁰¹ India Sets Easier Path for Companies to Switch to Green Energy, Bloomberg (New York City) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-29/india-to-set-rules-to-encourage-companies-shift-to-green-energy>

⁹³⁰² India Sets Easier Path for Companies to Switch to Green Energy, Bloomberg (New York City) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-29/india-to-set-rules-to-encourage-companies-shift-to-green-energy>

⁹³⁰³ India Sets Easier Path for Companies to Switch to Green Energy, Bloomberg (New York City) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-29/india-to-set-rules-to-encourage-companies-shift-to-green-energy>

⁹³⁰⁴ Independence Day: PM Modi announces National Hydrogen Mission (New Delhi) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/independence-day-pm-modi-announces-national-hydrogen-mission-11629002077955.html>

⁹³⁰⁵ Independence Day: PM Modi announces National Hydrogen Mission, Mint (New Delhi) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/independence-day-pm-modi-announces-national-hydrogen-mission-11629002077955.html>

⁹³⁰⁶ Modi Pledges Massive Green Hydrogen "Quantum Leap" to Indian Energy Independence, Recharge News (Santa Monica) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.rechargenews.com/energy-transition/modi-pledges-massive-green-hydrogen-quantum-leap-to-indian-energy-independence/2-1-1052701>

Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.⁹³⁰⁷ With this partnership, India and the United States will deploy technologies for transition to clean energy, for promoting efficient and smart energy building production, and for decarbonizing the energy sectors of India with the production of alternate fuels such as hydrogen.⁹³⁰⁸ The initiative will also advance production of clean energy technologies for reducing consumption of high polluting fuels.⁹³⁰⁹ This partnership will support India's goal of installing 450 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030.⁹³¹⁰

India has taken actions to address two out of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove) of the Circular Carbon Economy, namely reducing carbon emissions by increasing renewable energy generation and removing emissions by increasing forest cover and hydrogen-enabling policies. Nevertheless, India has not taken actions towards reusing or recycling.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Aadi Thulasingham and Minabil Iftikhar

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 1 December 2020, Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya announced the extension of the Peat Restoration Agency for the following years.⁹³¹¹ The extension implements President Joko Widodo's commitment and efforts for peatland ecosystem recovery.⁹³¹² Rehabilitating the country's peatland will enable the government to meet its emissions commitments, and help avoid forest fires, which have contributed substantially to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere. The Agency will work to restore five million acres of degraded peatland and mangrove ecosystems across 13 provinces.⁹³¹³

On 22 December 2020, Indonesia launched biodiesel containing 30 per cent palm-based fuel, to reduce the country's fossil fuel imports by IDR63 trillion a year.⁹³¹⁴ Through this program, Indonesia

⁹³⁰⁷ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership, Department of Energy (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹³⁰⁸ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹³⁰⁹ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹³¹⁰ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹³¹¹ Minister: Indonesia peat restoration agency's tenure extended, FORESTHINTS.NEWS (Jakarta) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://foresthints.news/minister-indonesian-peat-restoration-agency-tenure-extended/>

⁹³¹² Minister: Indonesia peat restoration agency's tenure extended, FORESTHINTS.NEWS (Jakarta) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://foresthints.news/minister-indonesian-peat-restoration-agency-tenure-extended/>

⁹³¹³ Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency gets an extension despite failing to hit its target: what are the hurdles and next strategies?, The Conversation (Melbourne) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://theconversation.com/indonesias-peatland-restoration-agency-gets-an-extension-despite-failing-to-hit-its-target-what-are-the-hurdles-and-next-strategies-151989>

⁹³¹⁴ Indonesia launches B30 biodiesel to cut costs, boost palm oil, Reuters (Jakarta) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-biodiesel-idUSKBN1YR0D2>

plans to eventually phase out the use of conventional diesel and replace current oil consumption. The program aims to reach a 50 per cent palm oil blend by 2025.⁹³¹⁵

On 15 March 2021, Indonesia committed to offering tax incentives on electric vehicles.⁹³¹⁶ The tax break provided for hybrid cars will provide Indonesians with more incentive to purchase a low-emissions vehicle. Battery-powered electric vehicles will maintain their zero per cent tax rate, while plug-in-hybrid vehicles will have their five per cent drop to zero per cent.

On 19 March 2021, the Environment and Forestry Ministry Climate Change Management Director General Ruandha Agung Sugardiman acknowledged in a conference, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a pressing issue, due to the rise in natural disasters.⁹³¹⁷ Director General Sugardiman stated that by 2050, the government will start working toward a net-zero emission, with the hopes of reaching the goal by 2070.⁹³¹⁸ This pledge contributes towards the commitment of reducing carbon emissions in the country.

On April 29 2021, President Widodo tasked the National Energy Council ministers and stakeholders to plan energy policies.⁹³¹⁹ The group has stated that the country will stop both liquefied petroleum gas and fuel imports by 2030.⁹³²⁰ The Council's secretary general Djoko Siswanto has committed to introducing devise strategies to halt the imports, by building or upgrading refineries, converting refineries to biodiesel refineries, and increasing domestic production.⁹³²¹ This action will contribute towards the nation reducing their emissions with the introduction of biodiesel.

On 8 May 2021, Indonesian state-owned electricity monopolist, PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara, pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050, with a plan to phase out fossil power plants, and transition to renewable energy.⁹³²² The president of the company, Zulkifli Zaini said the company was planning to develop new solar and wind power plants.⁹³²³ Under the same commitment, the company also commits to stop building coal plants by 2023.⁹³²⁴ This commitment will work towards reducing the country's emissions.

⁹³¹⁵ Need 15 Million Hectares of Palm Oil to Replace Oil, Yes or No?, CNBC Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20201123192446-4-204061/butuh-15-juta-hektar-sawit-buat-gantikan-minyak-yes-or-no>

⁹³¹⁶ Indonesia Offers More Aggressive Tax Perks for Electric Vehicles, BNN Bloomberg (Toronto) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/indonesia-offers-more-aggressive-tax-perks-for-electric-vehicles-1.1577069>

⁹³¹⁷ Indonesia mulls net-zero emissions target by 2070, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/22/indonesia-mulls-net-zero-emissions-target-by-2070.html>

⁹³¹⁸ Indonesia mulls net-zero emissions target by 2070, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/22/indonesia-mulls-net-zero-emissions-target-by-2070.html>

⁹³¹⁹ Indonesia to stop LPG and fuel imports by 2030- official, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-oil/indonesia-to-stop-lpg-and-fuel-imports-by-2030-official-idUSL4N2MM0YZ>

⁹³²⁰ Indonesia to stop LPG and fuel imports by 2030- official, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-oil/indonesia-to-stop-lpg-and-fuel-imports-by-2030-official-idUSL4N2MM0YZ>

⁹³²¹ Indonesia to stop LPG and fuel imports by 2030- official, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-oil/indonesia-to-stop-lpg-and-fuel-imports-by-2030-official-idUSL4N2MM0YZ>

⁹³²² PLN pledges carbon neutrality by 2050, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 June 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/05/07/pln-pledges-carbon-neutrality-by-2050.html>

⁹³²³ PLN pledges carbon neutrality by 2050, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 June 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/05/07/pln-pledges-carbon-neutrality-by-2050.html>

⁹³²⁴ Indonesia's PLN to stop building coal plants by 2023, Pinsent Masons (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date 12 June 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/indonesias-pln-to-stop-building-coal-plants-by-2023>

On 24 May 2021, the state-owned Indonesia Battery Corporation and South Korea's LG announced their plan to build a new battery plant.⁹³²⁵ This battery plant, worth IDR142 trillion will have the capacity of 10 gigawatt hours.⁹³²⁶ This commitment will work towards reducing the nation's carbon emissions, and removing fossil fuelled power sources.

On 14 June 2021, Energy Minister Arifin Tasrif announced that, starting in 2040, only electric motorcycles and scooters will be sold and, starting in 2050, only electric cars will be sold.⁹³²⁷ By 2030, the country hopes to produce 600,000 electric cars and 2.5 million electric motorcycles and scooters.⁹³²⁸ This measure will work towards replacing and removing vehicles powered by combustion engines, further reducing the country's carbon emissions.⁹³²⁹

On 18 June 2021, the Chief Executive Officer of Pertamina, a state-owned oil and natural gas corporation, signed a collaborative and joint study agreement with Japanese companies to review the implementation of carbon capture technologies.⁹³³⁰ This study will work towards reducing carbon emissions with potential reducing carbon emission as much as 300,000 tons of carbon emission per year, from a total of 3 million tons of carbon for 10 years.⁹³³¹

On 30 June 2021, the Indonesian government inaugurated a polyethylene terephthalate bottle-recycling factory.⁹³³² The plant has a production capacity of 25,000 tons per year.⁹³³³ The plant will help the country reduce plastic waste and will strengthen the recycling ecosystem and circular economy.⁹³³⁴

On 1 July 2021, Indonesian state-owned oil and gas company Pertamina announced its commitment to invest IDR12 billion in green power to meet its target of generating 10 gigawatts of electricity

⁹³²⁵Indonesia says building \$1.2 billion battery plant with S.Korea's LG, WTVB News (Coldwater) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 13 June 2021. <https://wtvbam.com/2021/05/24/indonesia-says-building-1-2-billion-battery-plant-with-s-koreas-lg/>

⁹³²⁶ Electric car battery factory to commence production in 2023: minister, Antara News (Jakarta) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 3 July 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/177374/electric-car-battery-factory-to-commence-production-in-2023-minister>

⁹³²⁷ Indonesia aims to sell only electric-powered cars, motorbikes by 2050, Reuters (Jakarta) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 27 June 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/indonesia-aims-sell-only-electric-powered-cars-motorbikes-by-2050-2021-06-14/>

⁹³²⁸ Indonesia To Go Fully Electric By 2050, RideApart (Los Angeles) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 27 June 2021. <https://www.rideapart.com/news/516247/indonesia-fully-electric-2050/>

⁹³²⁹ Indonesia aims to sell only electric-powered cars, motorbikes by 2050, Reuters (Jakarta) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 27 June 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/indonesia-aims-sell-only-electric-powered-cars-motorbikes-by-2050-2021-06-14/>

⁹³³⁰ Committed to Reduce CO2 Emissions, Pertamina Collaborates with Japanese Companies & ITB for CCUS Study in Gundih Field, Pertamina (Jakarta) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 20 June 2021. <https://www.pertamina.com/en/news-room/news-release/committed-to-reduce-co2-emissions-pertamina-collaborates-with-japanese-companies-and-itb-for-ccus-study-in-gundih-field>

⁹³³¹ Committed to Reduce CO2 Emissions, Pertamina Collaborates with Japanese Companies & ITB for CCUS Study in Gundih Field, Pertamina (Jakarta) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 20 June 2021. <https://www.pertamina.com/en/news-room/news-release/committed-to-reduce-co2-emissions-pertamina-collaborates-with-japanese-companies-and-itb-for-ccus-study-in-gundih-field>

⁹³³² Danone-Veolia opens recycling plant to reduce plastic waste, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/30/danone-veolia-opens-recycling-plant-to-reduce-plastic-waste.html>

⁹³³³ Danone-Veolia opens recycling plant to reduce plastic waste, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/30/danone-veolia-opens-recycling-plant-to-reduce-plastic-waste.html>

⁹³³⁴ Danone-Veolia opens recycling plant to reduce plastic waste, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/30/danone-veolia-opens-recycling-plant-to-reduce-plastic-waste.html>

from renewable sources by 2026.⁹³³⁵ This will support the government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 29 per cent by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2060.⁹³³⁶

On 23 July 2021, the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry announced plans to make co-firing of biomass in power stations mandatory in an effort to phase out coal power plants.⁹³³⁷ The co-firing is an intermediate solution as the country works towards determining how to wholly phase out coal plants.⁹³³⁸ The state power company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara plans to start co-firing at 52 of its biggest coal power plants, which is estimated to replace 9 million tonnes of coal per year with biomass.⁹³³⁹

Indonesia has taken actions to address two out of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove) and endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform. Indonesia has implemented many policies and actions towards reducing their carbon emissions, including committing to reaching net-zero emissions by 2070. Through their inauguration of a polyethylene terephthalate bottle recycling factory, they have also satisfied the recycling commitment. However, they have not taken into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies, nor have they taken actions towards removing emissions or reusing.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Surabhi Pradhan

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Environment Sergio Costa signed a decree on the Minimum Environmental Criteria for the industrial washing and rental service of textiles and mattresses.⁹³⁴⁰ This decree is in line with “the objectives of reducing the environmental impact set out in the Action Plan for environmental sustainability and consumption in the public administration adopted in 2008” and contributes to the “reuse” aspect of the four Rs framework through improving the ability to reuse textiles and mattresses.⁹³⁴¹

⁹³³⁵ Pertamina to sink \$12B in new, green power sources, The Phnom Penh Post (Phnom Penh) 04 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/pertamina-sink-12b-new-green-power-sources>

⁹³³⁶ Pertamina to sink \$12B in new, green power sources, The Phnom Penh Post (Phnom Penh) 04 July 2021. Access Date: 13 July 2021. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/pertamina-sink-12b-new-green-power-sources>

⁹³³⁷ Indonesia to make biomass co-firing mandatory in power plants, Reuters (Jakarta) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/indonesia-make-biomass-co-firing-mandatory-power-plants-2021-07-23/>

⁹³³⁸ Indonesia to make biomass co-firing mandatory in power plants, Reuters (Jakarta) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/indonesia-make-biomass-co-firing-mandatory-power-plants-2021-07-23/>

⁹³³⁹ Indonesia to make biomass co-firing mandatory in power plants, Reuters (Jakarta) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/indonesia-make-biomass-co-firing-mandatory-power-plants-2021-07-23/>

⁹³⁴⁰ Environment: Minister Costa Signs a Decree on CAMs for Sterile Textiles, Mattresses and Medical Devices, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-ministro-costa-firma-decreto-sui-cam-tessili-materassi-e-dispositivi-medici>

⁹³⁴¹ CAMs Published for the Wash-Hire Services, L. C. A. Ambiente. (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.lca-ambiente.com/en/news/pubblicati-i-cam-per-il-servizio-di-lavano/>

On 17 December 2020, Minister Costa published a decree allocating EUR20 million for “experimental projects for the construction or implementation of the school transport service with hybrid or electric means of transport.”⁹³⁴² This initiative is aimed at addressing violations of air quality parameters.

On 23 March 2021, Italy convened the National Conference on the Circular Economy, at which the third annual report was presented.⁹³⁴³ Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani delivered remarks, in which he reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to the circular economy and environmental and economic sustainability.⁹³⁴⁴ He observed that “Circularity is an essential tool in our context, with the climate emergency we are experiencing and the awareness that we must achieve important objectives of decarbonisation, upgrading of renewables, restoration of the natural values of our environment.”⁹³⁴⁵ He also reiterated Italy’s strides thus far, noting that the country “recycle[s] almost double the total waste compared to the European Community...with a circularity rate that is around 30% higher than in the rest of Europe.”⁹³⁴⁶

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition delivered 50 zero-emission electric vehicles to the Port Authority Corps of the Italian Coast Guard.⁹³⁴⁷ The vehicles will be used by the Port Authority Corps to provide control and patrol services in support of the Coast Guard’s mission.⁹³⁴⁸ The Coast Guard’s new green fleet is part of a broader effort by the Ministry of Ecological Transition to improve environmental sustainability through decarbonization.⁹³⁴⁹

On 13 July 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition signed a ministerial decree allocating EUR15 million to urban reforestation projects.⁹³⁵⁰ A total of 34 projects will be financed and will ultimately work towards removing CO2 emissions from the environment.⁹³⁵¹

On 2 September 2021, the Council of Ministers approved the decree-law to combat the fires that have impacted Italy, with the goal of strengthening forest fire prevention and improving the ability to fight forest fires.⁹³⁵² Included in the decree-law are plans to update the technology used to fight

⁹³⁴² Twenty Million to Municipalities for “Ecological” School Buses, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 17 December 2020. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/venti-milioni-ai-comuni-scuolabus-ecologici>

⁹³⁴³ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁹³⁴⁴ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁹³⁴⁵ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁹³⁴⁶ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁹³⁴⁷ Environment: Deliver 50 Electric Cars to the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-consegnate-50-auto-elettriche-alle-capitanerie-di-porto-guardia-costiera>

⁹³⁴⁸ Environment: Deliver 50 Electric Cars to the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-consegnate-50-auto-elettriche-alle-capitanerie-di-porto-guardia-costiera>

⁹³⁴⁹ Environment: Deliver 50 Electric Cars to the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-consegnate-50-auto-elettriche-alle-capitanerie-di-porto-guardia-costiera>

⁹³⁵⁰ Urban Reforestation: From Mite 15 Million for Metropolitan Cities (Rome) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/riforestazione-urbana-dal-mite-15-milioni-le-citta-metropolitane>

⁹³⁵¹ Urban Reforestation: From Mite 15 Million for Metropolitan Cities (Rome) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/riforestazione-urbana-dal-mite-15-milioni-le-citta-metropolitane>

⁹³⁵² The decree-law on forest fires has been approved to strengthen the prevention and fight against fires (Rome) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17306>

forest fires, as well as an increase in the severity of punishments for crimes that contribute to the high rates of forest fires.⁹³⁵³

Italy has taken actions to address two out of the four Rs framework and to endorse the CCE platform. This has been done through actions to reuse textiles and mattresses, as well as through efforts to reduce emissions. However, Italy has not taken significant action on removing or recycling, nor has it taken into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aisha Shafaqat

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihida Suga announced that Japan will establish a fund of JPY2 trillion for environmental investment that it “will provide continuing assistance to companies taking up the challenge of ambitious innovations.” Additionally, Japan will develop hydrogen powered airplanes, hydrogen powered cargo ships, and low-cost storage batteries, contributing to the goal of decarbonization⁹³⁵⁴

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced three projects to be selected for the Joint Crediting Mechanism Model Projects. The projects will introduce solar power systems at factories and universities in Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. The purpose of this programme is “to achieve the GHG emission reduction target by the Japanese government.”⁹³⁵⁵

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry formulated a “Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality,” an industrial policy that will support lead the challenging goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. It includes “action plans covering comprehensive policies in areas such as budgets, taxes, regulatory reform, standardization and international collaboration.”⁹³⁵⁶ The strategy is also projected to increase Japan’s electricity demand by 30 to 50 per cent and sets an installation target for offshore wind power of up to 45 gigawatts by 2040.⁹³⁵⁷

On 8 April 2021, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ejima Kiyoshi signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on hydrogen with the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of the

⁹³⁵³ The decree-law on forest fires has been approved to strengthen the prevention and fight against fires (Rome) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2021.

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17306>

⁹³⁵⁴ Press Release: Press Conference by the Prime Minister, Prime minister and his cabinet (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202012/_00003.html

⁹³⁵⁵ Preliminary selection result for financing programme for JCM Model projects in FY2020 (3rd selection), Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (Tokyo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2484.html>

⁹³⁵⁶ Press Release: Green Growth Strategy through Achieving carbon neutrality, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

⁹³⁵⁷ Press Release: Green Growth Strategy through Achieving carbon neutrality, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

United Arab Emirates Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei.⁹³⁵⁸ This will facilitate the construction of hydrogen supply chains and the exchange of information between Japan and the United Arab Emirates.⁹³⁵⁹

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared at the Leaders Summit on Climate, that Japan aims to “reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 per cent in fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels.”⁹³⁶⁰ Suga also announced that to achieve this, Japan is committed to utilizing decarbonized power sources and assisting other countries in decarbonization.⁹³⁶¹

On 28 May 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, announced the Asia Energy Transition Initiative which aims to promote sustainability and carbon neutrality in Asia.⁹³⁶² To achieve this goal, Japan will present ASEAN countries with a package of concrete support measures based on five pillars: support for the development of energy transition roadmaps; presentation and promotion of the Asian version of the transition finance; USD10 billion financial support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, liquified natural gas and other projects; support for technology development and demonstration using the benefits of the JPY2 trillion fund; and human resource development on decarbonisation technologies and knowledge sharing through the Asia Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage network.⁹³⁶³

On 8 June 2021, the government of Japan announced at the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors meeting a funding commitment of EUR1 million for the NUTECS plastics project, which stands for NUClear TEChnology, for controlling plastic pollution.⁹³⁶⁴ The project aims to promote nuclear techniques to monitor and reduce marine plastic pollution.⁹³⁶⁵

Japan has taken action to address two of the four key commitment areas within the four Rs framework, partially complying with its commitment to endorsing the CCE platform. It has taken actions on both reducing and removing emissions through policies aimed at growing renewable energy usage and decarbonization. Further, it has done so through employing hydrogen policies. Nevertheless, Japan has not contributed to reusing or recycling.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Meryem Althani

⁹³⁵⁸ State Minister Ejima Signs MOC on Hydrogen with H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0409_001.html

⁹³⁵⁹ State Minister Ejima Signs MOC on Hydrogen with H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0409_001.html

⁹³⁶⁰ Prime Minister Suga’s attendance at the Leaders’ Summit on Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page6e_000236.html

⁹³⁶¹ Prime Minister Suga’s attendance at the Leaders’ Summit on Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page6e_000236.html

⁹³⁶² Minister Kajiyama announced the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0528_002.html

⁹³⁶³ Minister Kajiyama announced the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0528_002.html

⁹³⁶⁴ Japan’s financial contribution to the IAEA’s NUTEC Plastics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000299.html

⁹³⁶⁵ Japan’s financial contribution to the IAEA’s NUTEC Plastics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000299.html

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

In December 2020, Korea submitted its Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2050 to the United Nations, where it pledged net-zero emissions for 2050. The strategy outlines key steps for a “sustainable and green society,” which include expanding the use of clean energy and clean hydrogen. The strategy also outlines mitigation measures which “will provide an opportunity for sustainable development.” Improving carbon efficiency, deployment of carbon removal technologies, and enhancing carbon sinks are among the planned efforts outlined in the strategy, as is either phasing out coal plants or converting them into liquified natural gas.⁹³⁶⁶

On 24 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced its plans for reducing plastic waste through increasing the recycling rate of plastic products.⁹³⁶⁷ The Ministry plans to reduce greenhouse gas emission from plastic by 30 per cent by 2030 through reducing production of plastic and reusing plastic waste for extracting oil. It also announced banning overseas plastic waste from Korea entirely by 2022, replacing petroleum plastics with bioplastics by 2050 and decreasing the usage of plastic containers to 38 per cent from 47 per cent.⁹³⁶⁸

On 21 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment announced its plans for supplying more than 300,000 electric and hydrogen vehicles for reducing pollution and carbon emissions. It has estimated 136,185 pollution-free vehicles with high air quality improvement effects to be supplied by the end of 2021, which will aim to advance plans for carbon neutrality in transportation.⁹³⁶⁹

On 5 February 2021, President Moon Jae-in signed a USD48 billion deal for building the “world’s biggest offshore wind power farm,” “moving more actively towards carbon neutrality, accelerating the transition to eco-friendly energy.”⁹³⁷⁰ As 40 per cent of electricity in Korea is provided by coal, this project is a step towards developing cleaner energy and reducing carbon emissions.⁹³⁷¹

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment announced its planned initiatives for achieving the 2050 carbon neutrality goal, which includes the transition from combustion vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. According to the strategy, the government will supply zero-emission and eco-friendly vehicles and increase research facilities for their development. The Ministry will “promote transition in all sectors of society and set a foundation to achieve the carbon neutrality goal.”⁹³⁷²

⁹³⁶⁶ South Korea 2050 net zero pledge spurs renewables investment (Broadstairs) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/14/south-korea-2050-net-zero-pledge-spurs-renewables-investment/>

⁹³⁶⁷ South Korea’s Ministry of Environment: Plan to reduce plastic waste by 20% by 2025 (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://ynews.com/south-koreas-ministry-of-environment-plan-to-reduce-plastic-waste-by-20-by-2025/>

⁹³⁶⁸ S. Korea aims to reduce plastic waste 20 pct by 2025 (Seoul) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201224005700315>

⁹³⁶⁹ Devoting in the era of pollution-free vehicles...First on-site trip of newly appointed Minister of Environment (Sejong) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1431520&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁹³⁷⁰ Moon pledges full support for new sea wind energy project (Seoul) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/02/371_303662.html

⁹³⁷¹ \$43 billion deal inked for ‘world’s biggest’ offshore wind farm in South Korea (Scarborough) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/43-billion-deal-inked-for-world-s-biggest-offshore-wind-farm-in-south-korea-1.5296978>

⁹³⁷² All vehicles in Korea to be emission-free by 2050: ministry (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Sci-Tech/view?articleId=195541>

On 31 March 2021, the Technology Innovation Strategy for Carbon Neutrality was established which presented goals and strategies for meeting the carbon neutrality goal of 2050. These include presentation of strategies for the development of carbon neutral technologies like wind and solar power, hydrogen, and bioenergy.⁹³⁷³ These also included planning and promoting large scale carbon emitters for developing low carbon processing methods, funding and accelerating new technologies, and providing tax exemptions for carbon neutral research and development projects to attract more private investments.⁹³⁷⁴

On 22 April 2021, President Moon announced Korea's pledge of ending all public financing for building coal-fired power plants overseas during the Leaders Summit on Climate.⁹³⁷⁵ This action will aim to further reduce emission levels and Korea's reliance on power generated by goal. Korea will also increase the production of renewable energy which will include solar and wind power.⁹³⁷⁶

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced the approved amendments to the "Enforcement Decree of the Act on Promotion of Development and Distribution of Environment-friendly Motor Vehicles."⁹³⁷⁷ Under these amendments, public institutions, and private vehicles for the heads of public institutions are required to purchase and use only environment-friendly vehicles which include electric vehicles or hydrogen-fueled vehicles.⁹³⁷⁸

On 25 May 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Hong Nam-ki announced Korea's plan to invest KRW73.4 trillion—3.8 per cent of its GDP—in Green New Deal projects, including renewable energy technologies, green infrastructure, and sustainable mobility.⁹³⁷⁹ The government's public investment scheme will be complemented by a new USD4 billion fund to promote and support large-scale private investments in Green New Deal projects.⁹³⁸⁰ Together, these programs aim to accelerate Korea's transition to a low carbon economy, developing technologies for carbon neutrality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁹³⁸¹

⁹³⁷³ Establishment of the Strategy for Technology Innovation for Carbon Neutrality, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=5483>

⁹³⁷⁴ Establishment of the Strategy for Technology Innovation for Carbon Neutrality, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=5483&>

⁹³⁷⁵ President Announces Higher Targets for CO2 Emissions at Climate Summit, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Sejong-si) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197349>

⁹³⁷⁶ President Announces Higher Targets for CO2 Emissions at Climate Summit, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Sejong-si) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197349>

⁹³⁷⁷ Amendments to the Enforcement Decree of the Environment-friendly Vehicles Act Accepted at Cabinet Meeting, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.motie.go.kr/en/pc/pressreleases/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=844&bbs_cd_n=2

⁹³⁷⁸ Amendments to the Enforcement Decree of the Environment-friendly Vehicles Act Accepted at Cabinet Meeting, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.motie.go.kr/en/pc/pressreleases/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=844&bbs_cd_n=2

⁹³⁷⁹ Investment in Green New Deal to Reach 3.8 per cent of GDP by 2025, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=198621>

⁹³⁸⁰ Investment in Green New Deal to Reach 3.8 per cent of GDP by 2025, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=198621>

⁹³⁸¹ Investment in Green New Deal to Reach 3.8 per cent of GDP by 2025, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=198621>

On 28 May 2021, the government of Korea signed a pact with the African Development Bank to invest USD600 million in Africa's energy sector to develop renewable energy and accelerate a transition to clean consumption, with funds to support projects like solar home systems and off-grid solutions.⁹³⁸²

On 14 July 2021, the government of Korea announced the Korean New Deal 2.0, which will expand on the Green New Deal.⁹³⁸³ Under this deal, Korea announced a further investment of USD191 billion for green energy projects, which include increasing hydrogen vehicle use.⁹³⁸⁴ A new category of carbon neutrality was also added, under which investments will be made to develop sectoral carbon reduction programs and measurement systems for emission monitoring.⁹³⁸⁵

On 25 August 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced Korea's plans to invest USD1.07 billion to establish five hydrogen clusters across the country.⁹³⁸⁶ This project will facilitate Korea's goal of having 6.2 million hydrogen-powered vehicles on the road by 2040.⁹³⁸⁷ An electrolysis facility will be constructed in the North Jeolla Province cluster, with most of the national solar farms for conversion of water to hydrogen using clean solar-generated electricity.⁹³⁸⁸ Biogases from landfills will be collected for hydrogen production in the Incheon cluster, and a liquid hydrogen plant will be built in the Gangwon Province cluster.⁹³⁸⁹

On 31 August 2021, the National Assembly of Korea passed the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth, also called the Carbon Neutrality Act.⁹³⁹⁰ According to the bill, the government will be required to cut 35 per cent of gas emissions by 2030.⁹³⁹¹ To meet this goal, industries are required to increase the use of renewable energy.⁹³⁹² To facilitate this change, the

⁹³⁸² Africa: Korea to Invest USD600 Million in Renewable Energy Through AfDB (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/africa-korea-to-invest-600-million-in-renewable-energy-through-afdb/>

⁹³⁸³ Government Announces Korean New Deal 2.0, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=5173&type=N&insttCode=A260122&categoryId=109&language=A020101&pageIndex=3&gov=>

⁹³⁸⁴ South Korea Unveils USD190 Billion 'New Deal 2.0' Economic Plan, United Press International (Seoul) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2021/07/14/skorea-Korean-New-Deal-Moon-Jae-In-initiative-investment/2721626252358/

⁹³⁸⁵ Government Announces Korean New Deal 2.0, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=5173&type=N&insttCode=A260122&categoryId=109&language=A020101&pageIndex=3&gov=>

⁹³⁸⁶ Korea to Build Five Hydrogen Clusters with WON1.2 Trillion (Yonhap) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210825000848>

⁹³⁸⁷ Korea to Build Five Hydrogen Clusters with WON1.2 Trillion (Yonhap) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210825000848>

⁹³⁸⁸ Korea to Build Five Hydrogen Clusters with WON1.2 Trillion (Yonhap) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210825000848>

⁹³⁸⁹ Korea to Build Five Hydrogen Clusters with WON1.2 Trillion (Yonhap) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210825000848>

⁹³⁹⁰ Carbon Neutrality Act Passed by National Assembly Heraldng Economic and Social Transition Towards 2050 Carbon Neutrality (Seoul) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

<https://www.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?jsessionId=KdoLoNSf+2Mxx0ohslGR0dJ.mehome1?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1473610&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁹³⁹¹ Korea Becomes 14th in World to Legislate Carbon Neutrality Act (Yonhap) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210728000563&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁹³⁹² Drastic Carbon Neutrality Drive to Hurt Korean Firms (Seoul) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2021/09/693_315447.html

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced a funding of KRW6.7 trillion to thirteen carbon-intensive industries for assistance in developing technologies to reduce their carbon emissions.⁹³⁹³

On 9 September 2021, Korea's Industry Ministry announced an investment of USD81.5 million for developing new solutions to reduce carbon emissions in factories and industries.⁹³⁹⁴ These projects will include technologies for carbon capture before being released into the air, their utilization and storage for later use, and technologies for developing solutions for storing carbon dioxide indefinitely.⁹³⁹⁵

Korea has taken actions to address three of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove) and endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions through investing in technologies for renewable energy production like wind, solar and hydrogen. It has complied with its commitment to reuse and reduce through investments and production of electric and hydrogen power and sources. It has complied with its commitment to remove and reduce carbon emissions by limiting investments and reliance on coal-generated power. Further, Korea has demonstrated its commitment to hydrogen policies through investments into hydrogen clusters. However, it has not sufficiently complied with its commitment to recycle.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Minabil Iftikhar

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Energy released the National Electricity System Development Program for the 2020-2034 period. This program outlines a plan to increase the capacity of hydroelectric power generation by 6.8 per cent by 2024. This is done with the goal of achieving 35 per cent clean energy generation by 2024 and 43 per cent by 2030.⁹³⁹⁶ Nevertheless, the plan outlines intent to more natural gas builds after 2024, a non-renewable form of energy.⁹³⁹⁷

On 23 February 2021, the Lower House of Congress passed a bill that would increase state control of the electricity market.⁹³⁹⁸ This bill has been criticized by environmental groups as the bill is seen as

⁹³⁹³ Drastic Carbon Neutrality Drive to Hurt Korean Firms (Seoul) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2021/09/693_315447.html

⁹³⁹⁴ South Korea to Spend WON95 Billion on Research of Carbon-Reduction Technologies (Seoul) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210908006700320>

⁹³⁹⁵ South Korea to Spend WON95 Billion on Research of Carbon-Reduction Technologies (Seoul) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN2021090800670032>

⁹³⁹⁶ Ministry of Energy Releases Energy Sector Development Plan (Mexico City) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mexicobusiness.news/energy/news/ministry-energy-releases-energy-sector-development-plan>

⁹³⁹⁷ Natural Gas Dominates Capacity Additions in Mexico's Energy Ministry Power Plans (Sterling) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.naturalgasintel.com/natural-gas-dominates-capacity-additions-for-mexicos-energy-ministry-power-plants/>

⁹³⁹⁸ Mexico's lower house approves divisive electricity bill (Mexico City) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/mexico-energy-electricity-idINL1N2KU01E>

a reversal to Mexico's endeavors in energy transition in the past decade—putting renewable energy supply to the “back of the queue.”⁹³⁹⁹

On 28 May 2021, the board of directors of the North American Development Bank, which is equally governed by both the American and the Mexican Governments, approved three new water projects to expand environmental infrastructure.⁹⁴⁰⁰ The three projects consist of implementing a new water distribution system in El Paso County, Texas, as well as expanding and improving the wastewater collection systems in Doña Ana County, New Mexico and Camargo, Chihuahua.⁹⁴⁰¹ The goals of these projects are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change, as well as support the region in its transition to a green economy by allowing the Bank to invest in more varied environmental projects.⁹⁴⁰²

On 12 August 2021, the Mexican government reached multiple agreements with the Mennonite community in which the Mennonite communities committed to stop all activities that contribute to the deforestation of areas in the Mayan jungle.⁹⁴⁰³ As well, a permanent working table was implemented between the Mexican government and the Mennonite communities to solve any future matters related to deforestation.⁹⁴⁰⁴ The goal of these agreements is to reduce and revert the deforestation that has occurred in the region, as the Mayan forest acts as a carbon sink, thus removing emissions.⁹⁴⁰⁵

Mexico has taken actions to address two of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove) and endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform. Through a variety of initiatives including investments into water projects, Mexico has taken action to reduce emissions. Further, through agreements to reverse deforestation, Mexico has demonstrated its commitment to removing emissions. Nevertheless, there has been a failure to address the commitment to reuse or recycle. As well, Mexico has not taken into consideration or attempted to employ hydrogen or enabling policies.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Angelo Wijaya and Zhenyi Tsai

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key

⁹³⁹⁹ Mexico urged to 'restore clean energy progress' (Winchester) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://renews.biz/66709/mexico-urged-to-restore-clean-energy-progress/>

⁹⁴⁰⁰ NADB approves three water projects on the Mexico-United States border (Mexico City) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/aprueba-el-bdan-tres-proyectos-de-agua-en-la-frontera-mexico-estados-unidos?idiom=es>

⁹⁴⁰¹ NADB approves three water projects on the Mexico-United States border (Mexico City) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/aprueba-el-bdan-tres-proyectos-de-agua-en-la-frontera-mexico-estados-unidos?idiom=es>

⁹⁴⁰² NADB approves three water projects on the Mexico-United States border (Mexico City) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 9 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/aprueba-el-bdan-tres-proyectos-de-agua-en-la-frontera-mexico-estados-unidos?idiom=es>

⁹⁴⁰³ Historic agreement with the Mennonite community to stop deforestation in the state of Campeche (Mexico City) 12 August 2021. Access Date: September 24 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/acuerdo-historico-con-la-comunidad-menonita-para-frenar-deforestacion-en-el-estado-de-campeche?idiom=es>

⁹⁴⁰⁴ Historic agreement with the Mennonite community to stop deforestation in the state of Campeche (Mexico City) 12 August 2021. Access Date: September 24 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/acuerdo-historico-con-la-comunidad-menonita-para-frenar-deforestacion-en-el-estado-de-campeche?idiom=es>

⁹⁴⁰⁵ Historic agreement with the Mennonite community to stop deforestation in the state of Campeche (Mexico City) 12 August 2021. Access Date: September 24 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/acuerdo-historico-con-la-comunidad-menonita-para-frenar-deforestacion-en-el-estado-de-campeche?idiom=es>

importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 27 January 2021, Russia presented a project for the processing of batteries. These solutions are aiming at solving issues of battery recycling within the framework of the federal project “Infrastructure for Waste Management of the I-II classes” as part of the national project “Ecology” and were presented by JSC Rusatom Gateway.⁹⁴⁰⁶

On 12 February 2021, Russia finalized amendments to the methodological guidelines aiming at the creation of a national system for accounting for greenhouse gas emissions. The new methodological guidelines make it possible to calculate the absorbing capacity of all-natural ecosystems within the Russian Federation and also determine the methods for accounting for the absorption and emissions of greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) by natural ecosystems (forests, steppes, tundra, swamps, freshwater bodies).⁹⁴⁰⁷

On 11 March 2021, Russian state-owned company, Novatek PJSC agreed on tripling the clean output of energy by the end of the decade, which includes installing carbon capture and storage in one of its Arctic fields and exploring hydrogen opportunities.⁹⁴⁰⁸

On 18 March 2021, Russia supported the initiative of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug to create carbon polygons, assessing the carbon absorptive capacity of forests and other ecosystems on the territory of the district jointly by specialized federal departments.⁹⁴⁰⁹

On 20 April 2021, the State Duma, the lower chamber of the Russian parliament, approved the law that creates a framework for climate projects in the country, and allows trading carbon units from emissions cuts or absorption.⁹⁴¹⁰ The law also requires companies to report their emission levels to regulators. From 2025, the legally mandated threshold of emissions will be lowered from 150,000 tons to 50,000 tons.⁹⁴¹¹

On 20 April 2021 Russia and German signed a Declaration of Intent. The document stipulated the creation of the High-level working group on sustainable energy and its constituent Sub-group on cooperation in the field of hydrogen energy. The Sub-group’s goals include the exchange of experience in studying the technology of hydrogen production, storage, use, and transportation.⁹⁴¹²

⁹⁴⁰⁶ Within the framework of the national project "Ecology" presented a project for the processing of batteries, Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/v_ramkakh_natsproekta_ekologiya_predstavlen_proekt_po_pererabotke_akkumulyatornykh_batarey/

⁹⁴⁰⁷ The Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia has developed an order on amendments to the Methodological Guidelines for the quantitative determination of the volume of absorption of greenhouse gases, Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/minprirody_rossii_razrabotalo_rasporyazhenie_o_vnesenii_izmeneniy_v_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_kolich/

⁹⁴⁰⁸ Russia’s biggest LNG producer joins race to make fuel greener, JNW (Toronto) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.jwnenergy.com/article/2021/3/11/russias-biggest-lng-producer-joins-race-to-make-fu/>

⁹⁴⁰⁹ Ministry of Natural Resources Supported the Initiative of the Khanty – Mansy Autonomous Okrug to create “carbon polygons,” Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rosleskhoz_podderzhal_initsiativu_khmao_po_sozdaniyu_karbonovykh_poligonov

⁹⁴¹⁰ Russian lawmakers back the nation’s first ever climate law, Bloomberg (New York) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-20/russian-lawmakers-back-the-nation-s-first-ever-climate-law>

⁹⁴¹¹ Russian lawmakers back the nation’s first ever climate law, Bloomberg (New York) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-20/russian-lawmakers-back-the-nation-s-first-ever-climate-law>

⁹⁴¹² The Ministry of Energy of Russia and the Ministry of Economy and Energy of Germany Signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Energy, Russian Ministry of Energy (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20562>

On 3 August 2021, the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin approved a law to provide subsidies to regions for the purchase of containers for the separate accumulation of municipal solid waste.⁹⁴¹³ This is deemed to be an important step towards a circular economy, where waste becomes the raw material for new products.⁹⁴¹⁴

Russia has taken action to address all four components of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove). Through projects that support green processing of batteries and regulations towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Russia has complied with reducing emissions and recycling batteries. The agreements made to proceed with carbon capture and storage projects demonstrate their compliance with removing emissions. Finally, Russia's decision to fund containers for the accumulation of waste shows a commitment to reusing raw materials for new products. Nevertheless, Russia has not taken into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dimitris Symeonidis

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture signed a memorandum of cooperation with Japan's Ministry of Environment to strengthen cooperation in the field of environmental protection. It aims to enhance collaboration on environmental protection and preservation and strategic planning and to promote environmental technology studies and capacity-building. It seeks to improve methods and techniques to monitor and control air pollution, develop methods and techniques to treat and dispose of contaminated soil and to reduce noise pollution and control vibration, improve environmental impact assessment procedures through studying the current status and management of waste including chemicals and hazardous waste.⁹⁴¹⁵

On 11 March 2021, the Ministry of Energy signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Germany on the production and exploitation of hydrogen. This memorandum of understanding comes in the context of cooperation between the two countries in the field of hydrogen, in order to enhance development sustainability and prosperity, job opportunities in the two countries, protect the environment, and work to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, especially with regard to reducing emissions.⁹⁴¹⁶

⁹⁴¹³ The government approved the rules of granting subsidies to regions for the purchase of containers for separate waste collection, Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/pravitelstvo_utverdilo_pravila_predostavleniya_subsidii_regionam_na_zakupku_konteynerov_dlya_razdeln/

⁹⁴¹⁴ The government approved the rules of granting subsidies to regions for the purchase of containers for separate waste collection, Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/pravitelstvo_utverdilo_pravila_predostavleniya_subsidii_regionam_na_zakupku_konteynerov_dlya_razdeln/

⁹⁴¹⁵ MEWA, Japan's Ministry of Environment sign MoC on environmental protection, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Environment, Water & Agriculture (Riyadh) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News16122020.aspx>

⁹⁴¹⁶ Minister of Energy signs the Saudi – German Memorandum of Understanding on Hydrogen Cooperation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/Saudi-German-Memorandum.aspx>

On 3 February 2021, the Ministry of Energy announced the readiness of small solar photovoltaic systems, which allow consumer electricity production from home or work and link it to the public electrical grid distribution systems in the country. These systems include a calculator to determine the economic feasibility of the installation of the energy system of a small solar photovoltaic system, to clarify the estimated costs and to determine the procedures for a secure connection to the network.⁹⁴¹⁷

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Energy, in cooperation with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, inaugurated the university's Circular Carbon Initiative. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to harness the strength of the university's research and innovations, in order to support the circular carbon economy agenda.⁹⁴¹⁸

On 11 January 2021, Saudi Arabia unveiled plans to build an emissions-free city, known as "The Line," powered entirely by clean energy and designed to function without cars or roads. The 170-kilometre belt of "hyper-connected future communities" will be part of the country's Neom urban mega-project—the USD500 billion centrepiece of the Saudi Vision 2030 scheme, which Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman hopes will drive the kingdom's long-term diversification away from oil.⁹⁴¹⁹

On 28 March 2021, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced the "Saudi Green Initiative." The initiative will include, among others, planting over 10 billion trees, which, among other functions, will act as carbon sinks, but it will also work to reduce carbon emissions as it will include an ambitious renewable energy program that will generate 50 per cent of Saudi Arabia's energy from renewables by 2030, and several other projects in the field of clean hydrocarbons, estimated to eliminate more than 130 MT of carbon emissions.⁹⁴²⁰

On 24 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy announced that Saudi Arabia would join the US, Canada, Norway and Qatar to establish the net-zero producers' forum, a platform to discuss on finding ways to further support the Paris Convention on Climate Change goals.⁹⁴²¹ In this forum, Saudi Arabia, together the other member states will develop practical strategies to bring emissions to zero neutrality, including limiting methane emissions and promoting the circular carbon economy approach, developing and disseminating clean energy technologies, carbon capture and storage, diversifying sources of income that do not depend on hydrocarbon revenues, and other measures that are compatible with the national conditions of each country.⁹⁴²²

⁹⁴¹⁷ Ministry of Energy announces the readiness to operate with small solar PV systems, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/readiness-work-small-solar-PV-systems.aspx>

⁹⁴¹⁸ Minister of Energy confirms readiness of KAUST to activate their circular carbon economy initiative, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/kaust-cce-initiative-participation.aspx>

⁹⁴¹⁹ Saudi Arabia announces 'The Line': A futuristic zero-carbon city without cars, NS Energy Business (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.nsenergybusiness.com/news/industry-news/the-line-saudi-arabia-neom/>

⁹⁴²⁰ Crown Prince announces: "The Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative," Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-280320211>

⁹⁴²¹ The Kingdom will join the USA, Canada, Norway and Qatar to establish the "Net-zero producers' forum," Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/Zero-Neutrality-Producers-Forum.aspx>

⁹⁴²² The Kingdom will join the USA, Canada, Norway and Qatar to establish the "Net-zero producers' forum," Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/Zero-Neutrality-Producers-Forum.aspx>

On 19 August 2021, the Ministry of Energy announced that two pieces of land, located in the third industrial city of Jeddah and the industrial city of Rabigh, with an aggregate area of 12 million square metres, have been allocated to the development of two renewable energy plants by the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (MODON).⁹⁴²³ The Ministry in this way plans to diversify its energy mix, including the addition of gas and renewables, with the objective of reducing CO₂ emissions.⁹⁴²⁴

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to address two of the four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove). Through policies contributing to renewable energy, as well as through investments into carbon sinks, Saudi Arabia has demonstrated a commitment to reducing and removing emissions. Further, with its memorandum of understanding with the German government, there is a demonstrated commitment to hydrogen policies. Nevertheless, there have been no actions contributing to reusing or recycling.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dimitris Symeonidis

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 24 November 2020, the Green Economy unit of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism announced a three-year Municipal Energy Resilience Project in collaboration with Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism.⁹⁴²⁵ This project aims to work with the national government to explore how new energy regulations could lead to renewable energy generations within Western Cape.⁹⁴²⁶

On 2 December 2020, South Africa received a USD305,000 World Bank grant to “develop a study on sustainable financial mechanisms for demand-side energy efficiency market.” The beneficiaries of the study, the National Energy Development Institute and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, will “identify and develop appropriate financing mechanisms and associated institutional structures for implementing energy efficiency measures at scale, focusing on the public, agriculture and industrial sectors.”⁹⁴²⁷

⁹⁴²³ Ministry of Energy announces allocation of two pieces of land in the industrial cities of Jeddah and Rabigh with an aggregate area of 12 million sqm to renewable energy projects, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/ministry-of-energy-announces-allocation-of-2-lands-for-renewable-energy-projects-in-jeddah-and-rabegh.aspx>

⁹⁴²⁴ Ministry of Energy announces allocation of two pieces of land in the industrial cities of Jeddah and Rabigh with an aggregate area of 12 million sqm to renewable energy projects, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/ministry-of-energy-announces-allocation-of-2-lands-for-renewable-energy-projects-in-jeddah-and-rabegh.aspx>

⁹⁴²⁵ Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism launches Municipal Energy Resilience Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 24 November 2020. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/more-energy-secure-future-24-nov-2020-0000>

⁹⁴²⁶ MEC David Meynier Announces Municipalities Participating in the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 17 March 2021. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-david-maynier-announces-municipalities-participating-municipal-energy-resilience>

⁹⁴²⁷ South Africa Receives World Bank Support to Stimulate Demand-Side Energy Efficiency Market, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. (Cape Town) 02 December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dmr.gov.za/news-room/post/1883/south-africa-receives-world-bank-support-to-stimulate-demand-side-energy-efficiency-market>

On 13 December 2020, the Department of Environment, Forest and Fisheries approved the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Strategy. This project aims “for the coordination and implementation of the Antarctic Treaties Act, relating to research, conservation, sustainable resource use and environmental management in support of the African agenda.” The Southern Ocean is a significant sink for heat and carbon dioxide, meaning action towards its preservation will have significant results in reducing and mitigating climate change.⁹⁴²⁸

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Water and Sanitation pledged to strategically intervene to minimize the impact of raw sewer spillage into the Vaal River and waters in the southern Gauteng region. The department promised to improve local infrastructure and “would refurbish the wastewater treatment works and repair reservoirs, pump stations and rising mains.” To support this initiative, Deputy President Mabuza has dedicated R1.8 billion.⁹⁴²⁹

On 17 March 2021, Member of Executive Council David Maynier announced over R48.8 million over the medium term and R20 million in provincial reserves for the Municipal Energy Resilience (MER) Project in the Western Cape.⁹⁴³⁰

South Africa has taken actions to address three out of the four Rs framework, partially complying with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform. This was achieved through policies to reduce emissions through renewable energy, removal of emissions by protecting carbon sinks, and reuse of wastewater treatment works through infrastructure. Nevertheless, South Africa has not taken any actions towards recycling, or towards implementing hydrogen or enabling policies.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aisha Shafaqat

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

On 23 November 2020, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dönmez announced that Turkey expects to increase its capacity for solar and wind energy. Also, the Minister stated that the production of wind energy surpassed the total production of other renewable resources for the first time in Turkey’s history. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions and invest in clean energy.⁹⁴³¹

On 25 November 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that Turkey would establish a wind turbine and research and development factory in Izmir in line with the Renewable Energy Resource Areas project. The aim is to lead the world in wind energy innovation and increase the use of renewable energy.⁹⁴³²

⁹⁴²⁸ Environment, Forestry and Fisheries approves Antarctic and Southern Ocean Strategy for South Africa, South African Government (Cape Town) 13 December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/cabinet-approves-antarctic-and-southern-ocean-strategy-south-africa-13-dec-2020-0000>

⁹⁴²⁹ Water and Sanitation commits to deal with Vaal River pollution Crisis, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 January 2021. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-commits-deal-vaal-river-pollution-crisis-12-mar-2021-0000>

⁹⁴³⁰ MEC David Meynier Announces Municipalities Participating in the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-david-meynier-announces-municipalities-participating-municipal-energy-resilience>

⁹⁴³¹ Turkey has left behind the European countries in renewable energy, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=732>

⁹⁴³² Wind power "light" 9.6 million households, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=733>

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources committed to increasing electricity generation that uses domestic and renewable energy to 65 per cent of all total installed power by 2023, compared to 50 per cent for the past 2 years. The goal is to increase Turkey's use of domestic and renewable energy.⁹⁴³³

On 10 December 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that Turkey's carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 66 million tonnes by 2023. The goal is to lessen Turkey's carbon emissions.⁹⁴³⁴

On 10 December 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources has implemented the Renewable Energy Resource Areas model that aims to accelerate Turkey's renewable energy investments. The model "requires domestic production, domestic engineers, domestic R&D and innovation in the field of renewable energy," with the goal of supporting energy and export technologies.⁹⁴³⁵

On 10 December 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will launch the Renewable Energy Source Guarantee Document in 2021.⁹⁴³⁶ It will certify that a certain proportion of electricity is produced from renewable energy sources. The goal is to provide transparency for consumers and encourage the consumption of renewable electricity.⁹⁴³⁷

On 6 January 2021, Minister Dönmez stated that Turkey increased its solar power capacity from 40 megawatts in 2014 to 6,630 megawatts. The goal is to increase Turkey's use of renewable energy.⁹⁴³⁸

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning announced that it strives to conduct projects to combat climate change on national and global levels. The Ministry outlined 541 actions and institutions to collaborate with, including other ministries, local governments and universities. Turkey will also be conducting climate research with the National Climate Change Platform and establishing the National Climate Change Research Center "where we will have our professors, local governments, non-governmental organizations in these scientific researches, and where policies will be determined and followed."⁹⁴³⁹

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning highlighted that it aims to increase the recovery rate of waste to 60 per cent by 2035 as part of the Zero Waste Project. The Zero Waste project is expected to expand across Turkey by 2023. The goal is to increase recycling within Turkey.⁹⁴⁴⁰

⁹⁴³³ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁹⁴³⁴ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁹⁴³⁵ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁹⁴³⁶ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁹⁴³⁷ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁹⁴³⁸ Applications for mini YEKA competitions in the sun will be received within 2 months, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=753>

⁹⁴³⁹ Ministerial Institution: "We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁹⁴⁴⁰ Ministerial Institution: "We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning also said it will work to install solar energy systems and construct energy-efficient buildings that have strong insulation. The Ministry also announced its aim to reduce fossil fuel usage in its buildings by 25 per cent by 2023. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions through more energy-efficient buildings.⁹⁴⁴¹

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning announced its plans to expand protected areas and ecological corridors through the creation of new national gardens across Turkey. The goal is to increase carbon sinks, in line with Turkey's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.⁹⁴⁴²

On 10 March 2021, Minister Dönmez announced that the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is commissioned for 2023 where it will generate electricity with zero emission value, which contributes to Turkey's green energy target. The goal is to reduce Turkey's carbon dioxide emissions using more sustainable energy sources.⁹⁴⁴³

On 24 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization announced plans to update the Turkish National Climate Change Strategy and National Climate Action Plan.⁹⁴⁴⁴ The update will include the goal of increasing electricity production from solar energy to 10 gigawatts and from wind energy to 16 gigawatts, along with the implementation of the Emission Trading System for clean energy production.⁹⁴⁴⁵ The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization also stated that by 2023, it will reduce fossil fuel usage in buildings by 25 per cent and ensure that all buildings have an energy identity certificate by 2030.⁹⁴⁴⁶ The goal is to increase the use of renewable energy sources and better manage energy consumption.⁹⁴⁴⁷

On 2 April 2021, Minister Dönmez announced that the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources aims to achieve 1000 megawatts of installed power within two years at the Karapınar Solar Power Plant that is currently under construction.⁹⁴⁴⁸ This power plant is to be "the world's largest solar power plant," after receiving TRY1.042 billion from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in 2020.⁹⁴⁴⁹ The Ministry plans to invest an additional TRY612 million in the power plant in 2021.⁹⁴⁵⁰

⁹⁴⁴¹ Ministerial Institution: "We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁹⁴⁴² Ministerial Institution: "We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁹⁴⁴³ The groundbreaking ceremony of the third unit of Akkuyu NGS was held, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=788>

⁹⁴⁴⁴ Ministerial Institution: "We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁹⁴⁴⁵ Ministerial Institution: "We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁹⁴⁴⁶ Ministerial Institution: "We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁹⁴⁴⁷ Ministerial Institution: "We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target," The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁹⁴⁴⁸ "We aim to reach an installed power of 1000 megawatts in 2 years", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=802>

⁹⁴⁴⁹ "We aim to reach an installed power of 1000 megawatts in 2 years", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=802>

The power plant can increase Turkey's solar power capacity, which is an important renewable energy source for the country.

On 2 April 2021, Minister Dönmez stated that in 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will build Turkey's hydrogen strategy after consulting industry experts and the public.⁹⁴⁵¹ Turkey will continue its intensive research and development on alternative energy sources, especially hydrogen and the potential of mixing hydrogen into the existing natural gas network.⁹⁴⁵² The Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mining Research Council is conducting studies on hydrogen and transportation manufacturers are considering transforming diesel trains to being hydrogen-powered.⁹⁴⁵³ Minister Dönmez noted 4 key advantages of the transition to hydrogen: the increased use of renewable energy sources; the ability to decarbonize the heat industry; the ability to produce hydrogen from domestic coal; and increased use of boron to store hydrogen.⁹⁴⁵⁴ Minister Dönmez stated that Turkey's goal is to produce hydrogen from renewable sources, also known as "green hydrogen."⁹⁴⁵⁵

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Rectorate of Marmara University in Istanbul signed the "Cooperation Protocol for the Development of National and International Projects within the Scope of Energy Efficiency."⁹⁴⁵⁶ The protocol includes developing studies, organizing events and conducting joint projects to promote and increase energy efficiency.⁹⁴⁵⁷ Minister Dönmez stated that the Marmara University campus will be focusing on maintaining zero-waste facilities that operate using renewable energy-efficient sources.⁹⁴⁵⁸ The goal is to reduce energy usage in public buildings by 15 per cent compared to last year.⁹⁴⁵⁹

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources announced its goal of producing a yearly minimum of 1000 megawatts of wind power and 1000 megawatts of solar power within the framework of the National Energy and Mining Policy.⁹⁴⁶⁰ Minister Dönmez stated that investments in renewable energy are expected to double in the next five years and electricity using renewable energy is expected to surpass coal electricity in the next five to 10 years.⁹⁴⁶¹ Minister Dönmez noted

⁹⁴⁵⁰ "We aim to reach an installed power of 1000 megawatts in 2 years", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=802>

⁹⁴⁵¹ "We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁹⁴⁵² "We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁹⁴⁵³ "We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁹⁴⁵⁴ "We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁹⁴⁵⁵ "We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey", The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁹⁴⁵⁶ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁹⁴⁵⁷ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁹⁴⁵⁸ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁹⁴⁵⁹ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁹⁴⁶⁰ Mini YEKA competitions in solar energy will start on Monday., The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=10811>

⁹⁴⁶¹ Mini YEKA competitions in solar energy will start on Monday., The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=10811>

that legal regulations and incentives such as the European Union's carbon tax will "reinforce the dominance of carbon-free production resources in the coming period."⁹⁴⁶²

On 22 May 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization announced that it will be creating at least one national garden in every province until 2023.⁹⁴⁶³ The national gardens require the planting of trees, which act as carbon sinks that help remove carbon emissions.⁹⁴⁶⁴

On 24 June 2021, Minister Kurum announced Turkey's plans to expand Zero-Waste and Smart City practices throughout the country.⁹⁴⁶⁵ These practices entail more effective use of resources, protection of nature, making buildings Zero-Waste compatible and expanding smart technologies on a regional and national level.⁹⁴⁶⁶ The goal is to reduce waste in Turkey and use more energy-efficient practices to reduce the country's carbon footprint.⁹⁴⁶⁷ The Ministry aims to implement Zero-Waste across public institutions and buildings including airports, malls and markets by the end of 2023 using regulations to reduce plastic waste and emissions.⁹⁴⁶⁸

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform with its 4Rs framework. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions with its investments in solar, nuclear and wind energy, installation of energy-efficient buildings and the introduction of 3D software to detect sources of air pollution. It has also complied with its commitment to recycle and reduce waste through the Zero Waste Project. Additionally, Turkey has made efforts to remove carbon emissions through the expansion of national gardens and protected ecological areas. Turkey has also committed to research and development on hydrogen and the creation of Turkey's hydrogen strategy to help the country work towards decarbonization and accelerate hydrogen innovation.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amanda Wang

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

⁹⁴⁶² Mini YEKA competitions in solar energy will start on Monday., The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=10811>

⁹⁴⁶³ Bursa Gökdere National Garden, The First Seeds Meet With the Soil, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bursa-gokdere-millet-bahcesi-nde-ilk-fidanlar-toprakla-bulustu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-31918>

⁹⁴⁶⁴ Bursa Gökdere National Garden, The First Seeds Meet With the Soil, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 22 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bursa-gokdere-millet-bahcesi-nde-ilk-fidanlar-toprakla-bulustu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-31918>

⁹⁴⁶⁵ The Minister Meets UN Habitat Executive Director Sharif, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-un-habitat-icra-direktoru-sharif-ile-gorustu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-31933>

⁹⁴⁶⁶ The Minister Meets UN Habitat Executive Director Sharif, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-un-habitat-icra-direktoru-sharif-ile-gorustu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-31933>

⁹⁴⁶⁷ The Minister Meets UN Habitat Executive Director Sharif, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-un-habitat-icra-direktoru-sharif-ile-gorustu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-31933>

⁹⁴⁶⁸ Minister Speaks At The Global Climate Change Research Commission, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-kuresel-iklim-degisikligi-arastirma-komisyonunda-konustu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-31936>

On 25 November 2020, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced the government's 2020 Spending Review forecasting government spending for 2021 to 2022.⁹⁴⁶⁹ The government announced, in line with its aims to reduce emissions in the transport sector, GBP1.9 billion in funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and consumer incentives. Further, the government will provide GBP1.1 billion to make homes and buildings more energy efficient. The government also announced the allocation of GBP1 billion for a Carbon Capture and Storage Infrastructure Fund as well as GBP92 million to the Nature for Climate Fund to increase tree-planting and peatland restoration, both key sources of carbon sequestration. This funding is conducive to the UK's goal of planting 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025.⁹⁴⁷⁰

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new emissions targets aiming for a 68 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This is an increase from the previous commitment of 53 per cent. With this increase the UK commits to reducing emissions at the fastest rate of any major economy.⁹⁴⁷¹

On 5 December 2020, the UK announced increased funding for tree planting measures. The GBP3.9 million in funding includes GBP2.5 million for pilot studies to develop new and efficient methods for planting trees in towns, cities and the countryside. The other GBP1.4 million has been given to the Environment Agency to fund 15 projects that will plant 850,000 trees along rivers. These initiatives contribute towards the government's goal of planting 30,000 hectares of trees per year by 2025.⁹⁴⁷²

On 6 December 2020, the UK launched Trees for Climate, funded by a GBP12.1 million, which will the planting of over 500 hectares of trees. When matured these trees will store 100,000 tons of carbon and will help the government reach its zero net emissions by 2050 target.⁹⁴⁷³

On 10 December 2020, the UK announced nearly GBP40 million in funding to 68 projects that will plant over 800,000 trees and create over 300 hectares of woodland. The funding is part of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and will help create green industries and sequester carbon.⁹⁴⁷⁴

On 12 December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The updated contribution plan commits the UK to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.⁹⁴⁷⁵

⁹⁴⁶⁹ Spending Review to fight virus, deliver promises and invest in UK's recovery, HM Treasury (London) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spending-review-to-fight-virus-deliver-promises-and-invest-in-uks-recovery>

⁹⁴⁷⁰ Spending Review 2020, HM Treasury (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-2020-documents/spending-review-2020>

⁹⁴⁷¹ UK sets ambitious new climate target ahead of UN Summit, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sets-ambitious-new-climate-target-ahead-of-un-summit>

⁹⁴⁷² £3.9 million to drive innovative tree planting, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London), 5 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/39-million-to-drive-innovative-tree-planting>

⁹⁴⁷³ 500 hectare planting boost for England's Community Forests, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) December 6 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/500-hectare-planting-boost-for-englands-community-forests>

⁹⁴⁷⁴ 800,000 trees set to be planted as Green Recovery Challenge Fund projects announced, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/800000-trees-set-to-be-planted-as-green-recovery-challenge-fund-projects-announced>

⁹⁴⁷⁵ Formal submission of the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 12 December 2020. 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-nationally-determined-contribution-communication-to-the-unfccc>

On 12 December 2020, the UK co-convened the Climate Ambition Summit with the United Nations and France.⁹⁴⁷⁶ At the summit, Prime Minister Johnson announced that the UK will end taxpayer support of international fossil fuel projects “as soon as possible” after a period of consultation and before COP26 in November 2021. This will accelerate the transition to green technology and renewable energy and the government will work with the UK oil and gas sector to facilitate the transition to low carbon energy sources.⁹⁴⁷⁷

On 14 December 2020, the UK set out the Energy White Paper, a plan to clean up energy systems. Within this plan includes steps to reduce emissions by 230 million metric tons by shifting away from fossil fuels with a GBP6.7 billion investment. While the timeline of this reduction was not specified, it supports a broader goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Additionally, this plan establishes a UK emissions trading scheme to come into effect 1 January 2021, to increase ambition on reducing emissions. The plan also includes the decision to invest GBP1 billion into carbon-capture storage in four industrial clusters by 2030 and at least one fully net-zero cluster by 2040. Finally, the plan outlines steps to stimulate the hydrogen economy by working with industry to aim for 5GW of production by 2030, backed up by a new GBP240 million net-zero Hydrogen Fund for low carbon hydrogen production.⁹⁴⁷⁸

On 6 January 2021, Science Minister Amanda Solloway announced an investment of GBP213 million to upgrade the UK’s scientific infrastructure. Some of the funding, although it is unclear how much, will go towards funding wind turbine testing facilities at the University of Plymouth and an X-ray facility at the University of Liverpool which will help scientists understand how carbon dioxide interacts with sandstone rocks aiding the development of improved methods of carbon capture and storage in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁹⁴⁷⁹

On 27 January 2021, Business Minister Paul Scully announced the investment of GBP42.3 million matched by the aviation industry for a total of GBP84.6 million in three projects seeking to develop green technology in the aviation industry with the goal of powering zero-emission flights by 2023.⁹⁴⁸⁰

On 29 January 2021, the UK announced that it will present legislation regarding the protection of vegetation on bog habitats. The burning of vegetation on blanket bogs is damaging to the habitat and complicates restoration efforts. The UK has 13 per cent of the world’s blanket bogs and they are a natural carbon sink making them crucial to the UK’s emission reduction goals.⁹⁴⁸¹

On 4 February 2021, Energy Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced the latest round of the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund which will provide GBP11 million in funding to small and medium sized

⁹⁴⁷⁶ Summit shows new surge in action and ambition on road to Glasgow Climate Conference, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summit-shows-new-surge-in-action-and-ambition-on-road-to-glasgow-climate-conference>

⁹⁴⁷⁷ PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas, Prime Minister’s Office (London), 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-the-uk-will-end-support-for-fossil-fuel-sector-overseas>

⁹⁴⁷⁸ Government sets out plans for clean energy system and green jobs boom to build back greener, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plans-for-clean-energy-system-and-green-jobs-boom-to-build-back-greener>

⁹⁴⁷⁹ Over £200 million boost to upgrade UK labs to help scientists tackle COVID-19 and cut emissions, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-200-million-boost-to-upgrade-uk-labs-to-help-scientists-tackle-covid-19-and-cut-emissions>

⁹⁴⁸⁰ £84 million boost for technology to power a green aviation revolution, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/84-million-boost-for-technology-to-power-a-green-aviation-revolution>

⁹⁴⁸¹ Legislation will be brought forward to prevent the burning of heather and other vegetation on protected blanket bog habitats, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-national-rainforests-to-be-protected-by-new-rules>

businesses for the development of green technologies that reduce carbon emissions. The fund will support up to 15 projects and is part of the GBP1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio seeking to reduce emissions in line with the UK's 2030 goals.⁹⁴⁸²

On 7 February 2021, the UK announced an investment of GBP40 million to help the UK's most polluting industries cut their carbon emissions. This announcement marks the start of the second funding window for the government's Industrial Energy Transformation Fund which will give between GBP100,000 and GBP14 million to single applicants and will provide a total GBP289 million in funding through to 2024. As a result of these projects, carbon emissions will be reduced by an estimated 2.6 million tons.⁹⁴⁸³

On 15 February 2021, Minister Trevelyan announced the creation of the UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment funded by a GBP10 million government investment. The Centre, which is set to begin operations in April 2021, has physical hubs in Leeds and London and provides data and analytics to businesses that are looking to consider the impact of their investments and business decisions on the climate and the environment.⁹⁴⁸⁴

On 1 March 2021, the UK introduced updated energy labels which simplify the way energy efficiency is represented on products. The new system raises the standards for each class of energy efficiency (scale of A to G) making it so that few products will receive an A classification (whereas, under the old system, most products were classified as A+, A++ or A+++). The new labels will provide clarification on energy efficiency and incentivize producers to make their products more energy efficient.⁹⁴⁸⁵

On 9 March 2021, the UK announced a GBP92 million investment for the development of green technologies as part of the GBP1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio. GBP68 million of this investment is dedicated to improving storage capacity technology which will improve the reliability of clean energy and accelerate commercialization. GBP20 million will fund floating offshore wind turbines, allowing them to be situated in areas where the water is too deep for them to be embedded in the sea floor or by advancing the development of dynamic high voltage cable systems and moorings. This is in line with the government's commitment to power every home in the country with wind by 2030. The final GBP4 million is dedicated to increasing the production of sustainably sourced biomass.⁹⁴⁸⁶

On 10 March 2021, the UK announced legislation on energy efficiency and "premature obsolescence" standards. Manufacturers of items such as washing machines, fridges and televisions will now have to adhere to stricter energy consumption standards and will also be required to make spare parts

⁹⁴⁸² £11 million boost for energy entrepreneurs to turn green dreams into reality, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/11-million-boost-for-energy-entrepreneurs-to-turn-green-dreams-into-reality>

⁹⁴⁸³ £40 million government funding to help polluting businesses clean up, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-government-funding-to-help-polluting-businesses-clean-up>

⁹⁴⁸⁴ Leeds and London set to become global centres of green finance, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leeds-and-london-set-to-become-global-centres-of-green-finance>

⁹⁴⁸⁵ Electrical appliances to be cheaper to run and last longer with new standards, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/electrical-appliances-to-be-cheaper-to-run-and-last-longer-with-new-standards>

⁹⁴⁸⁶ Over £90 million government funding to power green technologies, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-90-million-government-funding-to-power-green-technologies>

available in order to extend the lifespan of products. The new standards will reduce 8 million tons of carbon emissions and improve the lifespan of certain products by up to 10 years.⁹⁴⁸⁷

On 12 March 2021, the UK launched the Mobilizing Finance for Forests Programme through which it will invest GBP150 million in order to fund sustainable land-use projects and rainforest protection and reforestation projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The fund will also attract private financial investment. The funding will help remove 28 million tons of carbon from the atmosphere over the next 15 years. This funding is part of the UK's commitment to provide GBP11.6 billion in international climate financing.⁹⁴⁸⁸

On 12 March 2021, the UK announced that an allocation of GBP2.7 million, as part of the Local Authority Treescapes fund, will go towards planting trees in previously neglected landscapes such as urban centers and beside roads and footpaths. The planting of these trees, particularly in urban areas or along roads, will help with carbon sequestration.⁹⁴⁸⁹

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced the government's new bus strategy. The strategy, backed by GBP3 billion investment, will deliver 4,000 electric or hydrogen buses providing zero-emission travel. As part of the measures, the government also announced that they will end the sale of new diesel buses and launched a consultation period to determine an appropriate end date.⁹⁴⁹⁰

On 16 March 2021, the UK announced the launch of the Green Fuel, Green Skies competition which will see GBP15 million allocated to the development of facilities capable of turning everyday waste into jet fuel. Companies will bid for a portion of the funding to put towards projects that are seeking to develop technologies to convert household waste, wood and excess electricity into aviation fuel. This fuel is made of recycled materials and also emits up to 70 per cent less than conventional jet fuel.⁹⁴⁹¹

On 17 March 2021, Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng announced the government's new Industrial Decarbonization Strategy which outlines the government's plans for creating a low carbon industrial sector. In line with the strategy, the government announced funding of GBP171 million from the Industrial Decarbonization Challenge to green technology projects for the purpose of aiding the rollout of decarbonization infrastructure (carbon capture, usage and storage and hydrogen). Further funding of GBP932 million in from the Public Sector Decarbonization Scheme will also be directed to reduce carbon emissions from public buildings. The government also announced its intent to introduce new rules on measuring the energy and carbon performance of large commercial and industrial buildings which includes office buildings and factories in England and Wales which could lead to a reduction in annual carbon emissions by over 2 million tons.⁹⁴⁹²

⁹⁴⁸⁷ Electrical appliances to be cheaper to run and last longer with new standards, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/electrical-appliances-to-be-cheaper-to-run-and-last-longer-with-new-standards>

⁹⁴⁸⁸ £150 million government investment to save the world's rainforests Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/150-million-government-investment-to-save-the-worlds-rainforests>

⁹⁴⁸⁹ New tree fund for local communities announced, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-tree-fund-for-local-communities-announced>

⁹⁴⁹⁰ Prime Minister launches £3 billion bus revolution, Department for Transport (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-launches-3-billion-bus-revolution>

⁹⁴⁹¹ Jet Zero launches £15 million competition to reduce aviation emissions, Department for Transport (London) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jet-zero-launches-15-million-competition-to-reduce-aviation-emissions>

⁹⁴⁹² Major blueprint to create green jobs and slash emissions from industry, schools and hospitals, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-blueprint-to-create-green-jobs-and-slash-emissions-from-industry-schools-and-hospitals>

On 18 March 2021, the UK announced the opening of a consultation period for the formation of a new Waste Prevention Programme for England. This programme would guide government and industry action across key sectors including textiles, packaging and plastic (including single-use items) in order to reduce waste and repair and reuse products more efficiently.⁹⁴⁹³

On 19 March 2021, Forestry Minister Lord Frank Zacharias Robin Goldsmith announced GBP120,000 in funding from the Nature for Climate Fund to support the new partnership between the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Forest for Cornwall. DEFRA and Forest for Cornwall will conduct a pilot called National Woodland Creation Partnership to support and increase regional planting.⁹⁴⁹⁴

On 20 March 2021, the UK announced a second wave of funding totaling GBP8.9 million, in order to meet its goal of decarbonizing the UK's distilleries. The production of whiskey was responsible for approximately 530,000 tons of carbon and carbon equivalents in 2018 and the industry grew by 20 per cent in 2019. The generation of heat for the distillation process primarily utilizes fossil fuels and accounts for more than 80 per cent of the industry's fuel consumption, this makes it a prime sector for the introduction of low carbon alternatives. The allotted funding to help accelerate the adaptation of low-carbon technologies is part of the GBP1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.⁹⁴⁹⁵

On 22 March 2021, the UK announced funding of GBP20 million for a competition for green maritime projects. The goal of the competition is to provide funding for development and testing of new green technologies for sea vessels and port infrastructure such as hydrogen powered vessels and e-charging stations.⁹⁴⁹⁶

On 22 March 2021, Secretary Kwarteng announced GBP54 million in funding for three electric truck and hydrogen-powered bus projects.⁹⁴⁹⁷ The funded projects deal with improving travel range and energy efficiency for electric trucks and the development and manufacturing of low-cost hydrogen fuel cell technology.⁹⁴⁹⁸ These projects are expected to save up to 45 million tonnes of carbon emissions.⁹⁴⁹⁹

⁹⁴⁹³ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>
⁹⁴⁹⁴ Defra announces funding boost and new partnership with Forest for Cornwall, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defra-announces-funding-boost-and-new-partnership-with-forest-for-cornwall>

⁹⁴⁹⁵ Distilleries ready to raise a toast and go green, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/distilleries-ready-to-raise-a-toast-and-go-green>

⁹⁴⁹⁶ £20 million fund to propel green shipbuilding launched, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-fund-to-propel-green-shipbuilding-launched>

⁹⁴⁹⁷ Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emissions-cutting-trucks-and-next-gen-hydrogen-buses-closer-to-hitting-the-road-with-54-million-government-led-funding>

⁹⁴⁹⁸ Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emissions-cutting-trucks-and-next-gen-hydrogen-buses-closer-to-hitting-the-road-with-54-million-government-led-funding>

⁹⁴⁹⁹ Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emissions-cutting-trucks-and-next-gen-hydrogen-buses-closer-to-hitting-the-road-with-54-million-government-led-funding>

On 24 March 2021, the UK announced the North Sea Transition Deal which will aid the oil and gas industry in their transition to net zero emissions.⁹⁵⁰⁰ Through this deal the government will emphasize the use of carbon captures, hydrogen production and offshore wind farming.⁹⁵⁰¹ The deal outlines the government's intention to cut the North Sea's oil and gas industry by 10 per cent based on a 2018 baseline by 2025, rising to 50 per cent by 2030.⁹⁵⁰² The goal is to reach net zero by 2050. To this end, an investment of GBP14 to 16 billion will be allocated to the industry by 2030, with up to GBP10 billion being directed towards hydrogen production and GBP3 billion towards carbon captures and stores. Further, the government is introducing a Climate Compatibility Checkpoint in order to ensure that all licenses awarded to companies are compatible with the UK's emission targets.⁹⁵⁰³

On 24 March 2021, the UK announced that it would end support for overseas fossil fuel sectors on 31 March 2021.⁹⁵⁰⁴ This announcement provides an official end to the support for overseas fossil fuels, which Prime Minister Johnson had announced at the Climate Ambition Summit on 12 December 2020.⁹⁵⁰⁵ In ending support for overseas fossil fuel sectors, the government will no longer fund or promote new crude oil, natural gas or thermal coal projects.⁹⁵⁰⁶

On 27 March 2021, the UK announced an additional GBP300 million in funding to the Green Home Grant voucher scheme.⁹⁵⁰⁷ This increased funding is part of the government's commitment to provide GBP9 billion in funding for improvements to energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions in buildings.⁹⁵⁰⁸ The funds will enable the replacement of gas boilers with low carbon alternatives such as heat pumps and will also allow for houses to receive updated insulation and solar panels.⁹⁵⁰⁹

On 20 April 2021, the UK presented its sixth Carbon Budget in which it committed to reducing the country's carbon emissions by 78 per cent of 1990 levels by 2035, this announcement builds on the

⁹⁵⁰⁰ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁹⁵⁰¹ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁹⁵⁰² North Sea Transition Deal, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-sea-transition-deal>

⁹⁵⁰³ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁹⁵⁰⁴ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁹⁵⁰⁵ PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas, Prime Minister's Office (London), 12 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-the-uk-will-end-support-for-fossil-fuel-sector-overseas>

⁹⁵⁰⁶ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁹⁵⁰⁷ Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes>

⁹⁵⁰⁸ Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes>

⁹⁵⁰⁹ Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes>

previously announced goal of reducing the UK's carbon emissions by 68 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.⁹⁵¹⁰ The Carbon Budget will now also track the UK's share of international aviation and shipping, allowing for more accurate and consistent tracking of emissions.⁹⁵¹¹

On 18 May 2021, the UK Government released its England Trees Action Plan, which aims to plant 30,000 hectares of trees per year.⁹⁵¹² The plan will operate with GBP500 million set aside by the Nature for Climate Fund and will create new community forests around England as well as increasing tree cover in cities and towns to help with carbon sequestration.⁹⁵¹³

On 24 May 2021, the UK Government announced a funding package of GBP166.5 million for the development of green technology such as carbon capturing methods, greenhouse gas removal and hydrogen utilization and for the decarbonization of polluting sectors of the economy.⁹⁵¹⁴ GBP60 million will be dedicated towards low carbon hydrogen technology as well as increasing the efficiency of hydrogen energy creation, GBP37.5 million will be dedicated to greenhouse gas removal methods and GBP20 million will be directed towards researching new carbon capture, usage and storage technologies among other initiatives.⁹⁵¹⁵

On 24 May 2021, the UK Environmental Agency released its roadmap for cutting its own carbon emissions by 45 per cent and reaching net zero by 2030.⁹⁵¹⁶ In order to reach this goal the Environmental Agency pledges to use low carbon concrete for flood defences as well as energy-efficient water pumps, and to switch entirely to electric vehicles by 2023.⁹⁵¹⁷

On 28 May 2021, the UK Government announced funding of GBP44 million to reduce carbon emissions in homes and public buildings by creating low carbon heat networks, reducing emissions in areas serviced by the new heat networks by up to 22 per cent and energy costs by up to 15 per cent.⁹⁵¹⁸

⁹⁵¹⁰ UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁹⁵¹¹ UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁹⁵¹² Nature for people, climate and wildlife, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife>

⁹⁵¹³ Nature for people, climate and wildlife, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife>

⁹⁵¹⁴ £166 million cash injection for green technology and 60,000 UK jobs, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/166-million-cash-injection-for-green-technology-and-60000-uk-jobs>

⁹⁵¹⁵ £166 million cash injection for green technology and 60,000 UK jobs, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/166-million-cash-injection-for-green-technology-and-60000-uk-jobs>

⁹⁵¹⁶ Low-carbon concrete flood defences to help Environment Agency hit net zero by 2030, Environment Agency (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/low-carbon-concrete-flood-defences-to-help-environment-agency-hit-net-zero-by-2030>

⁹⁵¹⁷ Low-carbon concrete flood defences to help Environment Agency hit net zero by 2030, Environment Agency (London) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/low-carbon-concrete-flood-defences-to-help-environment-agency-hit-net-zero-by-2030>

⁹⁵¹⁸ £44 million cash boost to cut emissions from buildings and help households save on energy bills, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/44-million-cash-boost-to-cut-emissions-from-buildings-and-help-households-save-on-energy-bills>

On 9 June 2021, the UK Government announced plans to end the sale of hydrogen light bulbs from September 2021 as well as high-energy fluorescent light bulbs by September 2023.⁹⁵¹⁹ Ending the sale of these light bulbs will reduce carbon emissions by 1.26 million tonnes per year.⁹⁵²⁰

On 30 June 2021, Energy Trevelyan announced plans to end the use of coal power by 1 October 2024, a year earlier than previously planned.⁹⁵²¹ The purpose of this is to further accelerate the decarbonisation of the country's energy system.⁹⁵²²

On 19 July 2021, Highways England released its roadmap to net zero carbon emissions on all roads under its purview by 2050.⁹⁵²³ The plan commits to a 75 per cent reduction in carbon emissions compared to 2017 and 2018 levels by 2025 as well as achieving net zero emissions for Highways England corporate emissions by 2030, and maintenance and construction emissions by 2040.⁹⁵²⁴ The plan also commits to planting 3 million trees by 2030 as well as the creation of roadmaps for zero-carbon cement, concrete and asphalt.⁹⁵²⁵

On 21 July 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs along with England Community Forests and local councils announced the creation of the North East Community Forest.⁹⁵²⁶ This initiative will plant up to 500 hectares of trees by 2025 and has a long term goal to increase canopy cover in England's north east to 30 per cent by 2050.⁹⁵²⁷ The trees will be planted in urban locations as well and will help sequester carbon.⁹⁵²⁸ This initiative contributes towards the government's goal of planting 30,000 hectares of trees per year by 2025 in accordance with the England Trees Action Plan.⁹⁵²⁹

⁹⁵¹⁹ End of halogen light bulbs spells brighter and cleaner future, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-of-halogen-light-bulbs-spells-brighter-and-cleaner-future>

⁹⁵²⁰ End of halogen light bulbs spells brighter and cleaner future, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-of-halogen-light-bulbs-spells-brighter-and-cleaner-future>

⁹⁵²¹ End to coal power brought forward to October 2024, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-to-coal-power-brought-forward-to-october-2024>

⁹⁵²² End to coal power brought forward to October 2024, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/end-to-coal-power-brought-forward-to-october-2024>

⁹⁵²³ Highways England lays out roadmap to net zero by 2050, Highways England (London) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highways-england-lays-out-roadmap-to-net-zero-by-2050>

⁹⁵²⁴ Highways England lays out roadmap to net zero by 2050, Highways England (London) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highways-england-lays-out-roadmap-to-net-zero-by-2050>

⁹⁵²⁵ Highways England lays out roadmap to net zero by 2050, Highways England (London) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highways-england-lays-out-roadmap-to-net-zero-by-2050>

⁹⁵²⁶ New Community Forest created in the North East to support a greener future, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-community-forest-created-in-the-north-east-to-support-a-greener-future>

⁹⁵²⁷ New Community Forest created in the North East to support a greener future, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-community-forest-created-in-the-north-east-to-support-a-greener-future>

⁹⁵²⁸ New Community Forest created in the North East to support a greener future, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-community-forest-created-in-the-north-east-to-support-a-greener-future>

⁹⁵²⁹ Nature for people, climate and wildlife, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife/nature-for-people-climate-and-wildlife>

On 27 July 2021, the UK Government announced a funding boost of GBP20 million to accelerate the transition to zero-emission road freight.⁹⁵³⁰ Through this funding, field-testing and feasibility studies will be conducted in order to help facilitate the design and development of cost-effective zero emission heavy goods vehicles.⁹⁵³¹ This includes studying the feasibility of hydrogen fuel cells in heavy goods vehicles and new refuelling infrastructure, and is conducive both to the promotion of hydrogen energy and the reduction of emissions for the transport sector.⁹⁵³²

On 27 July 2021, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced GBP3.6 million in funding from the UK to Kenya in order to accelerate Kenya's climate transition, including projects supporting renewable energy and forest restoration.⁹⁵³³ The UK will also provide GBP34 million for the creation of 10,000 green homes and GBP439,000 toward procuring policy advice and technical assistance for the purpose of developing green manufacturing in Kenya.⁹⁵³⁴

On 2 August 2021, the UK announced an increase of GBP17 million to the funding of the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme over the next three years.⁹⁵³⁵ The increase in funding will allow Natural England to provide this service to 100 per cent of England's farmland, providing farmers with direct consultation with advisors on ways to reduce water and air pollution on their farms.⁹⁵³⁶

On 6 August 2021, the UK announced funding of GBP5 million for the creation of the Climate Services for a Net Zero Resilient World research program.⁹⁵³⁷ In addition to providing data and transformative advice to help meet the government's net zero emissions plan, the program will also engage with local authorities to create local climate action plans in order to help households identify low-cost, low-carbon measures for coping with extreme temperatures and weather events.⁹⁵³⁸ The

⁹⁵³⁰ Road freight goes green with £20 million funding boost, Department for Transport (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/road-freight-goes-green-with-20-million-funding-boost>

⁹⁵³¹ Road freight goes green with £20 million funding boost, Department for Transport (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/road-freight-goes-green-with-20-million-funding-boost>

⁹⁵³² Road freight goes green with £20 million funding boost, Department for Transport (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/road-freight-goes-green-with-20-million-funding-boost>

⁹⁵³³ UK mobilises KES 20 billion investment into Kenya's Big Four projects, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-mobilises-kes-20-billion-investment-into-kenyas-big-four-projects>

⁹⁵³⁴ UK mobilises KES 20 billion investment into Kenya's Big Four projects, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-mobilises-kes-20-billion-investment-into-kenyas-big-four-projects>

⁹⁵³⁵ Funding boost for farmers to tackle water pollution, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-farmers-to-tackle-water-pollution>

⁹⁵³⁶ Funding boost for farmers to tackle water pollution, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-farmers-to-tackle-water-pollution>

⁹⁵³⁷ Government boosts UK resilience against climate change, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-uk-resilience-against-climate-change>

⁹⁵³⁸ Government boosts UK resilience against climate change, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-uk-resilience-against-climate-change>

program will also provide models on how the UK can reduce carbon emissions globally, informing and building on the UK's current work helping countries develop decarbonization strategies.⁹⁵³⁹

On 17 August 2021, Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng announced the UK's Hydrogen Strategy, which presents the government's plan to meet its hydrogen production target of 5GW electrolyzer capacity by 2030, as well as introducing low carbon hydrogen energy into the UK's energy system.⁹⁵⁴⁰ An increase in low carbon hydrogen energy production will allow for the decarbonization of energy-heavy, polluting industries as well as reducing the overall carbon emissions from the UK's energy consumption, potentially representing 20-35 per cent of the UK's energy consumption by 2050.⁹⁵⁴¹ This is conducive to the UK reaching its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.⁹⁵⁴²

On 17 August 2021, the UK announced GBP105 million in funding to help industries develop low carbon alternatives for industrial fuels, such as hydrogen energy.⁹⁵⁴³ This funding allows industries to research and develop low-carbon energy alternatives which will help reduce carbon emissions, ensuring both the UK and individual industries reach net zero emissions by 2050.⁹⁵⁴⁴

On 2 September 2021, the UK, in cooperation with India, announced a GBP1.2 billion investment in climate-related projects in India between 2022 and 2026, with GBP1 billion of this investment coming from the UK's development finance institution, the CDC Group.⁹⁵⁴⁵ The goal of this investment is to both support adaptation and mitigation to climate change and to encourage private investment in the development of green infrastructure in India.⁹⁵⁴⁶ This will help reduce carbon emissions through the development of greener industries, businesses and infrastructure.⁹⁵⁴⁷

The UK has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), while also taking into consideration hydrogen and hydrogen enabling policies. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions with its investments in renewable energy, green technology and transportation as well as

⁹⁵³⁹ Government boosts UK resilience against climate change, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-uk-resilience-against-climate-change>

⁹⁵⁴⁰ UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-plan-for-a-world-leading-hydrogen-economy>

⁹⁵⁴¹ UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-plan-for-a-world-leading-hydrogen-economy>

⁹⁵⁴² UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-plan-for-a-world-leading-hydrogen-economy>

⁹⁵⁴³ UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-plan-for-a-world-leading-hydrogen-economy>

⁹⁵⁴⁴ UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-plan-for-a-world-leading-hydrogen-economy>

⁹⁵⁴⁵ 11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue Joint Statement, HM Treasury (London) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-india-11th-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement/11th-uk-india-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement>

⁹⁵⁴⁶ 11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue Joint Statement, HM Treasury (London) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-india-11th-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement/11th-uk-india-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement>

⁹⁵⁴⁷ 11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue Joint Statement, HM Treasury (London) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-india-11th-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement/11th-uk-india-economic-and-financial-dialogue-joint-statement>

through consumer awareness initiatives. It has complied with its commitment to reuse and recycle through supporting initiatives to extend product life as well as innovative recycling projects. Additionally, the UK has promoted the removal of carbon emissions through conservation of forests and bogs and the planting of trees as well as through investment in the development and deployment of carbon capturing and storage initiatives. The UK has also enacted policy in support of hydrogen, setting energy production targets for the industry, creating a fund to stimulate the hydrogen economy, including hydrogen projects in the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge and by promoting transportation infrastructure that uses hydrogen.

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

Analyst: Karči Aldridge Végi

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment of endorsing the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4 Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Remove).

On 27 December 2020, Congress authorized USD35 billion for funding solar, wind and other clean energy and sustainable energy technologies over the next five years. By extending federal tax credits, the bill will incentivize development and construction of clean energy technologies, which also surpasses the total dollar amount of investments for renewable energy in 2020.⁹⁵⁴⁸ The bill outlines extensions of investments to new fuel cells, for waste heat energy recovery and for offshore wind energy development. Tax credits will also be extended for carbon capture, utilization and storage, and for the development of carbon capture facilities under this bill, which will reduce carbon emissions.⁹⁵⁴⁹

On 20 January 2021, the US rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, aiming to focus on the climate crisis and take quick actions. This is seen as a step towards achieving its net-zero emissions goal by 2050.⁹⁵⁵⁰

On 5 February 2021, the US reintroduced the Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now Act (GREEN Act), which was first introduced in June 2020.⁹⁵⁵¹ This Act is part of President Joseph Biden's "rescue and recovery" plan, which will aim to further enhance developments for clean energy, including solar and wind technologies. The GREEN Act will also include proposals for electric and zero-emission vehicles and modifying the existing limitations on the credits available for electric vehicles. The bill will expand and enhance the use of renewable energy by promoting clean energy technologies and deploying zero-emission vehicles.⁹⁵⁵² Incentives will also be provided through this act for the conservation of energy in homes and buildings.

⁹⁵⁴⁸ Big stimulus for clean energy: Covid relief bill to include bipartisan support for Green Tax credits () 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/allanmarks/2020/12/21/clean-energy-investments-get-a-bipartisan-boost-from-congress-in-relief-bill/?sh=53df99fa36f2>

⁹⁵⁴⁹ Big stimulus for clean energy: Covid relief bill to include bipartisan support for Green Tax credits () 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/allanmarks/2020/12/21/clean-energy-investments-get-a-bipartisan-boost-from-congress-in-relief-bill/?sh=53df99fa36f2>

⁹⁵⁵⁰ Paris climate accord: Biden announces US will rejoin landmark agreement (Washington DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/20/politics/paris-climate-biden/index.html>

⁹⁵⁵¹ KPMG report: Outlook for what's ahead for energy tax incentives (Amstelveen) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-kpmg-report-outlook-for-whats-ahead-for-energy-tax-incentives-green-act.html>

⁹⁵⁵² Chairman Thompson, Ways and Means democrats introduce GREEN Act (Washington) 5 February, 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://mikethompson.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/chairman-thompson-ways-and-means-democrats-introduce-green-act>

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Energy announced up to USD52.5 million for university-based training programs of Industrial Assessment Centres, which help the manufacturers and wastewater treatment facilities in reducing their carbon footprint.⁹⁵⁵³ According to the Secretary of Energy, “This new funding is an investment in both the infrastructure and next generation clean energy workforce we need to tackle climate emergency.”⁹⁵⁵⁴

On 10 March 2021, the Department of Energy announced the construction of the Grid Storage Launchpad, which will increase the adaptation of clean energy, and the development of low-duration energy storage. According to the Secretary of Energy, “Developing new grid technologies means we can get more renewable power on the system, support a growing fleet of electric vehicles, make our grid more reliable and resilient and secure our clean energy future.” The Washington State Department of Commerce also announced the allotment of USD8.3 million for any required advanced research and equipment.⁹⁵⁵⁵

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Energy awarded USD2 million to four clean-hydrogen production technologies projects. These projects aim to reduce carbon emissions and create more clean energy sources. As natural gas usage in industrial facilities is the main source of hydrogen production in the US, these projects will use the process of co-gasification as a different way to produce cleaner hydrogen as a clean energy source.⁹⁵⁵⁶

On 8 April 2021, the Department of Energy announced an investment of USD81 million for the development of technologies for producing low cost and low carbon biofuels and for sustainable aviation fuel.⁹⁵⁵⁷ This initiative is a step towards decarbonizing the transportation sector which include heavy duty vehicles like airplanes and ships which are difficult to convert to current electric technologies.⁹⁵⁵⁸ They will further develop technologies for converting waste resources into biofuels and bioproducts for reducing transportation emissions.⁹⁵⁵⁹

On 21 April 2021, Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced investments in projects for increasing climate-smart agriculture.⁹⁵⁶⁰ The open enrolment to the

⁹⁵⁵³ U.S Department of Energy announces \$52.5 million to support U.S manufacturers and industrial workers (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-525-million-support-us-manufacturers-and-industrial>

⁹⁵⁵⁴ U.S Department of Energy announces \$52.5 million to support U.S manufacturers and industrial workers (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-525-million-support-us-manufacturers-and-industrial>

⁹⁵⁵⁵ DOE launches design and construction of \$75 million Grid Energy Storage research facility (Washington) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-launches-design-construction-75-million-grid-energy-storage-research-facility>

⁹⁵⁵⁶ U.S. Department of Energy awards \$2 million to develop clean hydrogen technologies (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-awards-2-million-develop-clean-hydrogen-technologies>

⁹⁵⁵⁷ U.S Department of Energy Announces \$61 Million for Biofuels Research to Reduce Transmission, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Washington) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 15 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/articles/us-department-energy-announces-61-million-biofuels-research-reduce>

⁹⁵⁵⁸ U.S Department of Energy Announces \$61 Million for Biofuels Research to Reduce Transmission, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Washington) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 15 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/articles/us-department-energy-announces-61-million-biofuels-research-reduce>

⁹⁵⁵⁹ U.S Department of Energy Announces \$61 Million for Biofuels Research to Reduce Transmission, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Washington) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 15 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/articles/us-department-energy-announces-61-million-biofuels-research-reduce>

⁹⁵⁶⁰ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

Conservation Reserve Program was announced allowing up to 4 million new acres, which will allow an increased reduction in nitrogen runoff and sequestering carbon.⁹⁵⁶¹ For increased enrollment and implementation of conservation practices by producers, the USDA announced a further investment of USD140 million for technical assistance.⁹⁵⁶² The Natural Resources Conservation Service will further invest USD330 million in 85 local partnerships for addressing natural resources challenges.⁹⁵⁶³

On 22 April 2021, President Biden announced a new target of reducing 50 to 52 per cent of greenhouse gas pollution from the 2005 levels by the end of 2030.⁹⁵⁶⁴

On 22 April 2021, the US announced seven new clean energy programs for USD200 million for a net-zero energy grid in Asia.⁹⁵⁶⁵ These programs will also aim to support transition to electric vehicles, and reforming of power sectors, which will be a step towards clean energy development and net-zero carbon emissions.⁹⁵⁶⁶

On 22 April 2021, the US announced the cooperation of USAID for supporting programs and initiatives for decarbonization during the Leaders Summit on Climate.⁹⁵⁶⁷ This will include supporting the development of the largest solar-generation project in Southern Africa which is estimated to reduce 6.5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually and replacing coal-generated electricity from South Africa, estimating to remove 1.5 million cars off roads.⁹⁵⁶⁸

On 23 April 2021, the Department of Energy announced a funding of USD109.5 million energy development projects.⁹⁵⁶⁹ These included USD75 million for engineering and installing carbon

⁹⁵⁶¹ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁹⁵⁶² USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁹⁵⁶³ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁹⁵⁶⁴ Fact Sheet: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies, The White House (Washington) 22 April 2021.

Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

⁹⁵⁶⁵ Leaders Summit on Climate Change: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁹⁵⁶⁶ Leaders Summit on Climate Change: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁹⁵⁶⁷ Leaders' Summit on Climate: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁹⁵⁶⁸ Leaders' Summit on Climate: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁹⁵⁶⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Outlines Key Resources to Invest in Coal and Power Plant Community Economic Revitalization, The White House (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-biden-administration-outlines-key-resources-to-invest-in-coal-and-power-plant-community-economic-revitalization/>

capture and storage technologies for power plants and USD19.5 million for the extraction of critical minerals from coal waste streams for manufacturing batteries and other necessary components of electric vehicles and clean energy technology.⁹⁵⁷⁰

On 26 April 2021, the Agency for International Development announced two investments to assist Vietnam in addressing their climate crisis.⁹⁵⁷¹ These projects include investments of USD36 million for the Sustainable Forest Management Project for reducing carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation and an investment of USD38 million for the Biodiversity Conservation Project for increasing forest quality.⁹⁵⁷² Through the protection of forests and biodiversity, both these projects will aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁹⁵⁷³

On 27 April 2021, the Department of Energy announced the availability of financial tools which will provide up to USD8.2 billion in loans for improving and modernizing the nation's transmission grid and for increasing access to more reliable and clean power.⁹⁵⁷⁴ These include up to USD5 billion in loans from the Loans Program Office which will support innovative transmission projects including transmissions to connect offshore wind and facilities which are sited alongside rail and highway routes.⁹⁵⁷⁵ They also include up to USD3.25 billion from the Western Area Power Administration's Transmission Infrastructure Program for supporting and facilitative infrastructure projects for the delivery of reliable and clean power in the West.⁹⁵⁷⁶ These initiatives are part of the US' goal of reaching 100 per cent clean energy by 2035 and President Biden's American Job Plan.⁹⁵⁷⁷

On 11 May 2021, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce announced the approval of the development of the 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind energy project—the first large-scale offshore wind project in the United States.⁹⁵⁷⁸ This energy project aims to generate 30 gigawatts of energy derived

⁹⁵⁷⁰ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Outlines Key Resources to Invest in Coal and Power Plant Community Economic Revitalization, The White House (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-biden-administration-outlines-key-resources-to-invest-in-coal-and-power-plant-community-economic-revitalization/>

⁹⁵⁷¹ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million To Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁹⁵⁷² USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million To Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁹⁵⁷³ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million To Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁹⁵⁷⁴ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁹⁵⁷⁵ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁹⁵⁷⁶ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁹⁵⁷⁷ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁹⁵⁷⁸ Biden-Harris Administration Approves First Major Offshore Wind Project in U.S Waters, U.S Department of the Interior (Washington) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-approves-first-major-offshore-wind-project-us-waters>

from offshore wind and provide enough power for 400,000 businesses and homes, moving the United States closer to cleaner energy generation.⁹⁵⁷⁹

On 25 May 2021, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl and Governor of California Gavin Newsom announced an agreement for advancing and developing offshore wind on the country's Pacific coast, aiming to develop up to 4.6 gigawatts of clean energy.⁹⁵⁸⁰ These energy projects are a further step towards developing the United States's clean energy resources.⁹⁵⁸¹

On 24 June 2021, the United States Department of Energy announced funding of USD30 million for 68 projects to accelerate the commercialization of clean energy technologies and resources, with the aim of achieving the United States's net-zero carbon emission goals.⁹⁵⁸²

On 15 July 2021, President Biden announced the United States-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, under which the two countries will develop policies for reduced carbon emissions, advance the development and production of renewable energy technologies, including sustainable hydrogen technologies, and increase the production and adoption of electric vehicles.⁹⁵⁸³ They will also provide investments in Central and Eastern Europe for mobilizing sustainable energy, including specific investments supporting Ukraine's energy transformation, efficiency, and security.⁹⁵⁸⁴

On 24 June 2021, the United States Department of Energy announced funding of USD30 million for 68 projects to accelerate the commercialization of clean energy technologies and resources, with the aim of achieving the United States' net-zero carbon emission goals.⁹⁵⁸⁵ The projects will range from clean energy and advanced manufacturing, to building efficiency and next-generation materials.⁹⁵⁸⁶

On 15 July 2021, President Biden announced the United States-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, under which the two countries will develop policies for reduced carbon emissions, advance the development and production of renewable energy technologies, including sustainable

⁹⁵⁷⁹ Biden-Harris Administration Approves First Major Offshore Wind Project in U.S Waters, U.S Department of the Interior (Washington) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-approves-first-major-offshore-wind-project-us-waters>

⁹⁵⁸⁰ Biden-Harris Administration Advances Offshore Wind in the Pacific, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-advances-offshore-wind-pacific>

⁹⁵⁸¹ Biden Administration Opens Pacific Coast to New Jobs and Clean Energy Production with Offshore Wind Development, The White House (Washington) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-opens-pacific-coast-to-new-jobs-and-clean-energy-production-with-offshore-wind-development/>

⁹⁵⁸² Department of Energy Announces Over USD65 Million in Public and Private Funding to Commercialize Promising Energy Technologies (Washington) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-over-65-million-public-and-private-funding-commercialize-promising-energy>

⁹⁵⁸³ U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, The White House (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/15/fact-sheet-u-s-germany-climate-and-energy-partnership/>

⁹⁵⁸⁴ U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, The White House (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/15/fact-sheet-u-s-germany-climate-and-energy-partnership/>

⁹⁵⁸⁵ Department of Energy Announces Over USD65 Million in Public and Private Funding to Commercialize Promising Energy Technologies (Washington) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-over-65-million-public-and-private-funding-commercialize-promising-energy>

⁹⁵⁸⁶ Department of Energy Announces Over USD65 Million in Public and Private Funding to Commercialize Promising Energy Technologies (Washington) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-over-65-million-public-and-private-funding-commercialize-promising-energy>

hydrogen technologies, and increase the production and adoption of electric vehicles.⁹⁵⁸⁷ They will also provide investments in Central and Eastern Europe for mobilizing sustainable energy, including specific investments supporting Ukraine's energy transformation, efficiency, and security.⁹⁵⁸⁸

On 17 August 2021, the United States Department of Energy announced funding of USD24 million for research projects for the development and production of methods for capturing carbon emissions directly from the air.⁹⁵⁸⁹ These technologies will allow for extraction of carbon dioxide from air, and the effective storage of captured carbon emissions.⁹⁵⁹⁰

On 9 September 2021, the United States Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and Indian Minister of Petroleum and Gas Hardsheep Puri relaunched the U.S-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership for meeting climate and clean energy targets of both countries.⁹⁵⁹¹ The initiative focuses on the electrification and decarbonization processes and an accelerated deployment of clean energy technologies.⁹⁵⁹² The power sector will be modernized through integration of new electric smart grids and energy storage, and programs for smart, energy efficient buildings will be expanded.⁹⁵⁹³ The initiative will support India's goal of installing 450 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030 by assisting in deployment of clean, affordable and sustainable energy technologies.⁹⁵⁹⁴ Furthermore, the initiative will aim to reduce consumption of high-polluting fuels and greenhouse gas emissions through ensuring decarbonization and clean energy technologies.⁹⁵⁹⁵

On 13 September 2021, United States climate envoy John Kerry announced plans for more ambitious emission reduction targets for India during his visit there.⁹⁵⁹⁶ He also announced plans for

⁹⁵⁸⁷ U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, The White House (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/15/fact-sheet-u-s-germany-climate-and-energy-partnership/>

⁹⁵⁸⁸ U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership, The White House (Washington) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/15/fact-sheet-u-s-germany-climate-and-energy-partnership/>

⁹⁵⁸⁹ Department of Energy Announces USD24 Million to Capture Carbon Emissions Directly from Air (Washington) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-24-million-capture-carbon-emissions-directly-air>

⁹⁵⁹⁰ Department of Energy Announces USD24 Million to Capture Carbon Emissions Directly from Air (Washington) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-24-million-capture-carbon-emissions-directly-air>

⁹⁵⁹¹ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹⁵⁹² Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹⁵⁹³ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹⁵⁹⁴ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹⁵⁹⁵ Secretary Granholm and Minister Puri Relaunch the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (Washington) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/secretary-granholm-and-minister-puri-relaunch-us-india-strategic-clean-energy-partnership>

⁹⁵⁹⁶ In India, Kerry Pushes for Modi to Set Net-Zero Goals (New Delhi) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/09/13/india-climate-emissions-kerry/>

a financing program with USD4 trillion to assist India in meeting its target of deploying 450 gigawatts of renewable energy.⁹⁵⁹⁷

The United States has taken actions to fully address all four Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove) and endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions through investments in the development of renewable energy technology and production, including wind energy, solar energy, and hydrogen and to produce clean and reliable power through initiatives like production of electric vehicles. It has complied with its commitment to remove emissions and recycle through investments in biofuel production and hydrogen technologies, as well as biodiversity and forest protection. It has complied with its commitment to reuse through initiatives of conversion to cleaner energy and energy sources which include electric and hydrogen. It has complied with its commitment to remove emissions through carbon capture and storage technologies.

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

Analyst: Minahil Iftikhar

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

On 1 December 2020, the European Commission initiated its second call for projects for the Innovation Fund, a funding program that supports low-carbon technological innovations. The program provides financial aid to projects focused in addressing “in renewable energy, energy-intensive industries, including substitute products, energy storage, and carbon capture, use and storage.”⁹⁵⁹⁸ The goal is to support and encourage sustainable technological innovations.⁹⁵⁹⁹

On 8 December 2020, the European Parliament voted that all member states must become climate neutral by 2050. It also increased the EU’s emissions reduction target to 60 per cent by 2030, in accordance with the Paris Agreement, and called for ambitious 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction goals. This sought to reduce emissions by enshrining these objectives in legislation. The European Parliament announced that “the EU and member states must also phase out all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies by 31 December 2025.” The goal is to decrease emissions by investing less in fossil fuels.⁹⁶⁰⁰

On 8 December 2020, the European Parliament and the European Council agreed on a provisional deal regarding the future of regional and cohesion funds. The deal says that a significant portion of the European Regional Development Fund will be invested in “smart growth and the green economy.” A minimum of 30 per cent of regional funding will go towards supporting climate action.

⁹⁵⁹⁷ In India, Kerry Pushes for Modi to Set Net-Zero Goals (New Delhi) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/09/13/india-climate-emissions-kerry/>

⁹⁵⁹⁸ Second Innovation Fund call for projects: Commission to invest €100 million in innovative small-scale clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/second-innovation-fund-call-projects-commission-invest-100-million-innovative-small-scale_en

⁹⁵⁹⁹ Second Innovation Fund call for projects: Commission to invest €100 million in innovative small-scale clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/second-innovation-fund-call-projects-commission-invest-100-million-innovative-small-scale_en

⁹⁶⁰⁰ EU climate law: MEPs want to increase 2030 emissions reduction target to 60%, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201002IPR88431/eu-climate-law-meps-want-to-increase-2030-emissions-reduction-target-to-60>

The deal will respect climate, circular economy and biodiversity goals. The goal is to encourage sustainability through economic, social and territorial cohesion.⁹⁶⁰¹

On 15 December 2020, the European Commission adopted an implementing decision regarding annual emission allocations for 2021-2030 under the Effort Sharing Regulation. The Commission Implementing Decision will translate emissions limits “in tons of CO₂ equivalent for each year and Member State along a linear trajectory between 2021 and 2030.” The goal is to reduce emissions through the implementation of a binding emissions target.⁹⁶⁰²

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament approved a seven-year EU budget ranging from 2021-2027. The budget states that there will be increased tracking to ensure 30 per cent of the EU budget and Next Generation EU expenditures will go towards climate action initiatives, and 7.5 per cent of the yearly budget will support biodiversity objectives. The goal is to increase various actions to combat climate change.⁹⁶⁰³

On 8 January 2021, the European Investment Bank signed a EUR150 million loan to shift a paper mill in Oulu, Finland, from producing printing paper to instead making packaging materials composed of unbleached pulp. The European Investment Bank claims the project has an “important climate change mitigation angle,” because it favours the use of sustainable raw materials over fossil-based materials while generating renewable energy.⁹⁶⁰⁴

On 27 January 2021, the European Parliament adopted policy recommendations from the EU Circular Carbon Economy Plan for a “carbon-neutral, sustainable, toxic-free and fully circular economy by 2050 at the latest.” Members of Parliament highlighted the need for a genuine circular economy through waste prevention and the reduction of energy and resource usage. Members of Parliament endorse the Commission’s focus on ensuring that products placed on the EU market are “durable, reusable, can be easily repaired, are not toxic, can be upgraded and recycled, contain recycled content, and are resource- and energy-efficient.” The goal is to decrease waste through extending the life of products and making them recyclable.⁹⁶⁰⁵

On 5 February 2021, the European Parliament adopted the resolution to implement a World Trade Organization-compatible carbon border adjustment mechanism that would impose a carbon price on certain imports. The goal is to incentivize the EU and non-EU trade industries to lessen their carbon emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement.⁹⁶⁰⁶

⁹⁶⁰¹Agreement reached on the 2021-2027 EU regional and cohesion funding, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201207IPR93206/agreement-reached-on-the-2021-2027-eu-regional-and-cohesion-funding>

⁹⁶⁰² State aid: Commission approves €30 billion Dutch scheme to support projects reducing greenhouse gas emissions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2410.

⁹⁶⁰³Parliament approves seven-year EU budget 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201207IPR93206/agreement-reached-on-the-2021-2027-eu-regional-and-cohesion-funding>

⁹⁶⁰⁴ Finland: EIB supports environmental conversion of Stora Enso mill, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-005-eib-supports-environmental-conversion-of-stora-enso-mill-in-finland>

⁹⁶⁰⁵ MEPs call for binding 2030 targets for materials use and consumption footprint, European Parliament (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210122IPR96214/meps-call-for-binding-2030-targets-for-materials-use-and-consumption-footprint>

⁹⁶⁰⁶ Carbon levy on EU imports needed to raise global climate ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 27 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210201IPR96812/carbon-levy-on-eu-imports-needed-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

On 10 February 2021, the European Investment Bank approved a EUR600 million package for automotive supplier Valeo to finance its emissions reduction research initiatives. The goal is to support “research and innovation, as well as the transition to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly economy.”⁹⁶⁰⁷

On 11 February 2021, the European Investment Bank invested EUR1.3 billion into Czech Republic for “businesses, regional infrastructure, climate adaptation, the energy transition and sustainable transport.”⁹⁶⁰⁸ Within this investment includes a EUR190 million loan to the Czech Transmission System Operator, partly to increase renewable energy in the electricity network.⁹⁶⁰⁹

On 17 February 2021, the EU increased its funding by 20 per cent, investing EUR121 million in new projects under the LIFE program for the Environment and Climate Action. The goal is to support various climate projects in several member states. This includes an initiative to decarbonize the Mátra Power Plant in Hungary, the restoration of 10,000 hectares of peatlands with high carbon storage capacity in Ireland, and the reduction of plastic waste in Belgium.⁹⁶¹⁰

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission adopted a new EU strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change to “shift the focus from understanding the problem to developing solutions, and to move from planning to implementation.”⁹⁶¹¹ The EU plans to do this by improving its knowledge of climate issues, working on climate risk assessments and propelling adaptation solutions.⁹⁶¹²

On 11 March 2021, the European Investment Bank approved financing to accelerate the transition to clean energy and increase solar and wind power generation. It said it will dedicate EUR688 million with the goal to implement renewable energy across Europe.⁹⁶¹³

On 18 March 2021, the European Investment Bank financed EUR500 million to support sustainable urban investment and EUR375 million towards cutting energy costs and increasing energy efficiency

⁹⁶⁰⁷ France: EIB approves 600 million euros in financing for Valeo's research projects related to technologies designed to reduce CO2 emissions and improve active safety, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-051-eib-approves-600-million-euros-in-financing-for-valeo-s-research-projects-related-to-technologies-designed-to-reduce-co2-emissions-and-improve-active-safety>

⁹⁶⁰⁸ EIB Group supported €1.4 billion of investments in 2020 in the Czech Republic for businesses, regional infrastructure, climate adaptation, the energy transition and sustainable transport, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-053-eib-group-supported-eur1-4-billion-of-investments-in-2020-in-the-czech-republic-for-businesses-regional-infrastructure-climate-adaptation-the-energy-transition-and-sustainable-transport>

⁹⁶⁰⁹ EIB Group supported €1.4 billion of investments in 2020 in the Czech Republic for businesses, regional infrastructure, climate adaptation, the energy transition and sustainable transport, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-053-eib-group-supported-eur1-4-billion-of-investments-in-2020-in-the-czech-republic-for-businesses-regional-infrastructure-climate-adaptation-the-energy-transition-and-sustainable-transport>

⁹⁶¹⁰ LIFE Programme: EU invests €121 million in environment, nature and climate action projects, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_501

⁹⁶¹¹ Building a Climate-Resilient Future – A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_663

⁹⁶¹² Building a Climate-Resilient Future – A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_663

⁹⁶¹³ EIB backs EUR 3.7 billion COVID-19 business support, renewable energy, internet, health, education and sustainable urban investment, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-092-eib-backs-eur-3-7-billion-covid-19-business-support-renewable-energy-internet-health-education-and-sustainable-urban-investment>

in public buildings. The goal is “accelerating climate action and sustainable urban investment across Greece.”⁹⁶¹⁴

On 30 March 2021, the European Commission and the International Energy Agency agreed to deepen their collaboration to accelerate efforts to achieve climate neutrality.⁹⁶¹⁵ More specifically, the two organizations also agreed to: cultivate an international net-zero campaign to raise awareness and call other countries to action; collaborate with willing partners to support the development of sustainable energy services and clean technologies in African countries; and expand the net-zero movement through the energy sector.⁹⁶¹⁶

On 23 March 2021, the European Investment Bank granted a consortium consisting of EDF Renewables, Enbridge and a EUR350 million credit line to finance the construction of a wind farm off the coast of Courseulles-sur-Mer, France.⁹⁶¹⁷ The project’s total cost is estimated at EUR2 billion and involves the building of 64 wind turbines.⁹⁶¹⁸ The capacity will be 450 megawatts and will produce enough annual electricity to be used by 630,000 people.⁹⁶¹⁹ The wind turbines are a step towards increasing the EU’s use of more sustainable energy sources.

On 7 April 2021, the European Investment Bank and Portugal signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at fostering cooperation in the development of the hydrogen sector in Portugal.⁹⁶²⁰ The hydrogen sector is expected to play a key role in the decarbonization of Europe and accelerate the use of sustainable energy sources.⁹⁶²¹ This collaboration between the two entities is in line with the European Hydrogen Strategy of 2020, which works towards installing 40 gigawatts of green hydrogen capacity by 2030.⁹⁶²²

On 12 April 2021, the European Investment Bank formally agreed to help Greece in managing up to EUR5 billion in its implementation of the country’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan, known

⁹⁶¹⁴ Greece: Prime Minister Mitsotakis welcomes EIB backing for EUR 3 billion urban development and energy efficiency investment across Greece, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-098-prime-minister-mitsotakis-welcomes-eib-backing-for-eur-3-billion-urban-development-and-energy-efficiency-investment-across-greece>

⁹⁶¹⁵ European Commission and IEA pull together for net-zero, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/european-commission-and-iea-pull-together-net-zero_en

⁹⁶¹⁶ European Commission and IEA pull together for net-zero, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/european-commission-and-iea-pull-together-net-zero_en

⁹⁶¹⁷ France: Investment Plan – EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Calvados for €350 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-102-plan-d-investissement-la-banque-europeenne-d-investissement-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-du-calvados-a-hauteur-de-350-millions-d-euros>

⁹⁶¹⁸ France: Investment Plan – EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Calvados for €350 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-102-plan-d-investissement-la-banque-europeenne-d-investissement-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-du-calvados-a-hauteur-de-350-millions-d-euros>

⁹⁶¹⁹ France: Investment Plan – EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Calvados for €350 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-102-plan-d-investissement-la-banque-europeenne-d-investissement-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-du-calvados-a-hauteur-de-350-millions-d-euros>

⁹⁶²⁰ Portugal: The EIB partners up with the Portuguese Republic to accelerate investments in the hydrogen sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-117-the-eib-partners-up-with-the-portuguese-republic-to-accelerate-investments-in-the-hydrogen-sector>

⁹⁶²¹ Portugal: The EIB partners up with the Portuguese Republic to accelerate investments in the hydrogen sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-117-the-eib-partners-up-with-the-portuguese-republic-to-accelerate-investments-in-the-hydrogen-sector>

⁹⁶²² Portugal: The EIB partners up with the Portuguese Republic to accelerate investments in the hydrogen sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-117-the-eib-partners-up-with-the-portuguese-republic-to-accelerate-investments-in-the-hydrogen-sector>

as “Greece 2.0.”⁹⁶²³ The European Investment Bank’s technical, financial and environmental experts will help ensure the best use of the new grant in Greece.⁹⁶²⁴ A central focus of the plan will be supporting climate action, digital transformation, and green energy transition.⁹⁶²⁵

On 21 April 2021, the European Commission welcomed a provisional agreement on the European Climate Law, working to enshrine the EU’s climate neutrality target into binding legislation and serve to guide future environmental policies for the next 30 years.⁹⁶²⁶ The agreement entails several measures to strengthen the EU’s climate change mitigation efforts, including: greater clarity on emission reductions and removals; plans to make proposals in June 2021 to enhance the EU’s carbon sink through Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry regulation; a process for establishing a 2040 climate target; plans to publish a greenhouse gas budget for 2030-2050; a commitment to negative emissions following 2050; the creation of the independent European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change that will offer scientific advice; stronger adherence to climate neutrality objectives across EU policies; and a commitment to establish sector-specific plans to encourage climate neutrality efforts in various sectors of the economy.⁹⁶²⁷

On 22 April 2021, the European Investment Bank approved EUR3.4 billion of new financing to support sustainable transport and shifts towards renewable energy across the EU, among other social and economic concerns.⁹⁶²⁸ EUR2 billion will be dedicated to increasing renewable energy developments in the form of wind and solar power investments.⁹⁶²⁹ Renewable energy projects include: developments in France and Germany; the scaling up of solar power across Spain; wind power in Ireland; improving energy distribution in Italy; and a photovoltaic plant that is hydrogen and battery powered. EUR700 million will be directed towards sustainable transportation initiatives.⁹⁶³⁰ Projects include increasing renewable energy at airports in Spain; the acquisition of

⁹⁶²³Greece: EIB to help manage EUR 5 billion of investments as part of Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan: “Greece 2.0,” European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-120-eib-to-help-manage-eur-5-billion-of-investments-as-part-of-greek-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan-greece-2-0>

⁹⁶²⁴Greece: EIB to help manage EUR 5 billion of investments as part of Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan: “Greece 2.0,” European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-120-eib-to-help-manage-eur-5-billion-of-investments-as-part-of-greek-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan-greece-2-0>

⁹⁶²⁵Greece: EIB to help manage EUR 5 billion of investments as part of Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan: “Greece 2.0,” European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-120-eib-to-help-manage-eur-5-billion-of-investments-as-part-of-greek-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan-greece-2-0>

⁹⁶²⁶ Commission welcomes provisional agreement on the European Climate Law, European Commission (Brussels) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1828

⁹⁶²⁷ Commission welcomes provisional agreement on the European Climate Law, European Commission (Brussels) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1828

⁹⁶²⁸ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

⁹⁶²⁹ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

⁹⁶³⁰ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

hydrogen powered trains; the installation of hydrogen refuelling facilities in the Netherlands; and improvements to regional rail services in Germany.⁹⁶³¹

On 27 April 2021, the European Commission published the two-year study titled “Technical Guidance Handbook – setting up and implementing result-based carbon farming mechanisms in the EU,” that explores how to implement carbon farming in the EU.⁹⁶³² This study will serve as a basis for the European Commission’s plans to launch carbon farming initiatives by the end of 2021.⁹⁶³³ The study will act as a guide for public and private actors to increase carbon farming initiatives.⁹⁶³⁴ By the end of 2021, the European Commission plans to establish an action plan to promote carbon farming and create a regulatory framework to certify and verify the authenticity of carbon removals.⁹⁶³⁵ Carbon farming allows for the capture and storage of carbon and contributes to the EU’s climate neutrality objective.

On 27 April 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on operational and technical measures for more environmentally sustainable and efficient maritime transport.⁹⁶³⁶ The resolution is in line with the European Parliament’s calls for emissions reductions, clean ports, and the gradual elimination of heavy fuel oil.⁹⁶³⁷ The European Parliament advocated for adequate funding, research and innovation in clean fuels and technologies to transition the maritime transportation industry to climate neutrality by 2050.⁹⁶³⁸ Members of the European Parliament urged the European Commission to invest in the automation and digitalization of ports and ships, vessel speed optimization, innovation in hydrodynamics and tax exemptions to encourage the use of alternatives to heavy fuels.⁹⁶³⁹

On 29 April 2021, the European Investment Bank and France’s Deposits and Consignments Fund agreed to introduce a new EUR1 billion credit line to support small-scale investments particularly in “energy-efficiency measures for buildings, water supply and sewerage networks, sustainable mobility and clean public transport.”⁹⁶⁴⁰ A minimum of half of the new line will go towards projects dedicated

⁹⁶³¹ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

⁹⁶³² Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁹⁶³³ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁹⁶³⁴ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁹⁶³⁵ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁹⁶³⁶ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁹⁶³⁷ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁹⁶³⁸ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁹⁶³⁹ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁹⁶⁴⁰ France: Partnership between the EIB and Caisse des Dépôts – €1 billion for local authorities and their energy transition, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-142-partenariat-beicaisse-des-depots-1-milliard-d-euros-pour-les-collectivites-locales-et-leur-transition-ecologique#_ftnref1

to mitigating the effects of climate change.⁹⁶⁴¹ These projects will aid the EU in its emissions reduction and climate neutrality goals.

On 29 April 2021, the European Parliament approved a deal on the 2021-2027 program for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), which includes a total budget of EUR5.4 billion for environmental and climate-related initiatives.⁹⁶⁴² LIFE will become the most ambitious EU-wide environmental and climate program in EU's history.⁹⁶⁴³ The program will work towards building a more “clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.”⁹⁶⁴⁴ EUR3.9 billion will be directed towards environmental activities and EUR1.9 billion will go towards climate action.⁹⁶⁴⁵

On 2 June 2021, the European Commission and Breakthrough Energy Catalyst announced a new partnership to boost investments of up to EUR820 million between 2022-2026 in clean technologies.⁹⁶⁴⁶ The goal is to support low-carbon industries and enable a net-zero economy that is in line with the Paris Agreement.⁹⁶⁴⁷ This partnership is planned to invest in four sectors critical to the European Green Deal's climate ambitions: green hydrogen; sustainable aviation fuels; long-duration energy storage; and direct air capture.⁹⁶⁴⁸

On 11 June 2021, the Council of the European Union approved conclusions on a renovation wave strategy aiming to create green buildings in line with the EU's 2050 climate neutrality goal.⁹⁶⁴⁹ Member states endorsed the aim of doubling energy-related renovation rates in the EU by 2030 while promoting resource efficiency and circular economy.⁹⁶⁵⁰ The strategy encourages renovations that

⁹⁶⁴¹ France: Partnership between the EIB and Caisse des Dépôts – €1 billion for local authorities and their energy transition, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-142-partenariat-beicaisse-des-depots-1-milliard-d-euros-pour-les-collectivites-locales-et-leur-transition-ecologique#_ftnref1

⁹⁶⁴² MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁹⁶⁴³ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁹⁶⁴⁴ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁹⁶⁴⁵ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁹⁶⁴⁶ Commission and Breakthrough Energy Catalyst announce new partnership to support investments in clean technologies for low-carbon industries, European Commission (Brussels) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2746

⁹⁶⁴⁷ Commission and Breakthrough Energy Catalyst announce new partnership to support investments in clean technologies for low-carbon industries, European Commission (Brussels) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2746

⁹⁶⁴⁸ Commission and Breakthrough Energy Catalyst announce new partnership to support investments in clean technologies for low-carbon industries, European Commission (Brussels) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2746

⁹⁶⁴⁹ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵⁰ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵⁰ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵⁰ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵⁰ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵⁰ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵⁰ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

emit lower emissions and are energy efficient by replacing carbon intensive heating and cooling technologies.⁹⁶⁵¹

On 11 June 2021, the Council of the European Union agreed on the general approach of the revised Trans-European Networks for Energy Regulation.⁹⁶⁵² The revised regulation includes a new focus on offshore electricity grids, hydrogen infrastructure and smart grids.⁹⁶⁵³ The goal is to help the EU reach its 2050 climate neutrality objectives by modernizing and decarbonizing the EU's cross-border energy infrastructure.⁹⁶⁵⁴

On 17 June 2021, the European Investment Bank approved EUR1.4 billion for financing of renewable energy efforts.⁹⁶⁵⁵ The financing will support large scale solar power projects across Spain, small scale renewable energy generation in Germany, investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in Austria, and geothermal power in East Africa.⁹⁶⁵⁶

On 29 July 2021, the European Investment Bank and Hydrogen Europe, an association representing Europe's hydrogen and fuel cell sector, signed an advisory services agreement.⁹⁶⁵⁷ Under the agreement, the European Investment Bank will provide financing advisory support for Hydrogen Europe's green hydrogen initiatives.⁹⁶⁵⁸ The agreement will help facilitate the introduction of clean hydrogen technologies in the EU.⁹⁶⁵⁹

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove). It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions with its investments in renewable energy and decarbonization research initiatives, as well as the introduction of binding emissions targets and carbon taxes on imports. It has also complied with its commitment to recycle by supporting initiatives to extend product life and recycling projects. The European Union has also committed to the productive

⁹⁶⁵¹ Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-approves-conclusions-on-an-eu-renovation-wave/>

⁹⁶⁵² Council agrees on new rules for cross-border energy infrastructure, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-agrees-on-new-rules-for-cross-border-energy-infrastructure/>

⁹⁶⁵³ Council agrees on new rules for cross-border energy infrastructure, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-agrees-on-new-rules-for-cross-border-energy-infrastructure/>

⁹⁶⁵⁴ Council agrees on new rules for cross-border energy infrastructure, Consilium (Brussels) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/11/council-agrees-on-new-rules-for-cross-border-energy-infrastructure/>

⁹⁶⁵⁵ EIB approves EUR 4.1 billion financing for renewable energy, clean transport, COVID recovery, social housing and education, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-204-eib-approves-eur-4-1-billion-financing-for-renewable-energy-clean-transport-covid-recovery-social-housing-and-education>

⁹⁶⁵⁶ EIB approves EUR 4.1 billion financing for renewable energy, clean transport, COVID recovery, social housing and education, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-204-eib-approves-eur-4-1-billion-financing-for-renewable-energy-clean-transport-covid-recovery-social-housing-and-education>

⁹⁶⁵⁷ EIB signs advisory agreement with Hydrogen Europe, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-284-eib-signs-advisory-agreement-with-hydrogen-europe>

⁹⁶⁵⁸ EIB signs advisory agreement with Hydrogen Europe, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-284-eib-signs-advisory-agreement-with-hydrogen-europe>

⁹⁶⁵⁹ EIB signs advisory agreement with Hydrogen Europe, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 9 September 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-284-eib-signs-advisory-agreement-with-hydrogen-europe>

reusing of emissions through carbon farming and carbon capture and storage projects. Additionally, the European Union has also complied with its commitment to remove carbon emissions by promoting the conservation of biodiversity. The European Union has also committed to the development of the hydrogen sector, as well as hydrogen-powered transportation and refueling facilities.

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

Analyst: Amanda Wang

20. Climate Change: Paris Agreement

“Signatories to the Paris Agreement who confirmed at Osaka their determination to implement it, once again, reaffirm their commitment to its full implementation, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| 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 | | +0.95 (98%) | |

Background

The G20 first addressed the issue of climate change at its inaugural summit in Washington D.C. in 2008.⁹⁶⁶⁰ It is recognized that, “climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all [countries].”⁹⁶⁶¹ Many commitments made at past G20 summits have either dealt directly with climate change, or have had climate change as an underlying theme. These include commitments relating to clean energy, food and agriculture, among others.

At the London Summit in 2009, G20 members expressed their support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁹⁶⁶² This support was reiterated at every G20 summit, including the one in Hamburg in 2017 where leaders reiterated the importance of fulfilling

⁹⁶⁶⁰ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

⁹⁶⁶¹ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Seventeenth Session, Held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) 15 March 2012. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf>.

⁹⁶⁶² Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, 2009 London Summit, RANEP (Moscow) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2009london/2009communique0402.pdf>

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 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's report "Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth."⁹⁶³

The Paris Agreement was adopted by the participants of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC on 12 December 2015. The provisions agreed upon by the parties are aimed at keeping the global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial level. In addition, the parties pledged to "pursue efforts" to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. COP participants also agreed provide national inventory reports on anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and provide other information necessary for assessing the implementation progress.⁹⁶⁴ The Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016 after the threshold of 55 ratifying parties responsible for at least 55 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions had been met. The Agreement has been ratified by 152 states to date.⁹⁶⁵

The United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on 1 June 2017 raised concerns over the prospects of the agreement itself and international climate change cooperation in general.⁹⁶⁶ According to the provisions of Article 28 of the document, the termination of the participation of a signatory and ratifying party to the agreement is only possible four years after its entry into force (three years before a country can withdraw and another year before the decision takes effect), that is, on 4 November 2020. Thus, the United States can no longer be considered a signatory of the Paris Agreement and, thus, is not assessed on this commitment's implementation.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to strive for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement stipulates three major goals:

1. Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
2. Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
3. Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.⁹⁶⁷

Thus, to fully comply with the commitment the G20 members must take action on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement, that is: to take action aimed at greenhouse gases emissions

⁹⁶³ G20 Leaders' Declaration Shaping an interconnected world, CIIR RANEP (Moscow) July 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg&20leaders_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf

⁹⁶⁴ Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York City) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021
http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf 2839

⁹⁶⁵ The Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York City) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

⁹⁶⁶ Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord, the White House (Washington, DC) 1 June 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/06/01/statement-president-trump-parisclimate-accord>.

⁹⁶⁷ Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York City) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

reduction; to support climate adaptation and resilience; to mobilize climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -1 | G20 member does not take action on any of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization |
| 0 | G20 member takes action to address one or two of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization. |
| +1 | G20 member takes action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization. |

Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov

Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 12 December 2021, President Alberto Fernández announced a new commitment by Argentina to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to strengthen the adaptation capacities of communities to the consequences of climate change, particularly the most vulnerable, with the aim of promoting integral and sustainable development.⁹⁶⁶⁸

On 8 February 2021, the Chamber of Renewable Energies held a meeting with the Undersecretary of Electric Energy, Federico Basualdo, to advance the joint work of proposals that encourage renewable energies in the country.⁹⁶⁶⁹

On 27 April 2021, the Renewable Energy Project in Rural Markets of the Ministry of Energy defined the companies that will be in charge of the design, construction and initial operation of four photovoltaic and wind mini-grids in the towns of Catua, El Toro and San Juan of Quillaques, in the Susques Department of the Province of Jujuy; and Naupa Huen, in the Province of Río Negro.⁹⁶⁷⁰

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, led by Juan Cabandié, held the second Roundtable of Focal Points of the National Climate Change Cabinet of the year, in which they sought to plan the next steps to achieve the commitments announced by President Alberto Fernández at the Climate Leaders' Summit. At the summit, organized by the United States government, Fernández announced a set of strategic lines of action and the revision of the mitigation goal of the second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), to achieve a limitation

⁹⁶⁶⁸ Argentina announced its new commitment in the fight against climate change, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-anuncio-su-nuevo-compromiso-en-la-lucha-contra-el-cambio-climatico>

⁹⁶⁶⁹ CADER met with the nation's undersecretary of electric power to promote renewable energy, CADER (Buenos Aires) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.cader.org.ar/cader-se-reunio-con-el-subsecretario-de-energia-electrica-de-la-nacion-para-promover-energias-renovables/>

⁹⁶⁷⁰ PERMER: 4 mini-grids of renewable energies will provide electricity to rural localities, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/permer-4-mini-redes-de-energias-renovables-daran-electricidad-localidades-rurales>

of gas emissions. It is 27.7 per cent more ambitious than that presented in the first Argentine NDC in 2016.⁹⁶⁷¹

On 1 July 2021, Argentina's Project for Renewable Energy in Rural Markets called for bids for the design, construction or expansion and initial operation of four renewable energy generating plants that will supply the rural towns of Laguna Blanca, Aguada Guzmán and Colán Conhué, in the province of Río Negro, and El Peñón, in Catamarca.⁹⁶⁷²

On 22 July 2021, Undersecretariat of Electric Energy approved a 50 per cent increase in the amounts of the promotional benefit that encourages the installation of distributed generation equipment from renewable energies. The adaptation of this benefit, which in practice is mainly aimed at small and medium-sized companies and businesses, "occurs within the framework of a growing interest in the renewable distributed generation sector throughout the country."⁹⁶⁷³

On 23 July 2021, it was reported that in the second quarter of 2021, 187.66 MW of installed power from five large-scale projects: three wind farms and two bioenergy plants (one of biogas and one of biomass) were added in Argentina.⁹⁶⁷⁴

On 8 September 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development created the Joint Working Group for the preparation of the Regional Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change of the Paraná River Delta. The plan will have the general objective of defining a territorial development model adapted to the anticipated scenarios of climate change, maintaining the degrees of anthropic intervention at levels compatible with the maintenance of the ecosystem functions and services of wetlands.⁹⁶⁷⁵

During the compliance period, Argentina addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

⁹⁶⁷¹ A new meeting of focal points of the National Climate Change Cabinet was held, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-celebro-un-nuevo-encuentro-de-puntos-focales-del-gabinete-nacional-de-cambio-climatico>

⁹⁶⁷² PERMER: 6.5 million dollars to supply electricity to 4 rural communities, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/permer-65-millones-de-dolares-para-abastecer-de-electricidad-4-comunidades-rurales>

⁹⁶⁷³ Distributed generation: update in the amount of Tax Credit Certificates, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generacion-distribuida-actualizacion-en-el-monto-de-certificados-de-credito-fiscal>

⁹⁶⁷⁴ Renewable Energies: Five new projects in three provinces add more than 187 megawatts to the electrical system, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/energias-renovables-cinco-nuevos-proyectos-en-tres-provincias-incorporan-mas-de-187>

⁹⁶⁷⁵ Environment created a working group to prepare the plan for adaptation to climate change in the Paraná Delta, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-creo-un-grupo-de-trabajo-para-elaborar-el-plan-de-adaptacion-al-cambio-climatico>

On 8 December 2020, the government-funded Clean Energy Finance Corporation, on behalf of the Australian government, has committed AUD80 million (approximately USD59 million) in an investment that will be used to assess the likely emissions profile of target companies and the companies that it acquires will be required to implement emissions reduction targets that aim to either eliminate or offset their emissions within a decade.⁹⁶⁷⁶

On 1 March 2021, it was announced that the Australian government opened for application a fund to support carbon capture, use and storage. This new fund offers successful projects a share in up to USD50 million in grants over three years. Businesses, researchers and governments can apply.⁹⁶⁷⁷

On 21 April 2021, it was announced that through 2021-2022 budget Australian government will invest USD539.2 million into clean hydrogen and carbon capture, use and storage projects. This investment is expected to create 2,500 jobs as part of the government's technology-led plan to grow the economy and meet and beat Australia's emissions reduction commitments.⁹⁶⁷⁸

On 22 April 2021, it was announced that through 2021-2022 budget Australian government will invest USD565.8 million into establishing low emissions technology partnerships and initiatives with key trading and strategic partners. The funding will advance and support the goals of Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap in its effort to reduce emissions while supporting economic growth and lowering energy costs.⁹⁶⁷⁹

On 23 April 2021, it was announced that the Australian government will invest USD59.9 million in setting up a high-integrity carbon offset scheme for Australia and countries in the Indo-Pacific region, helping to boost public and private investment in climate action and help Australia and countries in the region meet their international climate change commitments.⁹⁶⁸⁰

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government unveiled the Budget 2021-2022. The development of the new National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy was announced as a part of the government efforts during the budgetary cycle. The new strategy, still (as of September 2021) under development, is to strengthen "national coordination to manage physical climate impacts," such as floods, bushfires, droughts, sea level rise and marine heatwaves. The consultation period for the strategy closed on 6 September 2021.⁹⁶⁸¹

Australia took action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

⁹⁶⁷⁶ CEFC and Adamantem target ambitious emissions reduction across private equity sector, Clean Energy Finance Corporation (Sydney) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cefc.com.au/media/media-release/cefc-and-adamantem-target-ambitious-emissions-reduction-across-private-equity-sector/>

⁹⁶⁷⁷ New fund to support carbon capture, use and storage projects, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/new-fund-to-support-carbon-capture-use-and-storage-projects>

⁹⁶⁷⁸ Clean hydrogen and carbon capture investment to create 2,500 jobs while reducing emissions, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/clean-hydrogen-and-carbon-capture-investment-to-create-2500-jobs-while-reducing-emissions>

⁹⁶⁷⁹ International partnerships to accelerate low emissions technology, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/international-partnerships-to-accelerate-low-emissions-technology>

⁹⁶⁸⁰ Australia invests in carbon offset scheme for Indo-Pacific, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/australia-invests-in-carbon-offset-scheme-for-indo-pacific>

⁹⁶⁸¹ National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/adaptation/strategy>

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 15 December 2020, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) approved the financing of BRL 191 million for the construction of three photovoltaic plants with 90 megawatts of installed capacity and the generation of sufficient clean and renewable energy to supply 125 thousand homes. The project will be implemented in the municipality of Pedranópolis, in the northwest of São Paulo, and should generate almost 1,400 jobs.⁹⁶⁸²

On 26 January 2021, Brazil launched an online platform where it is possible to view climate change scenarios for the entire national territory, the Climate Projections portal. The unprecedented tool in the country was built to make climate projections accessible, derived from global and regional models, accessible. Through the platform, it is possible to visualize the increase in temperature, the reduction or increase in rainfall, the variation in the number of consecutive hot days, among other aspects related to climate change. Queries can be made through the selection of filters that involve scenarios projected by time horizon, for the next years or decades, or scenarios by level of warming, that is, what should occur in a given region if the global average temperature increases 1, 5 °C, 2 °C or 4°C.⁹⁶⁸³

On 28 January 2021, board of the BNDES approved the creation of the BNDES Program to Encourage the Reduction of CO2 Emissions in the Fuel Sector (BNDES RenovaBio). The program will provide loans to companies that produce biofuels to encourage them to improve energy-environmental efficiency. Those that, during the loan repayment period, reach the CO2 emission reduction targets stipulated by the program will have a reduction in the interest rate.⁹⁶⁸⁴

On 8 February 2021, BNDES approved two loans for the production of biogas in the interior of Goiás and Paraná. Together, they will avoid the emission of 154 tons of polluting gases, equivalent to the planting of 1,076 trees. Credits of USD 13.3 million will be granted to Albioma Codora Energia, the second cogeneration plant of the sugar cane producer group Albioma, in Goiás, and BRL10.1 million to Cooperativa Agroindustrial Consolata (Copacol), of Paraná. Most of the support from BNDES (about 98 per cent of the total directed to the two companies) will be financed by resources from the Climate Fund – Renewable Energies subprogram, which has facilitated conditions for the implementation of such projects.⁹⁶⁸⁵

On 17 February 2021, Foreign Minister Ernesto Araújo and Environment Minister Ricardo Salle held a virtual meeting with the US government's presidential climate envoy John Kerry. On that occasion, possibilities for cooperation and dialogue between Brazil and the US were examined in the area of

⁹⁶⁸² BNDES finances R \$ 191 million for solar energy project in the interior of São Paulo, Brazilian Development Bank (Rio de Janeiro) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-financia-r-191-milhoes-para-projeto-de-energia-solar-no-interior-de-sao-paulo!/ut/p/z1>

⁹⁶⁸³ Platform allows access to climate change projections for the whole of Brazil, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/educacao-e-pesquisa/2020/11/plataforma-permite-acessar-projecoes-de-mudanca-do-clima-para-todo-o-brasil>

⁹⁶⁸⁴ Program created to encourage reduction of CO2 emissions in the fuel sector, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente-e-clima/2021/01/criado-programa-para-estimular-reducao-de-emissoes-de-co2-no-setor-de-combustiveis>

⁹⁶⁸⁵ BNDES finances biogas projects in Parana and Gioas, Brazilian Development Bank (Brasilia) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-financia-projetos-de-biogas-no-parana-e-em-goiais!/ut/p/z1>

climate change and combating deforestation. It was agreed to deepen the bilateral dialogue in the mentioned areas, with a structured process in frequent meetings, in search of sustainable and lasting solutions to common climate challenges.⁹⁶⁸⁶

On 1 April 2021, BNDES created new structure for issuing green, social and sustainable bonds – Sustainability Bond Framework (SBF). The funds to be raised in future operations based on the SBF will be used to finance and refinance new or existing projects in the BNDES portfolio. The project models eligible for the allocation of resources cover six green and three social categories. Green categories include: renewable energy; energy efficiency; sustainable water, wastewater and sanitation management; pollution prevention and control; clean transportation; and environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use. Social categories, in turn, include health; education; and support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and microcredit.⁹⁶⁸⁷

On 20 April 2021, National Energy Policy Council (CNPE) proposed the development of guidelines for the National Hydrogen Program. “In view of the difficulties encountered by several countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, hydrogen has gained strength as a resource aimed at the decarbonization of economies. The input carries a high energy density, has versatility in use, does not emit CO₂ and can function as energy storage,” stated Secretary of Energy Planning and Development, Paulo Cesar Magalhães.⁹⁶⁸⁸

On 22 April 2021, CNPE approved a resolution establishing the Combustível do Futuro program, which has as its principle the use of alternative energy sources and the strengthening of national technological development. With the initiative, Brazil takes another step in leading the global energy transition. The program aims to propose measures to increase the use of sustainable and low-carbon fuels, as well as the application of national vehicle technology, with biofuels, with a view to further decarbonizing our transportation matrix.⁹⁶⁸⁹

On 23 April 2021, Brazil joined the initiative “Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate,” a joint proposal by the United States and the United Arab Emirates to foster innovation, research and development (R&D) in agriculture in the world. Australia, Denmark, United Kingdom, Singapore and Uruguay also participate. The terms of the initiative and the work plan will be defined until the Food Systems Summit, next September, in New York, and are expected to present concrete proposals at the 26th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26), in November 2021. Until COP-26, the new initiative aims to announce a collective increase in global investments in innovation and research and development aimed at resilient agrifood systems that are resistant to climate change. It also intends to outline a structure for the discussion and promotion of priorities, at the national and international levels, which allows amplifying the actions of the initiative’s members. Investments in innovation should increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable manner and with a consequent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is also essential to ensure that technologies are available to producers at affordable costs,

⁹⁶⁸⁶ Brazil-US Dialogue on Climate Change – Joint note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/dialogo-brasil-eua-sobre-mudanca-do-clima-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-e-do-ministerio-do-meio-ambiente

⁹⁶⁸⁷ BNDES creates new structure for issuing green, social and sustainable bonds, with the support of the IDB, Brazilian Development Bank (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-cria-nova-estrutura-para-emissao-de-bonus-verdes-sociais-e-sustentaveis/!ut/p/z1>

⁹⁶⁸⁸ CNPE proposes guidelines for the National Hydrogen Program, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-propoe-diretrizes-para-o-programa-nacional-do-hidrogenio>

⁹⁶⁸⁹ Created the Fuel of the Future program, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2021/04/criado-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

contributing to rural income and democratizing access to food. By catalyzing global investments in agricultural research, the initiative hopes to be able to globally disseminate fast, efficient and transformative actions based on policies and decisions based on data and science.⁹⁶⁹⁰

On 21 May 2021, it was announced that BNDES will finance the implementation of 14 photovoltaic in the municipality of Janaúba, in the north of Minas Gerais. The project has the capacity to generate 700 Megawatts of clean and renewable energy for the Brazilian electrical system, the equivalent of supplying 933 thousand homes. The project is the largest solar complex under construction in Latin America. In addition, the works for the installation of the plants will generate 1,265 jobs.⁹⁶⁹¹

On 8 September 2021, initiative named PotencializEE was launched in Brazil. The programs goal is to implement energy efficiency measures in small and medium industries in the state of São Paulo through technical support and affordable credit.⁹⁶⁹²

During the compliance period Brazil addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 19 April 2020, the Government of Canada presented the Budget 2021. According to the Budget Speech by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, the budget is “a plan for green recovery that fights climate change, helps more than 200,000 Canadians make their homes greener, build a net-zero economy by investing in world-leading technologies that make industry cleaner, and helps Canada reach its goal of conserving 25 per cent of our lands and oceans by 2025.”⁹⁶⁹³ Budget 2021 provides for CAD17.6 billion investment in green recovery, providing zero-interest loans to households, wishing to improve their homes’ energy efficiency. The budget proposed a CAD5 billion investment into the Net Zero Accelerator, designed to help businesses efficiently reduce pollution while retaining economic competitiveness. The budget also provides for a CAD1.4 billion investment in Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, to support projects such as

⁹⁶⁹⁰ Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate Initiative (AIM-C) – Joint Note MRE-MAPA, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/iniciativa-da-missao-de-inovacao-agricola-para-o-clima-aim-c-nota-conjunta-mre-mapa

⁹⁶⁹¹ BNDES finances largest solar energy complex under construction in Latin America, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2021/05/bndes-financia-maior-complexo-de-energia-solar-em-construcao-na-america-latina>

⁹⁶⁹² Program will implement energy efficiency measures in small and medium industries in São Paulo, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2021/09/programa-vai-implementar-medidas-de-eficiencia-energetica-em-pequenas-e-medias-industrias-de-sao-paulo>

⁹⁶⁹³ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems, and restoration of wetlands and shorelines.⁹⁶⁹⁴

On 23 April 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's new Nationally Determined Contribution target. The target was raised from 30 per cent to 40-45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.⁹⁶⁹⁵

On 5 May 2021, Canadian Minister of Natural Resources announced project recipients of the Emissions Reduction Fund's Offshore Research, Development and Demonstration program. Sixteen offshore projects will receive a total of CAD24.4 million to accelerate innovation in emissions reduction technology in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore oil and gas industry. This funding is part of the Government of Canada CAD750 million Emissions Reduction Fund.⁹⁶⁹⁶

On 13 May 2021, the Government of Canada announced the investment of CAD469,973 Service New Brunswick's Energy Management branch to support the implementation of a government-wide energy management and reporting system. The project is to increase awareness on the benefits of improved energy performance and ensure accountability for energy consumption, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.⁹⁶⁹⁷

On 13 May 2021, the Government of Canada announced the investment of CAD90,000 for a study that explores power system options to help reduce diesel dependency in Labrador's remote and Indigenous communities. The study is intended to assess the value of bringing more renewable integration to isolated communities in Labrador. The funding is provided through Natural Resources Canada's Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program. This eight-year, CAD220 million program aims to reduce reliance on diesel in rural and remote communities by deploying and demonstrating renewable energy, encouraging energy efficiency and building local skills and capacity. It is part of the broader Investing in Canada Plan, a more than CAD180 billion infrastructure investment over 12 years.⁹⁶⁹⁸

On 7 June 2021, the Department of Finance launched consultations with stakeholders on the Budget 2021 proposal to introduce investment tax credit for capital invested in carbon capture, utilization, and storage projects.⁹⁶⁹⁹

⁹⁶⁹⁴ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>.

⁹⁶⁹⁵ Canada's Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/canadas-enhanced-nationally-determined-contribution.html>.

⁹⁶⁹⁶ Canada and PRNL Announce Project Recipients of ERF Offshore RD&D Funding, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-and-prnl-announce-project-recipients-of-erf-offshore-rdd-funding.html>.

⁹⁶⁹⁷ Canada Invests in Energy-Efficient Buildings in New Brunswick, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-energy-efficient-buildings-in-new-brunswick.html>.

⁹⁶⁹⁸ Reducing Diesel Dependency in Isolated Labrador Communities, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/reducing-diesel-dependency-in-isolated-labrador-communities.html>.

⁹⁶⁹⁹ Department of Finance launches consultations on investment tax credit for carbon capture, utilization, and storage, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/06/department-of-finance-launches-consultations-on-investment-tax-credit-for-carbon-capture-utilization-and-storage.html>

On 5 August 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Freeland and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced the launch of consultations on border carbon adjustment mechanism, as a part of the drive to tackle climate change, as announced in Budget 2021.⁹⁷⁰⁰

Canada took action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on implement the Paris Agreement.

On 24 November 2020, the General Office of the State Council released the guidelines on artificial weather-modification work. Among other things, it was mentioned that in order to support and restore the environment and continue sustainable development, the guidelines must be followed, and by 2025, a well-organized and effective weather-modification work system should be formed.⁹⁷⁰¹

On 12 December 2020, President Xi Jinping announced three proposals to improve global climate governance. China will “lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product by over 65 per cent from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 per cent, increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.”⁹⁷⁰²

On 24 December 2020, the Chinese Academy of Sciences announced the establishment of China’s first research center engaged in working on reaching carbon neutrality. The Center will plan research plans and estimate carbon budgets in 2030 and 2060. In the future, the Center will also release the optimal path to reaching carbon neutrality.⁹⁷⁰³

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released a notice on “further improving” the system of financial subsidies in order to promote a healthy development of the new energy vehicle industry. It stated that the subsidies will be cut by 10 per cent.⁹⁷⁰⁴

On 12 January 2021, China published a guideline on implementing the new system of forest chiefs. From then on, each province, city or a town would have forest chiefs, who would organize and lead the protection and development of forests and other green resources.⁹⁷⁰⁵

⁹⁷⁰⁰ Government launches consultations on border carbon adjustments, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/08/government-launches-consultations-on-border-carbon-adjustments.html>

⁹⁷⁰¹ The General Office of the State Council on promoting the work on Artificial Weather Modification. High-quality opinions on development, Office of the State Council (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 21 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2020-12/02/content_5566429.htm

⁹⁷⁰² Xinhua Headlines-Xi Focus: China’s further commitments inject impetus for global climate actions, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.cma.gov.cn/en2014/news/News/202012/t20201214_568424.html

⁹⁷⁰³ Carbon neutrality to be achieved by 2060. The Chinese Academy of Sciences established a special research center, Xinhua (Beijing) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-12/25/c_1126907810.htm

⁹⁷⁰⁴ On “Notice of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Development and Reform Commission on Further Improving the Financial Subsidy Policy for the Promotion and Application of New Energy Vehicles,” Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/31/content_5575908.htm

⁹⁷⁰⁵ Opinions on the Full Implementation of the Forest Chief System, Xinhua (Beijing) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.mee.gov.cn/zcwj/zygwj/202101/t20210115_817597.shtml

On 15 January 2021, the state-owned enterprise China National Offshore Oil Corporation launched a large carbon neutrality project, stating that it was only the beginning of the company's green transformation. The company has decided to establish several research institutions, and will continue its path to decarbonization.⁹⁷⁰⁶

On 9 February 2021, China issued its first batch of carbon-neutral bonds worth about USD991.74 million. The issuers of the bonds: China Three Gorges Corporation, China Huaneng Group, State Power Investment Corporation Limited, China Southern Power Grid Company, Yalong River Hydropower Development Company and Sichuan Province Airport Group. The bonds will be used to finance carbon-reduction projects.⁹⁷⁰⁷

On 5 March 2021, the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will cut the particulate matter 2.5 concentrations of cities at the prefectural level and above by 10 per cent.⁹⁷⁰⁸ Moreover, China will promote the comprehensive green transformation of the social and economic development.⁹⁷⁰⁹ Also, according to the plan, the autonomous region Inner Mongolia must make breakthroughs in reduction of carbon emissions and energy conservation.⁹⁷¹⁰

China has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement, addressing all three issue areas outlined in it.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 26 November 2020, it was announced that Agence Française de Développement (AFD) joined the coalition the German Federal Ministry of the Environment and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation to launch the South East Asia Energy Transition Partnership, a USD50 million investment initiative to support energy transition in South East Asia with technical assistance projects.⁹⁷¹¹

On 4 December 2020, a TerraMaz program was officially launched in Ecuador.⁹⁷¹² It is financed with a EUR9.5 million grant from AFD to fight against deforestation and transit to sustainable development models.⁹⁷¹³

⁹⁷⁰⁶ CNOOC launches its carbon neutral plan, ChinaNews (Beijing) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. <http://www.chinanews.com/cj/2021/01-15/9388542.shtml>

⁹⁷⁰⁷ China issues first batch of carbon-neutral bonds, Xinhua (Beijing), 9 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202102/09/content_WS60227233c6d0719374af8a7e.html

⁹⁷⁰⁸ China to improve urban air quality, Xinhua (Beijing), 5 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/05/content_WS6041b78cc6d0719374afa16c.html

⁹⁷⁰⁹ China to promote green transformation of development, Xinhua (Beijing), 5 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/05/content_WS604226b2c6d0719374afa26f.html

⁹⁷¹⁰ Inner Mongolia set to clean up its energy act, China Daily (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/12/content_WS604ac038c6d0719374afa7e.html

⁹⁷¹¹ The energy transition ramps up in Southeast Asia, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/energy-transition-ramps-southeast-asia>

⁹⁷¹² TerraMaz: a program to fight deforestation and promote sustainable development in Ecuador, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/terramaz-program-fight-deforestation-and-promote-sustainable-development-ecuador>

⁹⁷¹³ TerraMaz: a program to fight deforestation and promote sustainable development in Ecuador, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/terramaz-program-fight-deforestation-and-promote-sustainable-development-ecuador>

On 12 January 2021, Turkey and France teamed up to address the issue of forest adaptation to climate change in a joint initiative financed with a public policy loan and a grant from AFD; 15 joint projects within the initiative were announced for 2021.⁹⁷¹⁴

On 18 January 2021, AFD's MobiliseYourCity initiative for South Asia was announced; the initiative aims to support policy development and facilitate access to increased financing for sustainable urban mobility.⁹⁷¹⁵

On 10 February 2021, AFD, the French Embassy and the European Union Delegation inaugurated the second phase of photovoltaic power station in Bolivia; AFD's loan contribution amounted to EUR60 million; the project expands the supply of non-carbon energy alternatives for Bolivia.⁹⁷¹⁶

On 17 February 2021, the AFD's New Delhi branch signed three project agreements with Indian partners on accessible public transport (EUR250 million credit facility for the development of the Surat Metro, which is expected to create an accessible and sustainable public transport system for about 400,000 people living the rapidly expanding Gujarati port and reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tons), as well as on a floating solar power system, and sustainable forest management.⁹⁷¹⁷

On 22 February 2021, the AFD pledged a EUR50 million public policy loan to Serbia to complement similar financing put forward by the World Bank, as well as to deploy a technical cooperation program for Serbia, with the goal to help the country apply the climate roadmap nationally and locally to meet its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁹⁷¹⁸

On 16 March 2021, France published its National Low Carbon Strategy describing the country's "ecological and inclusive transition towards carbon neutrality"; the strategy provides guidelines for the transition to a low-carbon economy in the following sectors: buildings, transport, agriculture, forestry and soils, energy production, industry, and waste, and sets five-year carbon budgets until 2033; to achieve carbon neutrality, France's strategy aims to: "Make energy production fully carbon-free by 2050; Halve energy consumption through energy efficiency of installations and "more moderate" lifestyles; Drastically reduce non-energy emissions, including by 38 percent compared to 2015 in the farming sector and by 60 percent compared to 2015 in industrial processes; Increase and safeguard carbon sinks such as soils and forests, and promote carbon capture and storage technologies and products from the bio-economy; and promote measures to combat carbon leakage."⁹⁷¹⁹

⁹⁷¹⁴ Protecting forests in Turkey: climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/protecting-forests-turkey-climate-change-adaptation-and-biodiversity-protection>

⁹⁷¹⁵ "MobiliseYourCity"; climate financing for sustainable urban development in South Asia, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/mobiliseyourcity-climate-financing-sustainable-urban-mobility-south-asia>

⁹⁷¹⁶ Boosting Bolivia's energy supply with one of the world's highest solar power plants, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/boosting-bolivias-energy-supply-one-worlds-highest-solar-power-plants>

⁹⁷¹⁷ In India, AFD signs three new agreements during Minister Barbara Pompili's visit, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/india-afd-signs-three-new-agreements-during-minister-barbara-pompilis-visit>

⁹⁷¹⁸ Clear skies for Serbia's climate commitments, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/clear-skies-serbias-climate-commitments>

⁹⁷¹⁹ France, Switzerland Present Roadmaps to Reach Net Zero by 2050, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Geneva) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/france-switzerland-present-roadmaps-to-reach-net-zero-by-2050/>

On 18 March 2021, it was reported that France pledged to promote European Union efforts to put a charge on emissions-intensive imports when it takes over the EU's rotating presidency in 2021.⁹⁷²⁰

On 1 April 2021, the AFD launched the Biodiversity Partners Program pilot project to accelerate pro-nature projects led by 30 entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from eight countries in Southern Africa; the program will provide participants with a broader perspective of biodiversity issues, enable them to integrate these issues into their projects, and provide support in their operational deployment, in order to work to ensure their viability and impacts.⁹⁷²¹

On 4 May 2021, the National Assembly approved a wide-ranging climate change bill that will prevent future airport expansions, prohibit open-air terrace heaters and reduce packaging waste. France aims to cut greenhouse emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels but environmental activists say it is dragging its feet. The legislation would ban the use of gas heaters on the outdoor terraces of cafes and restaurants from April 2022. Supermarkets will have to reduce wasteful packaging to cut plastics use, while goods such as clothing will have to carry an "ecoscore" measuring their impact on the environment. The bill also prohibits the construction of new airports or expanding the capacity of existing airports in one of the world's most-visited countries. Domestic flights on routes served by a train ride of under 2.5 hours will be culled unless they connect to an international flight.⁹⁷²²

On 9 August 2021, France welcomes the first volume of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the physical aspects of climate change. To limit and stabilize global warming below 2°C or even 1.5°C, the IPCC reaffirms that CO2 emissions must be reduced rapidly and net zero CO2 emissions achieved by around 2050, along with a sharp reduction in emissions of other greenhouse gases.⁹⁷²³

On 8 September 2021, it was stated that France is on the verge of a major shift in its nuclear power policy – not by closing down the reactors that meet 70 per cent of its electricity needs, but by looking at new types of power plant called “small modular reactors” (SMR). EDF, state-owned energy giant, sees SMRs as being for export to let other countries close fossil fuel power stations to cut global warming. Yet they could be an up-to-date addition to the French market, although France aims to cut its nuclear power dependency from 70 per cent to 50 per cent by 2035.⁹⁷²⁴

During the compliance period, France has taken important steps to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as climate finance mobilization both at home and internationally.

Thus, France it a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

⁹⁷²⁰ France vows to make EU carbon border levy top green deal issue, Ajot (Plymouth) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://ajot.com/news/france-vows-to-make-eu-carbon-border-levy-top-green-deal-issue>

⁹⁷²¹ Biodiversity partners program (BIPP): supporting pro-nature initiatives in Southern Africa, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/biodiversity-partners-program-bipp-supporting-pro-nature-initiatives-southern-africa>

⁹⁷²² French parliament approves climate change bill to green the economy, Reuters (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/french-parliament-approves-wide-ranging-climate-change-bill-green-economy-2021-05-04/>

⁹⁷²³ France welcomes the publication of the first volume of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report. France Diplomacy (Paris) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/france-welcomes-the-publication-of-the-first-volume-of-the-ipcc-s-sixth>

⁹⁷²⁴ France looks to small-scale nuclear plants for its future. The Connexion 8 September 2021. Access Date 23 September 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/Practical/Environment/France-looks-to-small-scale-nuclear-plants-for-its-future-Small-modular-reactors-SMR-would-be-a-major-shift-in-France-s-nuclear-power-policy>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on addressing climate change.

On 1 December 2020, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH launched the second call for proposals under the “IKI Small Grants” scheme, deploying funds provided by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The scheme aims to support creative ideas that are tailored to local needs and effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. IKI Small Grants also promotes projects that enhance local adaptation measures and focus on forest and biodiversity conservation.⁹⁷²⁵

On 4 February 2021, the KfW Development Bank announced further investments in green bonds under mandate of the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. KfW Group will remain committed to the green bond market as an ambitious investor, thereby contributing to the further development of this market segment. Green bonds are considered by the KfW as an important instrument to mobilize capital for the transition to an environmentally friendly and climate-neutral economy. Since 2015, KfW has built up a portfolio of green bonds which has reached its initial EUR2 billion target and will be further maintained at a level of EUR2-2.5 billion.⁹⁷²⁶

On 5 May 2021, the Government of Germany adopted the first German Sustainable Finance Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to mobilize investments that are urgently needed for climate action and sustainability while also addressing the climate risks that are increasingly relevant to the financial system.⁹⁷²⁷

On 12 May 2021, the German government adopted the revised Climate Change Act. According to the document, Germany is to become climate neutral by 2045 following a clear path to achieve this with binding targets for the 2020s and 2030s. The interim target for 2030, previously 55 per cent, was increased to a 65 per cent greenhouse gas reduction compared to 1990. A new interim reduction target of 88 per cent was set for 2040.⁹⁷²⁸

Germany has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

⁹⁷²⁵ The Federal Environment Ministry supports small-scale local projects in developing countries, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/the-federal-environment-ministry-supports-small-scale-local-projects-in-developing-countries/>

⁹⁷²⁶ Investments in green bonds will continue, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/investments-in-green-bonds-will-continue/>

⁹⁷²⁷ Setting the course for the financial sector: climate action and sustainability as core themes, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-05-05-sustainable-finance-strategy.html>

⁹⁷²⁸ Revised Climate Change Act sets out binding trajectory towards climate neutrality by 2045, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/revised-climate-change-act-sets-out-binding-trajectory-towards-climate-neutrality-by-2045/>

On 2 December 2020, India has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA). The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions.⁹⁷²⁹

On 22 December 2020, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas reviewed the progress of switching over of Industries operating in Delhi to Piped Natural Gas with the Government of Delhi, GAIL and Indraprastha Gas Limited. 1644 of Industrial Units will switch to the new fuel until 31 January 2021.⁹⁷³⁰

From 31 December 2020 to 15 January 2021, government agencies conducted inspections in the project premises and transportation of materials related to Construction & Demolition activities in the NCR in order to abate dust and air pollution levies.⁹⁷³¹

On 1 February 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama announced the launch of a Hydrogen Energy Mission in 2021-22 for generating Hydrogen from green power sources.⁹⁷³²

On 28 July 2021, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched Rooftop Solar Programme Phase II For individual households, subsidy upto 40 per cent of the benchmark cost is provided for RTS plants upto 3 kW capacity and 20 per cent for RTS plants of capacity beyond 3 kW and up to 10 kW. For Group Housing Societies/Residential Welfare Associations, the subsidy is limited to 20% of the benchmark cost for RTS plants of capacity up to 500 kW used for supply of power to common facilities.⁹⁷³³

On 7 September 2021, the first India–Japan High Level Policy Dialogue was held. Minister of the Environment of Japan Koizumi Shinjiro mentioned that both countries can strengthen bilateral cooperation through the Joint Credit Mechanism, Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure and may also explore collaboration in areas endorsed by the G20, especially on climate, environment and energy.⁹⁷³⁴

On 9 September 2021, Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy Shri R.K Singh met with Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities Dan Jørgensen. The two ministers launched “Centre of Excellence on Offshore Wind’ as part of the Green Strategic Partnership. This Centre will be centred around four working groups a) spatial planning; b) financial framework conditions; c) supply chain infrastructure; and d) standards and testing. In the initial phases, the Centre of Excellence will focus on the offshore wind sector. In the medium to long term, the vision is that the Centre will broaden to include a wider group of international governments and players, accumulating

⁹⁷²⁹ Government constitutes High-level Ministerial Committee for implementation of Paris Agreement, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677630>

⁹⁷³⁰ Air Quality Commission directs for 100 percent switching over of industries in Delhi to PNG, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1682640>

⁹⁷³¹ Inspection teams to abate dust and related Air Pollution levies charges of nearly 76 lakh rupees on non-compliant entities, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690035>

⁹⁷³² Key Highlights of Union Budget 2021-22, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693907>

⁹⁷³³ Government incentivising rooftop solar systems connected to grid, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739835>

⁹⁷³⁴ First India-Japan High Level Policy Dialogue on Environment held today, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1752911>

experience and best practices on offshore wind and become an international centre for offshore wind and with broader links to new and renewable energy.⁹⁷³⁵

On 13 September 2021, India and the United States of America launched the “Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD)”. The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and US President Mr. Joseph Biden.⁹⁷³⁶

India takes actions on two of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Anastasiya Kirillova and Irina Popova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 30 March 2021, it was reported that Indonesia was considering legislation and rules to boost development of renewable energy and set a price on carbon to help limit emissions; renewable energy bill is expected to be passed in 2021, while presidential decree on carbon pricing was being finalized at the moment of release.⁹⁷³⁷

On 30 March 2021, it was also announced that the International Energy Agency (IEA) would join the IEA – Indonesia Energy Transition Alliance to support Indonesia’s ambition to undergo energy transition; the Alliance would act as a framework to work together to support policy development, accelerate Indonesia’s energy transition (including power system enhancement, renewables deployment, energy efficiency implementation and the strengthening of energy investment), and mobilize high-level political engagement.⁹⁷³⁸

On 1 April 2021, the Indonesian government reiterated its commitment to address climate change (under the Paris Agreement nationally determined contribution – to cut greenhouse emissions by 29 per cent through its own efforts, and by 41 per cent with the support of the international community by 2030), and willingness to co-chair the UK-led 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties’ Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue.⁹⁷³⁹

On 12 April 2021, Indonesia’s national oil and gas company Pertamina was planning to issue its maiden green bonds within 12 months as a move to secure funds to progress its renewable energy projects, in particular geothermal developments; Pertamina also announced plans to increase the share of its green business in total revenues from current 5 per cent to 10-15 per cent within five years (to operate 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy power projects by 2026 compare to current

⁹⁷³⁵ Union Minister for Power and MNRE, Shri R.K Singhmeets with Mr. Dan Jørgensen, Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1753534>

⁹⁷³⁶ India and US launch the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD), Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1754590>

⁹⁷³⁷ Indonesia Plans New Renewables Incentives to Limit Emissions (1), Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/indonesia-plans-renewable-incentives-this-year-to-curb-emissions>

⁹⁷³⁸ The IEA to support Indonesia’s energy transition, Energy Global (Surrey) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.energyglobal.com/special-reports/30032021/the-iea-to-support-indonesias-energy-transition/>

⁹⁷³⁹ Indonesia reiterates commitment to tackle climate change, Antara News (Jakarta) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/171482/indonesia-reiterates-commitment-to-tackle-climate-change>

figure of 4.146 megawatts), while its subsidiary Pertamina Geothermal Energy prepares for its initial public offering plus a merger of the three Indonesian state-owned geothermal players.⁹⁷⁴⁰

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources announced the country's plans to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix through several strategies, including halting imports of fossil fuels and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) by 2030 and expediting solar power projects; in particular, it was mentioned Indonesia aimed to stop imports of fuel oil and LPG by 2030, and to have 24,000 megawatts of installed capacity of environment-friendly electricity by 2025 and increase it to 38 thousand megawatts by 2035 (from current 10,467 megawatts), with solar energy as a "backbone" of the country's national energy source.⁹⁷⁴¹

On 22 April 2021, speaking at the Leaders Summit on Climate, President Joko Widodo stressed the importance of global partnerships, including with the Pacific, in responding to climate change, which require the fulfillment of commitments and support by developed countries for the developing countries; President Widodo further emphasized that Indonesia's upcoming presidency of the G20 would prioritize enhancement of co-operation on climate with its partners including in the Pacific; he also informed the summit that deforestation was at a 20-year low in Indonesia, and that Indonesia was accelerating pilot projects for its goal of achieving net zero emissions in the coming decades, including rehabilitation of 620,000 hectares of mangrove forests (with four times the carbon absorption compared to tropical forests) to be completed in 2024.⁹⁷⁴²

On 24 April 2021, state-owned geothermal developer and operator PT Geo Dipa Energi (Persero) announced having conducted pre-operational trial of the 10 megawatts small scale geothermal power plant in Wonosobo Regency; the project is expected be a pilot for small-scale geothermal power plants deployment in other areas of the country.⁹⁷⁴³

On 5 May 2021, the Green Leadership Program was initiated by the Green Institute in partnership with Ministry of Environment and Forestry to facilitate young people as the nation's next generation to have a social and environmental justice perspective, and empower them with skills to have green perspective, save and preserve environment.⁹⁷⁴⁴

On 5 May 2021, the Green Leadership Program was initiated by the Green Institute in partnership with Ministry of Environment and Forestry to facilitate young people as the nation's next generation to have a social and environmental justice perspective, and empower them with skills to have green perspective, save and preserve environment.⁹⁷⁴⁵

On 8 June 2021, Indonesia's state-owned utility says it will start shutting down coal-fired power plants and phase them all out by 2055, amounting to 50 gigawatts of capacity. At the same time, it's building 21 GW of new coal plants that will have an operating life until 2065 — a contradiction that

⁹⁷⁴⁰ Indonesia's Pertamina eyes green finance with focus on geothermal projects, Upstream (Oslo) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.upstreamonline.com/finance/indonesias-pertamina-eyes-green-finance-with-focus-on-geothermal-projects/2-1-993976>

⁹⁷⁴¹ Indonesia banking on solar power to boost renewable energy generation, Antara News (Jakarta) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/172926/indonesia-banking-on-solar-power-to-boost-renewable-energy-generation>

⁹⁷⁴² Widodo claims Indonesia leading by example on climate change, RNZ Pacific (Wellington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/441113/widodo-claims-indonesia-leading-by-example-on-climate-change>

⁹⁷⁴³ First tests conducted on 10 MW Dieng geothermal plant, Think GeoEnergy (Reykavik) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thinkgeoenergy.com/first-tests-conducted-on-10-mw-dieng-geothermal-plant/>

⁹⁷⁴⁴ Green Leadership Indonesia, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Jakarta) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. http://www.menlhk.go.id/site/single_post/3961/green-leadership-indonesia

⁹⁷⁴⁵ Green Leadership Indonesia, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Jakarta) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. http://www.menlhk.go.id/site/single_post/3961/green-leadership-indonesia

activists say undermines the coal phase-out plan. The mixed message is the latest from a government that still doesn't have a unified policy on a clean energy transition, and which continues to lavish generous subsidies and incentives on coal miners and power plant operators. Energy policy experts say the president needs to publicly weigh in on the issue, including declaring a deadline for Indonesia to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.⁹⁷⁴⁶

On 3 August 2021, Indonesia stated that it will begin work on a 145 megawatt floating solar power project, the largest in Southeast Asia, after state power utility Perusahaan Listrik Negara and Masdar of United Arab Emirates agreed financing for the project on Tuesday.⁹⁷⁴⁷

On 22 July 2021, the government of Indonesia submitted an updated national climate commitment to the United Nations. The plan includes new measures on adaptation and resilience and some new targets in specific sectors, but has the same topline emissions targets submitted in 2016: an unconditional target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 29 per cent below business-as-usual by 2030, or a 41 per cent reduction target contingent on sufficient international financial support. Indonesia also submitted its first long-term strategy to the UNFCCC, which indicates the country plans to peak GHG emissions in 2030 and could reach net-zero GHG emissions by 2060 or sooner.⁹⁷⁴⁸

Indonesia has taken a number of important steps on both climate change mitigation and adaptation, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 26 March 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition published the public notice on the Experimental Program for Urban Reforestation, launching the financing of the program. The initiative's aim is to plant trees, including medium and long cycle tree plantations, and the creation of urban and peri-urban forests, as well as maintenance thereof. EUR18 million were allocated for the year 2021 to finance the project proposals that will be presented by metropolitan cities. Each metropolitan city can present up to a maximum of five projects.⁹⁷⁴⁹

On 31 March 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition issued an executive decree approving the funding of the projects under the "Smart Networks" Public Notice issued on 20 December 2019 for the "demarcation" of the power distribution network in Southern Italy, in order to strengthen the electricity distribution infrastructure, and to increase the share of energy needs covered by renewable

⁹⁷⁴⁶ Indonesia to retire coal-fired power plants while also adding more, Mongabay (Menlo Park) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/indonesia-to-retire-coal-fired-power-plants-while-also-adding-more/>

⁹⁷⁴⁷ Indonesia begins work on Southeast Asia's largest floating solar plant, Reuters (London) 3 August 2021. Access Date 24 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/indonesia-begins-work-southeast-asias-largest-floating-solar-plant-2021-08-03/>

⁹⁷⁴⁸ STATEMENT: Indonesia Submits New 2030 Climate Targets and First Long-Term Climate Strategy, World Resource Institute (Washington DC) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.wri.org/news/statement-indonesia-submits-new-2030-climate-targets-and-first-long-term-climate-strategy>

⁹⁷⁴⁹ Environment: The Experimental Program for Urban Reforestation is Underway, Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy (Rome) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/ambiente-al-il-programma-sperimentale-la-riforestazione-urbana>

sources. The projects' total value is estimated at EUR207 million, out of which EUR120 million are provided by the government.⁹⁷⁵⁰

On 25 April 2021, the Government of Italy presented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament. The Plan is a part of the European Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic-induced crisis. The Italian plan calls for investments of EUR191.5 billion, financed through the Recovery and Resilience Facility. A further 30.6 billion are part of a complementary Fund, financed through the multi-year budget. The total amount of planned investments is EUR222.1 billion. According to the government statement, 27 per cent of the investment under the Plan is dedicated to digitalization, 40 per cent to combating climate change, and more than 10 per cent to combating inequalities and regional disproportions. EUR69.6 billion is devoted to ecological transition goals, such as energy efficiency, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, stimulating renewable energy sources development, as well as building resilient infrastructure and providing more ecologically sustainable transportation options.⁹⁷⁵¹

Italy has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 25 November 2020, it was reported that Japan's and China's Foreign Ministers agreed to establish a climate change dialogue between the two countries following declarations by Tokyo and Beijing to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050 and 2060 respectively.⁹⁷⁵²

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in collaboration with related ministries and agencies formulated a "Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality" as an industrial policy set to lead the challenging goal of achieving carbon neutrality while ensuring a positive cycle of economic growth and the environmental protection; the Green Growth Strategy makes explicit current challenges and future actions by priority field, and formulates action plans covering comprehensive policies in areas such as budgets, taxes, regulation reforms and standardization, and international collaboration.⁹⁷⁵³

On 7 January 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of Cabo Verde for the technical cooperation project on hybrid

⁹⁷⁵⁰ Smart Grid, Projects Approved in Southern Italy for a Value of 207 Million, Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy (Rome) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/smart-grid-approvati-progetti-nel-sud-italia-un-valore-di-207-milioni>

⁹⁷⁵¹ National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Italian Government (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

⁹⁷⁵² Japan, China to Launch Dialogue on Climate Change, Nippon Express (Tokyo) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2020112500057/>

⁹⁷⁵³ "Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality" Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

power generation system; the project aims to promote and operate renewable energy power generation system that combines renewable energy and thermal power generation.⁹⁷⁵⁴

On 29 January 2021, METI attended the World Trade Organizations' videoconference informal meeting; Japan's inputs at the meeting included the call to start discussions on tariff and non-tariff aspects in order to smoothly disseminate goods and technologies that contribute to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions at a global level.⁹⁷⁵⁵

On 19 February 2021, METI announced the launch of the Committee on the Green Innovation Project as a new body to operate Green Innovation Fund to develop new approaches for achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050.⁹⁷⁵⁶

On 12 March 2021, METI formulated basic policies for the Green Innovation Fund in order to optimize the results of its activities; the fund worth JPY2 trillion is intended to continuously support companies and other organizations for the coming ten years, which show their commitment to challenge such ambitious goals as their business issues ranging from research and development to demonstrations of social effects of implementation of their climate programs.⁹⁷⁵⁷

On 14 March 2021, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of Bangladesh for the technical cooperation project on developing an integrated energy and power master plan to promote a low or zero carbon transformation of the total energy supply and demand system.⁹⁷⁵⁸

On 18 March 2021, the Green Climate Fund approved the first project proposed by JICA on enhanced climate resilience and reduction of deforestation in critical watersheds in Timor-Leste; the project aims to reduce forest degradation and deforestation and as a result reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Timor-Leste by 4.4 million tons over 20 years.⁹⁷⁵⁹

On 23 March 2021, the Government of Japan worked to set a new, more ambitious carbon emissions reduction goal for 2030 ahead of the June 2021 G7 Summit, as part of its efforts towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.⁹⁷⁶⁰

On 25 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement for a maximum amount of JPY 10 billion with India's Indian Non-Banking Financial Company and Tata Cleantech Capital Limited to support the

⁹⁷⁵⁴ Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation Project with Cabo Verde: Supporting the promotion of renewable energy development, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210108_30.html

⁹⁷⁵⁵ Minister Kajiyama Attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

⁹⁷⁵⁶ New Body "Committee on the Green Innovation Project" under Industrial Structure Council to be Inaugurated and First Meeting to be Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0219_001.html

⁹⁷⁵⁷ "The Basic Policies for the Project for the Green Innovation Fund" Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0312_002.html

⁹⁷⁵⁸ Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation for Development Planning with Bangladesh: Contributing to a transformation to low or zero carbon energy system through formulating a comprehensive, long-term energy plan, Japan International Cooperation (Tokyo) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210315_30.html

⁹⁷⁵⁹ The Green Climate Fund approves the first JICA proposed-project: To reduce CO₂ emissions through forest conservation and enhance community climate resilience in Timor-Leste, Japan International Cooperation (Tokyo) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210325_30.html

⁹⁷⁶⁰ Japan to set bolder 2030 emissions target with eye on US alliance, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/Climate-Change/Japan-to-set-bolder-2030-emissions-target-with-eye-on-US-alliance>

company to offer loans to businesses across India that focus on renewable energy generation, electric vehicles and energy efficiency.⁹⁷⁶¹

On 7 May 2021, METI, jointly with the Financial Services Agency and the Ministry of the Environment, held a “Taskforce on Preparation of the Environment for Transition Finance” and formulated the “Basic Guidelines on Climate Transition Finance” as a handbook for conducting transition financing. The reason for it lies in the necessity to secure financing for industries' transition efforts toward decarbonization in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.⁹⁷⁶²

On 21 May 2021, JICA has signed a facility agreement to provide up to USD25 million for an onshore wind power generation project with a total capacity of 144 MW in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. This is expected to serve as a model case for private sector wind power generation projects in the renewable energy sector in Vietnam, including those by Japanese and local companies. In addition, the project will contribute to the Initiative on Overseas loan and Investment for ASEAN.⁹⁷⁶³

On 4 June 2021, in order to promote and spread awareness of transition finance METI set up a taskforce to formulate sector-specific roadmaps for the transition to decarbonization. It is expected to start a project to create case examples of good practice by calling for examples of finance that conform to the Basic Guidelines and are deemed to have model qualities.⁹⁷⁶⁴

On 1 July 2021, the Green Climate Fund approved a project proposed by JICA: Building Climate Resilient Safer Islands in the Maldives. This project aims at establishing a climate resilient mechanism for coastal conservation and protection against future disasters, hence, enhancing resilience and the safety of the Maldives.⁹⁷⁶⁵

On 26 July 2021, METI announced revised Roadmap for Carbon Recycling Technologies, a document that aims to accelerate innovation by showing the path for expanding and disseminating Carbon Recycling (technologies whereby CO₂ is used as a fuel or raw material.) Key points in the revision include adding new technological areas (DAC, synthetic fuels) where progress has been made; bringing forward the beginning of widespread adoption of (general purpose) Carbon Recycling products to around 2040; and adding efforts on international cooperation.⁹⁷⁶⁶

On 7 September 2021, METI signed an memorandum of cooperation on Hydrogen, Ammonia, CCS, CCU/Carbon Recycling with Ms. Elena Burmistrova, Deputy Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee. Gazprom and METI have held 13 joint coordination committee meetings since 2007 as a forum for dialogs and discussions on private projects between Japan and Russia. In addition, the two countries' governments are working on a science and technology cooperation

⁹⁷⁶¹ Signing of Loan Agreement for “Climate Change Management Project” in India: Supporting India to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas through Private Sector Investment Finance, Japan International Cooperation (Tokyo) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210325_10_en.html

⁹⁷⁶² Basic Guidelines on Climate Transition Finance Announced, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0507_001.html

⁹⁷⁶³ Signing of a loan agreement for the Quang Tri Province onshore wind power project in Vietnam (Private Sector Investment Finance), JICA (Tokyo) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210521_10e.html

⁹⁷⁶⁴ Taskforce Formulating Roadmaps for Climate Transition Finance Established, Plus Call for Examples of Model Projects, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0604_003.html

⁹⁷⁶⁵ The Green Climate Fund approves the JICA Project “Building Climate Resilient and Safer Islands in the Maldives”, JICA (Tokyo) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2021/20210706_en_22.html

⁹⁷⁶⁶ Roadmap for Carbon Recycling Technologies Revised, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0726_003.html

program (from 2021 to 2023), which focuses on cooperation between Japanese and Russian companies in the science and technology field with special emphasis on hydrogen projects.⁹⁷⁶⁷

On 13 September 2021, it was reported that on 5 October, METI would hold the 2021 Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures Summit online to discuss climate-related financial disclosures. The summit will bring together leaders of world-class industrial and financial organizations to share their insights and recommendations, with a view toward creating a virtuous cycle of economic growth and environmental protection. The aim is to promote further disclosure which forms the basis for appropriate investment decisions.⁹⁷⁶⁸

On 17 September 2021, it was reported that an ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting and an East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting were held on September 16. Both meetings were held online. 10 ASEAN countries, several other countries and international organizations participated. The outcomes of the meetings were compiled into respective Joint Ministerial Statements: the participants agreed that in order to ensure a stable and continuous supply of energy for economic growth, their 13 countries must each consider various options and utilise all technologies and fuels. In addition, they agreed that there is not only one way to achieve a low-carbon economy, but several for each country. They also welcomed the second Government-Private Forum on Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA) (held in February this year), with many expressing their hopes for even stronger public-private cooperation and further development of its activities. The participants discussed the importance of promoting economic opportunities arising from green growth, sustainable development, energy transitions, and climate change countermeasures in line with global efforts toward implementing the Paris Agreement.⁹⁷⁶⁹

During the compliance period, Japan has taken important steps to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as climate finance mobilization both at home and internationally.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

On 2 December 2020, the National Assembly of Korea approved extended budgeting for the national Ministry of Environment. 17.1 per cent increase was proposed to establish the foundation for implementing the 2050 carbon neutrality goal, climate crisis flooding response and support for hydrogen fueling stations.⁹⁷⁷⁰

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its long-term low greenhouse gas Emission Development Strategy

⁹⁷⁶⁷ MOC signing ceremony with Deputy Chairman Burmistrova of Gazprom, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0908_001.html

⁹⁷⁶⁸ TCFD Summit 2021 to be Held, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0913_002.html

⁹⁷⁶⁹ ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) and East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) Held, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0917_002.html

⁹⁷⁷⁰ 2021 Ministry of Environment Budget and Fund Set at 11 Trillion 171.5 Billion Korean Won, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1427370&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

(LEDS).⁹⁷⁷¹ The NDC includes a pledge to the international community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and presents Korea's target to reduce 24.4 per cent from its national greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. LEDS includes Korea's long-term vision and national strategy for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.⁹⁷⁷²

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment presented the 2021 Action Plan to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy. The plan pushes ahead with carbon neutrality in each sector, including expanding renewable energy, providing eco-friendly and autonomous vehicles as well as fueling the transition into a circular economy.⁹⁷⁷³

On 2 September 2021, Korea passed the Carbon Neutrality Act, becoming the 14th country of the world to implement carbon neutrality into law. According to the press-release, the Act specifies procedures of implementing 2050 carbon neutrality vision, detailing the establishment of the carbon neutrality commission and the framework plan. Various policy options for climate impact assessment, climate response fund and just transition are also included in the Act.⁹⁷⁷⁴

Korea takes actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 29 December 2020, Mexico presented its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In terms of mitigation, Mexico ratified its level of ambition to reduce emissions for both greenhouse gases (-22 per cent) and black carbon, (-51 per cent), by 2030; this with respect to a baseline (business as usual) that takes 2013 as a starting point. With respect to the conditional goals, Mexico committed to reducing its emissions by up to 36 per cent and 70 per cent of black carbon, also by 2030; the latter, depending on the establishment of technology transfer mechanisms, allows a carbon trading price to be defined, technical cooperation to continue and access to affordable financial resources to become available. The adaptation objectives were also expanded to 27 lines of action in five axes: (1) prevention and attention to negative impacts on the human population and in the territory; (2) resilient productive systems and food security; (3) conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (4) integrated management of water resources with a climate change approach; and (5) protection of strategic infrastructure and tangible cultural heritage. One of

⁹⁷⁷¹ Korea Submits its Nationally Determined Contribution and Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy to UNFCCC Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321476

⁹⁷⁷² 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy of the Republic of Korea, UNFCCC Secretariat (Bonn) December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1_RKorea.pdf

⁹⁷⁷³ Ministry of Environment unveiled its Action Plan 2021 to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1449070&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁹⁷⁷⁴ Carbon Neutrality Act Passed by National Assembly Heralding Economic and Social Transition Towards 2050 Carbon Neutrality, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (Sejong-si) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1473610&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

the new multisectoral approaches is blue carbon, which refers to the carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere by coastal marine ecosystems. The update of Mexico's NDC included a broad process of consultation and social participation.⁹⁷⁷⁵

On 21 January 2021, Energy Transition Law, supported the creation of Fund for Energy Transition and Sustainable Use of Energy (FOTEASE). The FOTEASE is a public policy instrument of the Ministry of Energy whose objective is to implement actions that serve to contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for the Energy Transition and the Sustainable Use of Energy, promoting the use, development and investment of renewable energies and energy efficiency, thereby allowing: "Promote, encourage and disseminate the use and application of clean technologies in all productive activities and for domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural use; Promote the diversification of primary energy sources, increasing the supply of renewable energy sources; Establish a standardization program for energy efficiency. Promote and disseminate measures for energy efficiency, as well as energy saving; Propose the necessary measures so that the population has access to reliable, timely and easily consulted information in relation to the energy consumption of equipment, devices and vehicles, which require the supply of energy for their operation."⁹⁷⁷⁶

On 4 February 2021, the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples, the Federal Electricity Commission and the authorities of the Santa María del Mar agency, Juchitán de Zaragoza municipality, agreed to put the 450 KW Solar Power Plant into operation of effective power per day, which will allow to supply electricity to the families of this place, who have been without the service for more than 10 years.⁹⁷⁷⁷

On 23 February 2021, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon participated in the high-level debate of the Security Council of the United Nations entitled "Climate change: addressing climate-related risks for peace and international security through mitigation and building resilience." The Minister reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to combat climate change as a priority of its international action and agreed with the UN Secretary General that the recovery after the pandemic is an opportunity to rebuild and implement transformative change. He also reiterated Mexico's willingness to work together to find multidimensional and structural solutions to environmental problems, in order to build more egalitarian, sustainable and resilient societies.⁹⁷⁷⁸

On 10 March 2021, the Tool for the Preparation of Programs for Adaptation to Climate Change in Natural Protected Areas was issued by National Commission of Protected Natural Areas. This tool aims to highlight the role of Protected Natural Areas as natural solutions for adaptation.⁹⁷⁷⁹

On 12 July 2021, National Commission of Protected Natural Areas issued Tool for the elaboration of Programs of Adaptation to Climate Change in Protected Natural Areas. It seeks to support

⁹⁷⁷⁵ Mexico presents the update of its 2020's NDC, International Climate Initiative Alliance (Mexico City) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://iki-alliance.mx/en/mexico-presents-the-update-of-its-2020s-ndc/>

⁹⁷⁷⁶ Fund for the Energy Transition and Sustainable Use of Energy, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sener/articulos/el-fondo-para-la-transicion-energetica-y-el-aprovechamiento-sustentable-de-la-energia-es-un-instrumento-de-politica-publica-de-la-secretaria>

⁹⁷⁷⁷ INPI and CFE agree on the commissioning of the Solar Electric Pant in the Huave de Santa Maria del Mar community, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inpi/articulos/acuerdan-inpi-y-cfe-atender-necesidad-de-energia-electrica-en-el-municipio-de-santa-maria-del-mar-oaxaca>

⁹⁷⁷⁸ Mexico present at the UNSC high-level debate on climate and international security, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 23 February 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-presente-en-el-debate-de-alto-nivel-del-csonu-sobre-clima-y-seguridad-internacional?tab=>

⁹⁷⁷⁹ Tool for the Preparation of Programs for Adaptation to Climate Change in Protected Natural Areas, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/documentos/herramienta-para-la-elaboracion-de-programas-de-adaptacion-al-cambio-climatico-en-areas-naturales-protegidas>

planning for adaptation to climate change, guide the people involved with interference in the territory and accompany participatory planning processes that facilitate the implementation of measures in the territory.⁹⁷⁸⁰

During the compliance period Mexico addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

On 15 December 2020, Minister for Natural Resources and Ecology Alexander Kozlov gave an order to renew the list of methods used to calculate harmful fumes air emissions in energy, industry, oil pumping and processing, and agriculture.⁹⁷⁸¹

On 12 February 2021, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation issued a ministerial decree on establishment of the nation-wide greenhouse gas emissions recording system. The President had previously ordered to prepare a draft concept of such a system that would facilitate local ecosystems' absorbing capacity estimation.⁹⁷⁸²

On 17 March 2021, the state-owned company "Russian Railways" issued irredeemable "green" bonds worth CHF250 million to purchase electricity-powered passenger locomotives and finance social projects.⁹⁷⁸³

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced a new system designed to properly allocate funding received from businesses conducting environmental-harmful activities. Funding would be dedicated to environment restoration projects. Also, President Putin ordered to lower atmosphere emissions in 12 biggest industrial complexes by 20 per cent by 2024.⁹⁷⁸⁴

On 6 June 2021, the Bank of Russia announced that it would allow issuing of "green" bonds. Issuers would be allowed to mark new bonds as "green" following the recent amendments to the national emission standard. The new national taxonomy follows the international standards and embraces

⁹⁷⁸⁰ Tool for the elaboration of Programs of Adaptation to Climate Change in Protected Natural Areas, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 12 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/articulos/herramienta-para-la-elaboracion-de-programas-de-adaptacion-al-cambio-climatico-en-areas-naturales-protegidas-276773?idiom=es>

⁹⁷⁸¹ List of Methods to Calculate Polluters Air Emissions to be Extended, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rasshiren_perechen_metodik_rascheta_vybrosov_zagryaznyayushchikh_veshchestv_v_atmosferynyy_vozdukh/

⁹⁷⁸² Ministry of Environment to Amend Greenhouse Gases Absorption Qualitative Criteria, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/minprirody_rossii_razrabotalo_rasporiyazhenie_o_vnesenii_izmeneniy_v_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_kolich/

⁹⁷⁸³ "Russian Railways" to Issue CHF250 Million "Green" irredeemable Bonds, Cbonds (St. Petersburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://cbonds.ru/news/1344405/>

⁹⁷⁸⁴ Vladimir Putin Proposed to Mark All Eco-Payments, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021.

http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/vladimir_putin_predlozhit_okrasit_vse_ekologicheskie_platezhi/

several mandatory benchmarks including the planned amount of CO₂ emissions to be produced while executing a proposed project.⁹⁷⁸⁵

On 30 July 2021, the Government announced that it would allocate RUB2.7 billion (about USD36.9 million) to reduce the gas emissions following the aims of the Federal project “Chisty Vosdukh” (“Clear Air”). The sum would be spent to reduce emissions in three major cities of Russia – Novokuznetsk, Omsk and Chita.⁹⁷⁸⁶

Russia takes actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 27 January 2021, speaking at the Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh, the energy minister claimed that the Kingdom would “be doing more than most European countries by 2030 (to combat climate change),” and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia’s commitment to combat climate change via the framework of the Circular Carbon Economy and to do everything to achieve the Paris Agreement.⁹⁷⁸⁷

On 27 March 2021, the Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative were announced to be launched soon by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman – recognizing Saudi Arabia’s share of responsibility in advancing the fight against the climate crisis as the world’s leading oil producer, in response to significant climate challenges faced by the region, and with the goal “to chart a path for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the region in protecting the planet, by clearly defining an ambitious road map that rallies the region and significantly contributes to achieving global targets in confronting climate change.”⁹⁷⁸⁸ The two initiatives goals include the following: “To plant 10 billion trees in Saudi Arabia and 50 billion across the Middle East region, the equivalent to rehabilitating roughly 200 million hectares of degraded lands, translating into the largest reforestation program in the world (which represents the Kingdom’s contribution of more than 5 percent in achieving the global target to plant 1 trillion trees, and reducing 2.5 per cent of global carbon levels); To reduce carbon emissions by more than 4 per cent of global contributions, through an ambitious renewable energy program that will generate 50 per cent of the Kingdom’s energy from renewables by 2030, and several other projects in the fields of clean hydrocarbon technologies, estimated to eliminate more than 130 MT of carbon emissions; To cut carbon dioxide emissions in the Middle East by 60 per cent; To divert 94 per cent of the Kingdom’s rubbish now going to landfills; To raise the percentage of protected areas to more than 30 per cent of its total land area, representing roughly

⁹⁷⁸⁵ The Bank of Russia will allow the issuance of green bonds according to Russian standards, Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Moscow) 9 June 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 22 September 2021.

<https://rg.ru/2021/06/09/bank-rossii-razreshit-vypusk-zelenyh-obligacij-po-rossijskim-standartam.html>

⁹⁷⁸⁶ The Government to Allocate RUB2.7 Billion to Reduce Harmful Air Emissions Under the ‘Chisty Vosdukh’ Federal Project, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 30 July 2021. Translation provided by the analyst. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

https://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/pravitelstvo_napravit_2_7_mlrd_rublej_na_snizhenie_obyemov_vrednykh_vybr_osev_v_atmosferu_v_ramkakh_f/

⁹⁷⁸⁷ Saudi Arabia ‘leading the way’ in climate change fight, Arab News (Riyadh) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1799501/business-economy>

⁹⁷⁸⁸ HRH Crown Prince Announces: “The Saudi Green Initiative and The Middle East Green Initiative,” Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2208375>

600,000 square kilometers, exceeding the current global target of 17 percent, in addition to launching a number of ambitious initiatives to protect Marine and Coastal Environments.”⁹⁷⁸⁹

On 6 April 2021, the National Renewable Energy Program set the target of SR60 billion (USD15.9 billion) worth pipeline of the renewable’s projects for investment; the projects are aimed to increase the generation capacity of renewable energy sources to about 58.7 gigawatts by 2030, of which 40 gigawatts would be from solar generation and 16 gigawatts from wind generation, with the rest coming from other renewable energy sources.⁹⁷⁹⁰

On 9 April 2021, Saudi Arabia inaugurated the Sakaka independent power producer photovoltaic power plant, the first renewable energy project in Saudi Arabia; the plant has an output capacity of 300 megawatts and represents Saudi Arabia’s “first steps to utilize renewable energy;” the opening also witnessed the signing of power purchase agreements for seven other renewable energy projects in a number of regions with 12 Saudi and international companies.⁹⁷⁹¹ It was further reported that Saudi Arabia had plans to launch seven more solar power plants with overall capacity of 3.7 gigawatts.⁹⁷⁹²

On 22 April 2021, speaking at the Leaders Climate Summit King Salman called for global approach to tackling climate change and enhancing the level of international cooperation as the optimal solution to meeting the challenges of climate change; King Salman also updated other Leaders on the Kingdom’s recently launched packages of strategies and regulations on the climate agenda.⁹⁷⁹³

On 24 April 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia would join the Net Zero Producers Forum made up of the United States, Norway, Canada and Qatar to discuss the ways in which they can uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.⁹⁷⁹⁴

On 6 August 2021, it was reported that Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah Alswaha, during his speech to the G20 digital economy ministers’ meeting, said that Saudi Arabia topped the list of leading countries in the digital economy. The Green Saudi Arabia and Green Middle East initiatives, launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, are an addition to investment in new environment-friendly industries and markets. According to minister, NEOM City, the largest global platform for innovators, is an ideal example of harmonizing regulation and innovation, to achieve well-being and preserve the environment through the adaptation of technology and innovation.⁹⁷⁹⁵

⁹⁷⁸⁹ HRH Crown Prince Announces: “The Saudi Green Initiative and The Middle East Green Initiative,” Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2208375>

⁹⁷⁹⁰ Saudi National Renewable Energy Program targets \$15.9 billion project pipeline, Arab News (Riyadh) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1838516/business-economy>

⁹⁷⁹¹ Saudi Arabia inaugurates 1st renewable energy power plant, AzerNews (Baku) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.azernews.az/region/177801.html>

⁹⁷⁹² Saudi Arabia to add 3.7 GW in solar power, achieves world’s lowest price, Balkan Green Energy News (Belgrade) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/saudi-arabia-to-add-3-7-gw-in-solar-power-achieves-worlds-lowest-price/>

⁹⁷⁹³ King Salman calls for global approach to tackling climate change, ArabNews (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846901/saudi-arabia>

⁹⁷⁹⁴ Saudi Arabia to join international forum on climate change: report, The Hill (Washington, DC) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/550126-saudi-arabia-to-join-international-forum-on-climate-change-report>

⁹⁷⁹⁵ Saudi Arabia leads in global digital economy, minister says, the Arab News (Riyadh) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1906631/business-economy>

On 8 August 2021, Saudi Arabia signed power purchase agreements with seven new solar projects that will provide electricity more than 600,000 households.⁹⁷⁹⁶

On 13 August 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia plans to appoint an adviser for the next round of solar projects that will be implemented by the Public Investment Fund (PIF). The Ministry of Energy has received bids for the transaction advisory contracts for ten solar photovoltaic schemes. The capacities of the planned projects, as well as the preferred procurement model, have not been disclosed. Saudi Arabia aims to build 27.3GW of renewable energy capacity by 2024 and 58.7GW by 2030. The initial plan entails the Energy Ministry, through the Renewable Energy Project Development Office, overseeing the procurement of 30 per cent of this target – under the National Renewable Energy Program – via a public tendering process. PIF will deliver the remaining 70 per cent through direct negotiations with investors.⁹⁷⁹⁷

Saudi Arabia has taken a number of important actions to foster climate change mitigation, adaptation and mobilization of climate finance.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

On 3 February 2021, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has launched its first green bond. The EUR200m bond was issued through a private placement with French development finance institution Agence Française de Développement.⁹⁷⁹⁸

On 9 March 2021, the United Kingdom Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions and South Africa announced a project portfolio to support South Africa's climate change priorities. The total financing would reach GBP3 million. The selected projects focus on three priority areas of climate change action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, namely energy transition, low-carbon mobility development and green finance facilitation.⁹⁷⁹⁹

On 20 July 2021, the National Treasury has presented the list of amendments to the 2019 Carbon Tax Act. The Carbon Offsets Regulations set out the eligibility criteria for carbon offset projects, a procedure for taxpayers claiming the carbon offset allowance and administration of the carbon offset system. The carbon offset tax-free allowance assists firms to cost-effectively reduce their emissions and carbon tax liability by up to 10 per cent of their total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by investing in low carbon, mitigation projects.⁹⁸⁰⁰

⁹⁷⁹⁶ Saudi Arabia signs agreements for seven new solar projects –SPA, Reuter (London) 8 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-signs-agreements-7-new-solar-projects-spa-2021-04-08/>

⁹⁷⁹⁷ Saudi Arabia makes next solar move, Power Technology (Alexander) 13 August 2021 Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.power-technology.com/comment/saudi-arabia-solar/>

⁹⁷⁹⁸ DBSA Launches Green Bond, DBSA (Johannesburg) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.dbsa.org/press-releases/dbsa-launches-green-bond>

⁹⁷⁹⁹ UK PACT South Africa announces project portfolio of over £3M, British High Commission Pretoria (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-south-africa-announces-project-portfolio-of-over-3m>

⁹⁸⁰⁰ National Treasury on amendments to the Carbon Offsets Regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-treasury-amendments-carbon-offsets-regulations-20-jul-2021-0000>

On 2 September 2021, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has issued a request for information for the Integrated Renewable Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme to gather ideas and expertise from stakeholders to achieve the Program's goals on energy transition in a stable and effective manner.⁹⁸⁰¹

On 22 September 2021, South Africa has updated the country's Nationally Determined Contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The country's NDC target range for 2025, has been updated from its original value of 398-614 Mt CO₂-eq, to a range of 398-510 Mt for 2025.⁹⁸⁰²

South Africa takes actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 17 February 2021, Turkey released details of measures to curb the impact of climate change on Turkey in the Fight Against Climate Change Declaration which came as the result of discussions and the contributions of scientists and nongovernmental organizations to the government's efforts to address climate change; the Declaration includes: "An action plan for an adaptation strategy to climate change, support for environmentally friendly production practices and investments, and the recycling of waste, among other steps; "Action plans for climate-friendly development for all 7 regions of Turkey, smart-city and zero-waste programs, development of energy-efficient, climate-sensitive residential areas; Strategies for sectors affected by climate change most, namely, agriculture, livestock breeding, tourism, renewable energy and industry; Increasing capacities of solar electricity generation to 10 gigawatts and wind generation to 16 gigawatts by 2030, reducing usage of fossil fuels in buildings by 25 percent by 2023; Support for climate-friendly investments and rewards for investing in clean production technologies, greater access for the public and private sectors to international financial resources to boost their capacity in the fight against climate change; Setting up a Climate Change Research Center which will shape policies on the issue and conduct studies, along with a climate change platform where studies and data on climate change will be shared."⁹⁸⁰³

On 22 April 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spoke at the virtual Leaders' Summit on Climate and noted the following aspects: Turkey expects a reduction of its greenhouse gas emission up to 21 percent until 2030 within the framework of the nationally determined contribution presented in 2015 (prevention of total 1.92 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions); Turkey's installed power capacity has a share of 52.3 percent of renewable energy (6th rank in Europe and 13th in the world); Turkey has launched the zero waste project and will increase the recycling rate to 60 percent by 2035; Turkey believes that the burden of the global fight against climate change should be shared equally; Despite not having ratified the Paris Agreement, Turkey still takes much effort to reduce carbon emissions

⁹⁸⁰¹ Public Works and Infrastructure on Integrated Renewable Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme, South Africa Government (Pretoria) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/public-works-infrastructure-integrated-renewable-energy-and-resource-efficiency-programme-2>

⁹⁸⁰² Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on important climate change measures for South Africa adopted by Cabinet, South African Government (Pretoria) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/forestry-fisheries-and-environment-important-climate-change-measures-south-africa-adopted>

⁹⁸⁰³ Turkey sets new goals in fight against climate change, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-sets-new-goals-in-fight-against-climate-change/news>

and boost renewable energies in line with its national plans, while a recent massive economic reform plan launched by the government has prioritized green transformation.⁹⁸⁰⁴

On 31 March 2021, Turkey's fifth largest bank Garanti BBVA announced it would stop financing coal-related activities to encourage sustainable investments and climate action and that the bank's loan portfolio would be cleaned of coal projects by 2040; Garanti BBVA became the first Turkish Bank to take such a decision.⁹⁸⁰⁵

On 13 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey ranked as the fifth-biggest wind power investor in Europe in 2020 with EUR1.6 billion, according to WindEurope's report.⁹⁸⁰⁶

On 17 November 2020, it was reported that within Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's (TIKA) "Breath for the Future" campaign 20,000 trees had been planted across 25 countries.⁹⁸⁰⁷

On 27 January 2021, it was reported that TIKA installed a solar energy system on the campus of Unite Lebanon Youth Project, a non-profit organization carrying out activities for Palestinian and Syrian refugee children as well as Lebanese people in need.⁹⁸⁰⁸

On 9 August 2021, it was stated that the Turkish government is planning to reach a cumulative solar PV capacity of 15 GW by 2027. Around 25 onshore wind power projects are under construction and a further 99 projects are in the process of receiving governmental permits, with total capacity collectively accounting for around 6.77 GW. The country has already achieved its 2023 target of 5 GW solar PV capacity in 2018 and the government is now planning to reach a cumulative solar PV capacity of 15 GW by 2027. Turkey is expected to comfortably meet this target by 2026. The expected renewables growth is supported by the Renewable Energy Law, the government's tool for achieving renewable power targets.⁹⁸⁰⁹

On 27 August 2021, it was announced that by increasing the use of hydrogen, Turkey aims to take a step towards using cleaner resources and thus becoming less dependent on imported energy. This is of great importance as Turkey's energy strategy focuses on local sources of energy. The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources explained the increasing use of hydrogen in various sectors – including renewable energy, heating, and transport – at the Energy Exploration Workshop.⁹⁸¹⁰

⁹⁸⁰⁴ Turkey expects up to 21 percent decline of emissions until 2030, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/turkey-expects-up-to-21-decline-of-emissions-until-2030/2217416> and Turkey calls on equal share of burden on climate change, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-calls-on-equal-share-of-burden-on-climate-change-164160>

⁹⁸⁰⁵ Turkey's Garanti BBVA bank to stop financing coal projects, Balkan Green Energy News (Belgrade) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/turkeys-garanti-bbva-bank-to-stop-financing-coal-projects/>

⁹⁸⁰⁶ Turkey ranks as 5th biggest wind investor in Europe, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-ranks-as-5th-biggest-wind-investor-in-europe-163935>

⁹⁸⁰⁷ "Breath For the Future" Becomes a Breath for the World, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (Ankara) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/breath_for_the_future_becomes_a_breath_for_the_world-59862

⁹⁸⁰⁸ TIKA Supplies Power for the Education of Palestinian and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (Ankara) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supplies_power_for_the_education_of_palestinian_and_syrian_refugees_in_lebanon-60968

⁹⁸⁰⁹ Renewable power capacity in Turkey to more than double by 2030 to 50 GW, Balkan Green Energy News (Belgrade) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/renewable-power-capacity-in-turkey-to-more-than-double-by-2030-to-50-gw/>

⁹⁸¹⁰ Recent developments in Turkey's hydrogen energy strategies. Balkan Green Energy News (Belgrade) 27 August 2021, Access Date: 24 September. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/recent-developments-in-turkeys-hydrogen-energy-strategies/>

On 22 September 2021, President Erdogan announced on Tuesday that Turkey was ready to finally ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change.⁹⁸¹¹

Turkey has taken important steps to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate finance both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on addressing climate change.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.⁹⁸¹²

On 25 January 2021, Prime Minister Johnson launched the Adaptation Action Coalition, a new international coalition to tackle the impacts of climate change. Developed by the UK in partnership with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, the Netherlands, Saint Lucia and the United Nations, the new Coalition will work to turn international political commitments made through the UN Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience into on-the-ground support for vulnerable communities.⁹⁸¹³

On 9 March 2021, the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions and South Africa announced projects to support South Africa's climate change priorities. The total financing would reach GBP3 million. The selected projects focus on three priority areas of climate change action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, namely energy transition, low-carbon mobility development and green finance facilitation.⁹⁸¹⁴

On 12 March 2021, the UK government launched the Mobilising Finance for Forests Programme. The Programme will use a blended finance investment approach to combat deforestation and other environmentally unsustainable land use practices that are contributing to global climate change. The UK will initially allocate up to GBP150 million across five to six investment funds operating in selected tropical forest regions in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The initiative is expected to attract as much as GBP850 million of green private sector investment.⁹⁸¹⁵

The UK has taken action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

⁹⁸¹¹ Erdogan tells UN Turkey will ratify Paris Climate Agreement, France 24 (Paris) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210921-erdogan-tells-un-turkey-will-ratify-paris-climate-agreement>

⁹⁸¹² UK sets ambitious new climate target ahead of UN Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sets-ambitious-new-climate-target-ahead-of-un-summit>

⁹⁸¹³ New Global Coalition launched to address impacts of Climate Change, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-coalition-launched-to-address-impacts-of-climate-change>

⁹⁸¹⁴ UK PACT South Africa announces project portfolio of over £3M, British High Commission Pretoria (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-south-africa-announces-project-portfolio-of-over-3m>

⁹⁸¹⁵ £150 million government investment to save the world's rainforests, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/150-million-government-investment-to-save-the-worlds-rainforests>

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 15 January 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of approximately USD46 million grant funding to implement projects reducing emissions from the existing fleet of older diesel engines. Eligible applicants include regional, state, local or tribal agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, that provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleet owners or promote air quality and clean transportation.⁹⁸¹⁶

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the instrument of acceptance of the Paris Agreement on behalf of the United States.⁹⁸¹⁷

On 20 January 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. The order directed all executive departments and agencies to review and address the promulgation of Federal regulations and other actions taken by the Trump administration that conflict with the objectives of combating climate change, “and to immediately commence work to confront the climate crisis.”⁹⁸¹⁸

On 27 January 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. According to the text of the document the Biden Administration commits to “putting the climate crisis at the center of United States foreign policy and national security,” including through supporting international emissions reductions efforts. The United States additionally plans to develop “climate finance plan, making strategic use of multilateral and bilateral channels and institutions, to assist developing countries in implementing ambitious emissions reduction measures, protecting critical ecosystems, building resilience against the impacts of climate change, and promoting the flow of capital toward climate-aligned investments and away from high-carbon investments.” The order also mandated all Federal agencies to submit a draft action plan describing specific steps to bolster adaptation and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.⁹⁸¹⁹

On 4 February 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration,

⁹⁸¹⁶ EPA Announces \$46 Million in Funding Available to Reduce Emissions from Diesel Engines, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-46-million-funding-available-reduce-emissions-diesel-engines>

⁹⁸¹⁷ Paris Climate Agreement, Acceptance on Behalf of the United States of America, the White House (Washington, DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/paris-climate-agreement/>

⁹⁸¹⁸ Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, the White House (Washington, DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>

⁹⁸¹⁹ Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, the White House (Washington, DC) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

mandating the inter-agency report on climate change and its impact on migration, including forced migration, internal displacement, and planned relocation.⁹⁸²⁰

On 22 April 2021, President Biden announced the new target to achieve a 50-52 per cent reduction from 2005 levels in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.⁹⁸²¹

On 7 May 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on the Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office. According to the Order, the purpose of the Climate Change Support Office is to “perform the specific project of supporting bilateral and multilateral engagement to advance the United States initiative to address the global climate crisis, led by the Department of State and in coordination with other executive departments and agencies, consistent with Executive Order 14008 of 27 January 2021 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad).”⁹⁸²²

On 13 May 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as a recipient of USD300,000 grant to assess contaminated properties under the agency’s Brownfields Program. The funds support under-served and economically disadvantaged communities in assessing and cleaning up abandoned industrial and commercial properties. The Agency distributes 154 grant awards across the United States totaling USD66.5 million in Brownfield’s funding through its Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants program.⁹⁸²³

On 23 September 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule establishing a program to phase down domestic production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85 per cent over the next 15 years. This program is an effort to tackle global warming, as HFCs are potent greenhouse gases and one of the causes for the rise in global temperature.⁹⁸²⁴

The United States took action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

⁹⁸²⁰ Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration, the White House (Washington, DC) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/04/executive-order-on-rebuilding-and-enhancing-programs-to-resettle-refugees-and-planning-for-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-migration/>

⁹⁸²¹ Fact Sheet: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies, the White House (Washington, DC) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

⁹⁸²² Executive Order on the Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office, the White House (Washington, DC) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/executive-order-on-the-establishment-of-the-climate-change-support-office/>

⁹⁸²³ EPA Selects Rhode Island Project to Receive \$300K Brownfields Assessment Grant, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-rhode-island-project-receive-300k-brownfields-assessment-grant>

⁹⁸²⁴ U.S. Will Dramatically Cut Climate-Damaging Greenhouse Gases with New Program Aimed at Chemicals Used in Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, EPA (Washington) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-will-dramatically-cut-climate-damaging-greenhouse-gases-new-program-aimed-chemicals>

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on addressing climate change.

On 10 December 2020, the EU increased its funding of the Climate Investor One to boost renewable energy in Nigeria, including for the benefit of vulnerable communities. This contribution of EUR10 additional million is channeled through the Dutch Development Bank. According to the European Commission, together with the original commitment of EUR30 million, this top-up has the potential to unlock EUR100 million in renewable energy investments from the private sector.⁹⁸²⁵

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission adopted a new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, setting out the pathway to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The Strategy provides for actions to build a climate resilient society in the EU by improving knowledge of climate impacts and adaptation solutions; stepping up adaptation planning and climate risk assessments; accelerating adaptation action; and helping to strengthen climate resilience globally.⁹⁸²⁶

On 12 May 2021, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil – a key deliverable of the European Green Deal. The Plan outlines a number of flagship initiatives and actions, including those related to greenhouse gas emissions.⁹⁸²⁷

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a series of legislative proposals setting out how the EU intends to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, including the intermediate target of an at least 55 per cent net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The package proposed to revise several pieces of EU climate legislation, including the EU Emissions Trading System, Effort Sharing Regulation, transport and land use legislation.⁹⁸²⁸

The EU has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁹⁸²⁵ The European Union injects €10 million in Climate Investor One for the financing of renewable energy projects in Nigeria, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-injects-eu10-million-climate-investor-one-financing-renewable-energy-projects_en

⁹⁸²⁶ Building a Climate-Resilient Future – A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_663

⁹⁸²⁷ European Green Deal: Commission aims for zero pollution in air, water and soil, European Commission (Brussels) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2345

⁹⁸²⁸ Delivering the European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 27 September 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eu-climate-action/delivering_en