

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College  
in the University of Toronto presents the

## 2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Final Compliance Report

27 August 2019 — 1 November 2020

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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



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## 1. Digital Economy: Digital Infrastructure

“Enabling the necessary digital infrastructure in order to reduce the digital gap and inequality, including in isolated countries and regions that are excluded or underserved.”

*Biarritz Declaration for the G7 and Africa Partnership: Annex II Digital Transformation in Africa*

### Assessment

|                | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Canada         |               |                    | +1              |
| France         |               | 0                  |                 |
| Germany        |               |                    | +1              |
| Italy          |               | 0                  |                 |
| Japan          |               | 0                  |                 |
| United Kingdom |               |                    | +1              |
| United States  |               | 0                  |                 |
| European Union |               |                    | +1              |
| Average        | +0.50 (75%)   |                    |                 |

### Background

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the leaders agreed to the *Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society* which recognized the need to seize opportunities created from Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).<sup>1</sup> The leaders recognised the need to “bridge the digital divide” by providing universal and “affordable” internet access for underserved and “under-privileged” populations.<sup>2</sup> The Okinawa Summit marked the first time digital infrastructure, and addressing the digital gap was in the G7 agenda.

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, the leaders recognized the internet as unique information resource for education, to conduct commerce, drive innovation and to improve efficiency.<sup>3</sup> The leaders recognized the internet as a multi-stakeholder issue and noted broadband internet access as an “essential infrastructure” to enable participation in the digital economy.<sup>4</sup> The leaders also acknowledged the importance of “enhanced access to the Internet” for developing countries to ensure equal opportunities for all.<sup>5</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders agreed to the *G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber* that promoted the importance of digital innovations to maximize economic growth in the 21st century.<sup>6</sup> The leaders recognized the potential of digital technology to improve quality of life, enable innovation and achieve progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>7</sup> The G7 leaders

<sup>1</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Research Group (Toronto), 23 July 2000. Access Date: 5 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 22 July 2000. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/gis.htm>

<sup>3</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet>

<sup>4</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet>

<sup>5</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet>

<sup>6</sup> G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

<sup>7</sup> G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

committed to supporting measures against the malicious use of cyberspace to protecting privacy and data protection, promoting digital innovation through enabling transparent policy and legal frameworks through ICT standards and to bridge digital divides through ensuring universal and high quality access to ICT.<sup>8</sup> Also, the leaders acknowledged the *Charter of the Digitally Connected World*, which emphasized the role of ICT to enable connectivity and to become a driver of social activities and source of economic growth.<sup>9</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders recognized the opportunity posed by the Next Production Revolution to improving competitiveness and boosting economic growth through innovation development.<sup>10</sup> The leaders noted the importance of reshaping existing production systems to allow people from all sectors to reap the benefits from innovation and digitalization and to enhance opportunities for all, including women to pursue STEM careers.<sup>11</sup>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders recognized the threats posed by digital technologies through malicious misuse of information.<sup>12</sup> The leaders recognized the importance to directly engage with internet service providers and social media platforms to improving transparency to prevent illegal use of personal data and breaches of privacy.<sup>13</sup>

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders recognized the *G7 and Africa Partnership*. This partnership which committed strong support to reduce the digital divide.<sup>14</sup> The leaders recognized the role for digital transformation to “boost economic growth and industrialization, alleviate poverty and improve lives.”<sup>15</sup> The *Digital Transformation in Africa* declaration recognized the role of digital technology to drive innovation, economic growth and job creation in different sectors of the economy.<sup>16</sup> G7 leaders recognized the underlying role of digitalization to maximize the work done in other sectors including in health, energy, transport, agriculture, education in line with good governance and development policies and programs. To that end, G7 leaders recognized the importance of “accessible, secure and reliable internet” to reducing digital gaps and reducing inequalities.<sup>17</sup> The leaders also noted that women and girls especially in rural communities are most likely to be affected by the digital divide and underlined the need to address specific situations in fragile regions of the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Lake Chad regions.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

<sup>9</sup> Charter for the Digitally Connected World, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 30 April 2016. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/ict/2016-ict-charter.html>

<sup>10</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>11</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>12</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html>

<sup>13</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html>

<sup>14</sup> Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-declaration-africa-partnership.html>

<sup>15</sup> Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

<sup>16</sup> Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

<sup>17</sup> Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

<sup>18</sup> Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

## Commitment Features

Within this framework of digital infrastructure and reducing digital divides, “enabling” is understood as supporting and providing support to make the necessary steps required to build and run digital infrastructure. This support can be in various forms such as through financial, technical or other measures of support. “Digital infrastructure” is understood as the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of the internet. This includes all forms of digital infrastructure supported or developed by G7 members that support the access of digital information or the functions of the internet. Examples of supporting digital infrastructure can include financing installation of fixed and mobile infrastructure, fiber optic cables, mobile broadcasting stations, cell towers and terminal facilities used for interconnections.

The terms digital inequality, digital gap and digital divide are used interchangeably. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development’s glossary of statistical terms defines the “digital divide” as “the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities.”<sup>19</sup> Moreover, digital divides can reflect various differences both among and within countries with regard to access to digital resources.<sup>20</sup> Examples of initiatives to reduce the digital divide include the financing or provision of subsidies, gifts or grants that use digital infrastructure to support the learning or reduction of digital gaps.

“Underserved” refers to groups that have been inadequately provided with a service of a facility. In this context, it refers to sub-Saharan African countries. Lack of access to digital infrastructure for individuals in these countries and regions can be due to a wide range of barriers including financial or physical accessibility, educational accessibility or other forms of barriers, all contributing to widen the digital divide. As this commitment was made in the Biarritz Declaration for the G7 and Africa Partnership: Annex II Digital Transformation in Africa this report analysis G7 efforts to enable digital infrastructure in Africa’s isolated and underserved countries and regions. “Isolated” refers to countries that are geographically, or infrastructurally separate. For compliance, isolated countries will be those within regions of the Sahel, Sahara, Savanna, Ethiopian Highlands and Swahili Coast. Isolated countries for compliance include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Sahel region countries include, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan. Sahara region countries include Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. Savanna region countries include Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ethiopian Highland countries include Eritrea and Ethiopia. Countries in the Swahili Coast region include Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia and Tanzania.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must: 1. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region, and 2. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country. Actions must be taken in multiple countries in the African regions to achieve a score of full compliance and must be inclusive of at least two separate actions.

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<sup>19</sup>Glossary of Statistical Terms - Digital Divide, OECD (Paris), 5 August 2002. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719>

<sup>20</sup>Glossary of Statistical Terms - Digital Divide, OECD (Paris), 5 August 2002. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719>

If a G7 member takes action to: 1. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region, or 2. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country, a score of 0 or partial compliance will be assigned.

A score of no compliance will also be awarded if a G7 member takes no action to either of the two thresholds of the commitment.

### Scoring Guidelines

|    |   |
|----|---|
| -1 | G7 Member does NOT take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region NOR takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country. |
| 0  | G7 Member takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region OR takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country.          |
| +1 | G7 Member takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region AND takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country.         |

*Compliance Director: Joe Wu  
Lead Analyst: Priscilla Layarda*

#### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure by enabling digital infrastructure in an African region and in one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

On 27 August 2019, a funding partnership of CAD6.7 million was signed by Sustainable Development Technology Canada owned by the Canadian Federal government and Ecopia Tech to digitally map the Sub-Saharan African Region.<sup>21</sup> The project intends to promote data-driven decisions in African countries in areas including the environment, economy, health care and vaccination, and infrastructure.<sup>22</sup> The project expects a total of 38 million kilometres of roads, 342 million buildings and 582 million hectares of forest to be included in the digital map.<sup>23</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced during his visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that Canada will support the growth of small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs particularly those owned by youth and women in Ethiopia.<sup>24</sup> Canada will provide CAD12.9 million to the Digital Opportunity Trust and CAD8.5 million to RENEW (an impact investment firm), to support Ethiopian Youth with digital solutions and technology.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/>

<sup>22</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/>

<sup>23</sup> Sustainable Development Technology Canada Funds Ecopia Tech Corporation to Map All of Sub-Saharan Africa, Financial Post (Toronto): 22 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/press-releases-pmn/business-wire-news-releases-pmn/sustainable-development-technology-canada-funds-ecopia-tech-corporation-to-map-all-of-sub-saharan-africa>

<sup>24</sup> Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Prime Minister of Canada (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 09 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

<sup>25</sup> Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Prime Minister of Canada (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 09 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

Canada has taken actions to enable the development digital infrastructure in one African region and an action enabling digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in an African region but not in an isolated/excluded/underserved country.

On 9 December 2019, France announced that it had created a EUR15 million seed fund to expand Africa's "digital ecosystem."<sup>26</sup> This fund seek to help small and medium enterprises in 45 African countries which lacks funding.<sup>27</sup> The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will be running this initiative.<sup>28</sup> Each emerging start-up can receive a maximum of EUR300,000 via "AFD's local partners."<sup>29</sup>

France has taken an action to foster digital infrastructure in an African region but has not taken specific actions to enable digital infrastructure in an isolated/excluded/underserved country.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Mark Edwards*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in an African region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

On 30 October 2019, Germany held the 6th German-African Healthcare Forum, sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), where a "recurring theme" was "the need for support with IT-infrastructure."<sup>30</sup>

On 18 November 2019, Germany announced the launch of seven flagship digital projects in Africa.<sup>31</sup> The BMZ announced an investment of EUR270 Million in over 200 digital projects across Africa.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

<sup>27</sup> AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

<sup>28</sup> AFD: Towards A World In Common, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en>

<sup>29</sup> AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

<sup>30</sup> African ministers meet German innovators and investors, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 30 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. [http://health.bmz.de/events/Events\\_2019/african\\_ministers\\_meet\\_german\\_innovators\\_investors/index.html](http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2019/african_ministers_meet_german_innovators_investors/index.html)

<sup>31</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. [http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

<sup>32</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. [http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

Development Minister Gerd Müller announced the launch of the Africa Cloud Initiative that will provide “e-learning opportunities to young people in remote and rural areas of Africa.”<sup>33</sup> Other projects include the Digital Africa Initiative, with EUR150 million distributed between over 50 project to “strengthen good governance using internet-based public participation methods,”<sup>34</sup> the Make-IT Initiative that focuses on “supporting the digital start-up scene” in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria Ghana and Tunisia,<sup>35</sup> and Digital Centres to provide technical expertise, information technology theory and digital entrepreneurship “under one roof.”<sup>36</sup> To date, Digital Centres have been built in Tunisia, Senegal, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda with the aim of enabling a “pan-African network.”<sup>37</sup>

On 26 November 2019, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke about the necessity of “improv[ing] internet access and equal participation in the digital transformation.”<sup>38</sup>

Germany has taken actions to enable digital infrastructure in the Africa region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mark Edwards*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in the Africa region and enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/ excluded/underserved country.

On 13 December 2019, Italy’s Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Emanuela Del Re, hosted an inaugural meeting of the South Africa–Italy Bilateral Consultations with the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Alvin Botes.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

<sup>34</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

<sup>35</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

<sup>36</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

<sup>37</sup> Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118\\_pm\\_065\\_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html)

<sup>38</sup> Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel opening the 14th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in Berlin on 26 November 2019, Federal Ministry on Economic Cooperation and Development. 26 November 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-opening-the-14th-annual-meeting-of-the-internet-governance-forum-in-berlin-on-26-november-2019-1701494>

<sup>39</sup> Deputy Minister Botes to host Bilateral Consultations with his Italian counterpart, Department of Foreign Affairs (Pretoria). 30 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2019/media1212.htm>

Minister Del Re-emphasized Italy's wish to enhance their relationship through investments and technologies.<sup>40</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Emanuela Del Re, attended a meeting regarding Africa and Cooperation with Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.<sup>41</sup> The meeting focused on digital technologies, Africa's "green transition," and growth and employment.<sup>42</sup> Deputy Minister Del Re expressed Italy's desire for supporting Africa through these transitions.<sup>43</sup>

Italy has taken action in enabling digital infrastructure in an isolated/excluded/underserved country, but has not taken a concrete action towards enabling digital infrastructure in another African country or region.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sophie Sondhelm and Priscilla Layarda*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in the Africa region, but not in an isolated/excluded/underserved country.

From 28 August to 30 August 2019, Japan co-hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) with the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, and African Union (AU) Commission.<sup>44</sup> The conference was attended by "42 African leaders from 53 African countries, 52 development partner countries, 108 heads of international and regional organizations, and representatives of civil society and the private sector."<sup>45</sup> Japan pledged to assist the development of digital infrastructure in Africa through "develop[ing] 5,000 highly skilled people for Science Technology and Innovation (STI) [including artificial intelligence] at Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)."<sup>46</sup> E-JUST received 150 African students to develop their

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<sup>40</sup>Del Re Attends Italy-South Africa Bilateral Political Consultations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/del-re-a-consultazioni-politiche-bilaterali-italia-sudafrica.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/del-re-a-consultazioni-politiche-bilaterali-italia-sudafrica.html)

<sup>41</sup>Del Re in Brussels, meeting on Africa and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2019. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html)

<sup>42</sup>Del Re in Brussels, meeting on Africa and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2019. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html)

<sup>43</sup>Del Re in Brussels, meeting on Africa and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2019. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html)

<sup>44</sup> The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) (Yokohama, 28th - 30th August, 2019), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/page25e\\_000274.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/page25e_000274.html)

<sup>45</sup> The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) (Yokohama, 28th - 30th August, 2019), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/page25e\\_000274.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/page25e_000274.html)

<sup>46</sup> Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

“information and communications technology (ICT) talents.”<sup>47</sup> Other areas of cooperation include developing ICT talents through “supporting the development, operation and utilization of small satellites, including small satellites deployment from the Japanese Experiment module “kibo” of International Space Station and satellite data to solve social issues.”<sup>48</sup>

Between 28 August and 31 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “held 47 meetings with leaders from 42 countries and the chair of the AU Commission, 3 heads of international organizations and 1 private invitee,” while Foreign Minister Kono Taro “held 25 bilateral meetings with ministers of African countries and heads of international organizations.” In one of the meetings on 29 August 2019 between Mr. Kono Taro and H. Dr. Unity Dow, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana,<sup>49</sup> Japan expressed its support for Botswana “in expanding the use of the Japanese system of the digital terrestrial broadcasting that Botswana has adopted.”<sup>50</sup>

On 27 September 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, delivered a speech at the Europa Connectivity Forum which re-emphasized Japan’s commitment to “from now choose ten priority countries in Africa each year for the next three years, for a gross total of thirty countries, and provide their officials with training in sovereign debt and risk management.”<sup>51</sup>

On 27 September 2019, during the official announcement of EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, promised Africa to be the “geographical spaces of special concern for the new partnership.”<sup>52</sup>

Japan has taken actions to enable the development of digital infrastructure in the Africa region, but has not taken specific actions to address digital infrastructure development in isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Lauren Hung*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in the African region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

On 6 May 2019, Secretary of Britain’s Department of International Development urged “basic connectivity of underserved communities, digital skills and investment in EdTech solutions, support in digital ID [identification] deployment, partnerships on digital financial services, and the promotion

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<sup>47</sup> Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Japan-Botswana Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e\\_001073.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e_001073.html)

<sup>50</sup> Japan-Botswana Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e\\_001073.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e_001073.html)

<sup>51</sup> “Japan and the EU: The Strong and Steady Pillars Supporting Many Bridges”– Keynote Speech by the Prime Minister at the Europa Connectivity Forum, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/statement/201909/\\_00003.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/201909/_00003.html)

<sup>52</sup> Discours d’ouverture du Président Jean-Claude Juncker au Europa Connectivity Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/SPEECH\\_19\\_5909](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/SPEECH_19_5909)

of digital ecosystems and entrepreneurship.”<sup>53</sup> The secretary, however, did not elaborate on the specific plans to improve such conditions.

On 14 October 2019, United Kingdom’s Minister for Africa, Andrew Stephenson, announced the UK-Africa Investment Summit which will take place on 20 January 2020. The summit aims to “mobilise new and substantial investment to create jobs and boost mutual prosperity”<sup>54</sup> through commercial partnerships in building technological infrastructure.<sup>55</sup> Additionally, it was announced that an Infrastructure Commission was established to secure sustainable development and technological innovation in Africa.<sup>56</sup>

On 20 January 2020, the UK held the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London with 21 African countries represented.<sup>57</sup> The Department for International Development (DFID) funded GBP45 million to the “Digital Access Program” to increase connectivity, digital skills of marginalized community, build cybersecurity capacity and establish local Tech Hubs to grow local digital economies and empower startups with technical skills<sup>58</sup> The Digital Access programs will be implemented across Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.<sup>59</sup> The UK Development Financial Institution, the CDC group also plans to invest up to GBP2 billion in Africa over the next two years.<sup>60</sup><sup>61</sup>

United Kingdom has taken actions to enabled digital infrastructure in the Africa region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.<sup>62</sup>

*Analyst: Michael Levinson*

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<sup>53</sup> Achieving Africa’s Digital Transformation is an Ambition that Requires Game-changing cooperation, World Bank (Washington DC) May 6, 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/05/06/achieving-africas-digital-transformation-is-an-ambition-that-requires-game-changing-cooperation>.

<sup>54</sup> UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) N.D. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/uk-africa-investment-summit-2020/about>.

<sup>55</sup> FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa’s speech, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019>.

<sup>56</sup> FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa’s speech, Government of the United Kingdom(London)14 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019>.

<sup>57</sup> UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/859314/2020\\_01\\_20\\_AIS\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_Statement\\_-\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/859314/2020\\_01\\_20\\_AIS\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_Statement\\_-\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/859314/2020\\_01\\_20\\_AIS\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_Statement\\_-\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/859314/2020\\_01\\_20\\_AIS\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_Statement\\_-\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> UK aims to be Africa’s partner of choice for trade and investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

<sup>62</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org), [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com), [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com).

## United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in the Africa region and enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

On 30 September 2019, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) in partnership with Atlas Mara announced an agreement to provide USD200 million in financing for the Union Bank of Nigeria to support inclusive lending across Nigeria.<sup>63</sup> The loan will enable investments in digitization, lending to Small and Medium Enterprises and funding for women-led businesses as part of the 2X Women's Initiative.<sup>64</sup>

On 12 November 2019, at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, Adam Boehler, Chief Executive Officer of the DFC announced at the first disbursement of a USD40 Million loan to Tetra4 Proprietary Ltd. to support the development of critical gas infrastructure and advance energy security in South Africa.<sup>65</sup> The project will introduce new technology to South Africa with important applications in telecommunications and other sectors.<sup>66</sup>

On 17 March 2020, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, touted potential investment opportunities in Africa as an alternative to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.<sup>67</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the US announced a commitment to invest USD5 billion in Ethiopia through the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to support the nation's private sector.<sup>68</sup>

On July 15 2020, US Trade and Development Agency awarded a grant as part of its Access Africa initiative to Backbone Connectivity Network, a Nigerian company. USTDA's Acting Director, Thomas R. Hardy claims the grant is directed towards the "development of transformative infrastructure in top emerging markets like Nigeria."<sup>69</sup>

The United States has taken action to enable digital infrastructure in an isolated/excluded/underserved country, but has not taken a concrete action to enable digital infrastructure in another African country or region.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Michael Levinson*

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<sup>63</sup> Atlas Mara, OPIC and UBN Partner to Fund \$200 Million for Inclusive Lending in Nigeria, US International Development Finance Corporation (Washington). 30 September 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019.

<sup>64</sup> Atlas Mara, OPIC and UBN Partner to Fund \$200 Million for Inclusive Lending in Nigeria, US International Development Finance Corporation (Washington,DC). 30 September 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019.

<sup>65</sup> U.S. Provides Financing to Tetra4 to Develop Energy Infrastructure in South Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (Washington, DC) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

<sup>66</sup> Information Summary for the Public, OPIC (United States) N.D. Access Date: 15 December 2019.

<sup>67</sup> Pompeo touts US investment as alternative to Chinese loans on Africa trip, France 24 (Paris) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200217-pompeo-touts-us-investment-as-alternative-to-chinese-loans-on-africa-trip>.

<sup>68</sup> US ready to back Ethiopian reform with \$5bn investment, Financial Times (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/b0c2963c-5e1a-11ea-8033-fa40a0d65a98>.

<sup>69</sup> USTDA Supports internet Connectivity in Nigeria, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (Arlington) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://ustda.gov/ustda-supports-internet-connectivity-in-nigeria/>.

## European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in the African region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

On 27 September 2019, during the official announcement of EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, promised Africa to be the “geographical spaces of special concern for the new partnership.”<sup>70</sup>

On 15 October 2019, the official launch of the “Digital Explorers” programme financed by the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs took place in the Lithuanian capital.<sup>71</sup> The programme aims to enhance the EU-African cooperation in information and communication technologies (ICT).<sup>72</sup> Lithuanian experts will engage with Nigerian ICT specialists in efforts to digitalize public services, secure critical cyber infrastructures, and develop mobile products or e-commerce platforms in Africa and Nigeria.<sup>73</sup> Elijus Šivilis, the Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania stated: “the programme brings together public, non-profit and private organizations from EU, Lithuania and Nigeria and looks for innovative ways for exploiting the potential of digitalization.”<sup>74</sup>

On 12 November 2019, simultaneously in Luxembourg at the European Investment Bank (EIB) headquarters and at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, the EIB launched the SheInvest initiative mobilising EUR1 billion for women across Africa.<sup>75</sup> Guided by the 2X Challenge Criteria, the EIB aims to invest in projects, sectors and markets that have “transformative effects on gender equality and can increase the capacity of women and girls to participate in the economy and labour market.”<sup>76</sup> The initiative will provide technical assistance in providing capacity building and mentoring to women entrepreneurs to “better access finance” and to design “financial products tailored to their needs.”<sup>77</sup> The initiative will focus on investment in “innovative digital

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<sup>70</sup> Discours d'ouverture du Président Jean-Claude Juncker au Europa Connectivity Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/SPEECH\\_19\\_5909](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/SPEECH_19_5909)

<sup>71</sup> “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

<sup>72</sup> “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

<sup>73</sup> “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

<sup>74</sup> “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

<sup>75</sup> SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

<sup>76</sup> SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

<sup>77</sup> SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

solutions and financial products” to reach women and girls often excluded from such services to “increase the economic opportunities and social inclusion.”<sup>78</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the European Union granted the “Africa Connect” project, EUR30 million to fund the implementation of the third phase of the project, connecting 800 academic institutions across the African continent with high-speed internet capacity and affordable connectivity.<sup>79</sup> The fund will be distributed to three research and academic networks, each covering a different region: UbuntuNet Alliance (Eastern and Southern Africa), WACREN (Western and Central Africa), and ASREN (Northern Africa and Middle East). The European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen stated: “affordable high-speed broadband connectivity enables African youths, students, and researchers to boost collaborative scientific research with their peers around the world to help them tackle challenges in Africa. This is an important step towards tackling the digital divide.”<sup>80</sup>

On 27 January 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a partnership with the UNICEF to help equip children in South and West Africa, Central Asia and Europe with the digital, entrepreneurial and business skills demanded by the labour market, through equitable education.<sup>81</sup> European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit stated: “The social agenda of this European Commission aims for a more certain future for our children and young people.<sup>82</sup> We want to protect them from poverty and make sure they have access to the skills and training they need to navigate the green and digital transitions.”<sup>83</sup>

On 27 February 2020, the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Werner Hoyer announced at the EIB-UN Habitat Africa Day 2020 conference in Dakar, a total of EUR63 million new financing by the EIB to promote access to digital finance, banking skills development, new job opportunities and the stimulation of infrastructure development in Senegal and Africa.<sup>84</sup>

On 27 February 2020, the European Union Commission and the African Union Commission agreed during the 10th AUC-EC Commission-to-Commission (C2C) meeting in Addis Ababa to stimulate digital infrastructure and establish a single secured digital market in Africa by 2030.<sup>85</sup> The EU and

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<sup>78</sup> SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

<sup>79</sup> Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million_en)

<sup>80</sup> Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million_en)

<sup>81</sup> European Investment Bank and UNICEF partner to help improve access to quality education and protect children from climate change, UNICEF (New York) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/european-investment-bank-and-unicef-partner-help-improve-access-quality-education>

<sup>82</sup> European Investment Bank and UNICEF partner to help improve access to quality education and protect children from climate change, UNICEF (New York) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/european-investment-bank-and-unicef-partner-help-improve-access-quality-education>

<sup>83</sup> European Investment Bank and UNICEF partner to help improve access to quality education and protect children from climate change, UNICEF (New York) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/european-investment-bank-and-unicef-partner-help-improve-access-quality-education>

<sup>84</sup> President Macky Sall and EIB President welcome EUR 63 million of new deals to support business growth and banking skills in Senegal and across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-071-president-macky-sall-and-eib-president-welcome-eur-63-million-of-new-deals-to-support-business-growth-and-banking-skills-in-senegal-and-across-africa>

<sup>85</sup> 10th African Union Commission-European Commission Meeting-Joint Communiqué, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_20\\_365](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_365)

AU also agreed on promoting digital entrepreneurship and innovation in addition to the skill development of youth to meet with the demands of digital economy and ICT markets.<sup>86</sup>

On 9 March 2020, The European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy published the initiative “Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa.”<sup>87</sup> The strategy sets out a roadmap to promote joint cooperation and partnerships between the European Union and the African Union in five key sectors including digital transformation.<sup>88</sup> The strategy proposes boosting Africa’s digital transformation through actions such as investing in digital infrastructure, expanding digital access, promotion of E-governance and digital financial services, in addition to the digitalization of public administration.<sup>89</sup>

On 16 July 2020, the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, and the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, and Technology, Sarah Agbor, hosted the first research and innovation ministers’ meeting between the European Union and African Union. The discussion about innovation and technology centers around the recent initiatives, including AffricaConnect.<sup>90</sup>

The European Union has taken actions to enable digital infrastructure in multiple African regions and multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.<sup>91</sup>

*Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

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<sup>86</sup> 10th African Union Commission-European Commission Meeting-Joint Communiqué, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_20\\_365](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_365)

<sup>87</sup> Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf)

<sup>88</sup> Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf)

<sup>89</sup> Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf)

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