

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 Second Interim Compliance Report

27 August 2019 — 3 June 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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10. Regional Security: G5 Sahel Police

“As the G7, we will work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.”

Sahel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada	-1		
France		0	
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		-0.13 (44%)	

Background

On 16 February 2014, the leaders of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad met in Nouakchott, Mauritania to create the G5 Sahel, in order to improve cooperation, security, and development in the Sahel region of Africa.¹⁵⁸⁹ The goals of the G5 Sahel group are to:

- Guarantee the conditions required for economic development and peace in the Sahel Region
- Provide a framework for strategic intervention for improving living conditions in the region
- Combine development with security through democracy and good governance, while promoting regional and international cooperation
- Promote inclusive and sustainable development in the Sahel Region.¹⁵⁹⁰

On 1 August 2014, France launched Operation Barkhane, a counter-terrorism operation focused on fighting and neutralizing jihadist organizations operating in the Sahel region, deploying 3,000 soldiers to the region to support the G5 Sahel countries.¹⁵⁹¹

On 5 June 2017, the European Union pledged EUR50 million for the creation of a larger, multinational joint Sahel task force, merging the French soldiers from the prior Operation Barkhane with soldiers from various other countries, totaling a force of 10,000 soldiers.¹⁵⁹²

With one of the major themes of the Biarritz Summit focusing on cooperation with Africa, the Sahel region was brought forward as a significant discussion point for the first time. In the Sahel

¹⁵⁸⁹ Le G5 Sahel, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 29 September 2015. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/qui-sommes-nous/le-g5-sahel>

¹⁵⁹⁰ Le G5 Sahel, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 29 September 2015. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/qui-sommes-nous/le-g5-sahel>

¹⁵⁹¹ Welcome to France's New War on Terror in Africa: Operation Barkhane, The National Interest (Washington D.C.) 7 August 2014. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/welcome-frances-new-war-terror-africa-operation-barkhane-11029>

¹⁵⁹² Mali: la France propose à l'ONU le déploiement d'une force africaine au Sahel, France Info Africa (Niamey) 8 June 2017. Access Date: 7 December 2019. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/afrique/niger/mali-la-france-propose-a-lonu-le-dploiement-dune-force-africaine-au-sahel_3060181.html

Partnership Action Plan, G7 leaders outlined the major issues facing the region, and how the G7 and G5 Sahel can work together to improve the pace at which the G5 Sahel group reaches its goals.¹⁵⁹³ A major focus was the security aspect of the G5 Sahel goals, with the G7 calling for international cooperation between the G7 and G5 Sahel, as well as the United Nations as INTERPOL.¹⁵⁹⁴

Commitment Features

While the goals of the G5 Sahel group focus on both security and development, the commitment text focusses on specifically bolstering the G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities. As such, for all aspects of this commitment only actions that address security issues will be considered for compliance.

The primary measure of compliance for this commitment will be cooperation with the aim of improving regional security in the Sahel. Compliance will be split into two sections; the first type of compliance will be G7 cooperation with UN to address security issues, and the second type of compliance will be cooperation with INTERPOL to address security issues in the Sahel region. Examples of the first type of compliance include, but are not limited to, cooperation with INTERPOL to specifically address security issues, funding provisions for security issues, bolstering of the G5 Sahel joint security force through military or financial contributions, and cooperation with INTERPOL in providing key information that would aid in counter-terrorism operations in the Sahel region. Examples of the second type of compliance include, but are not limited to, cooperation with UN to directly target and neutralize threats from Sahel region jihadist groups, and financial support of or participation in multinational UN security operations in the Sahel region.

In order to achieve a full compliance score, a G7 member must take actions of both the first and second types. In order to achieve a partial compliance score, a G7 member must take actions of either the first or second type. A G7 member who does not take either type of actions will receive a score of no compliance.

Note: Actions taken between 13 April and 3 June 2020 have been included in this report but were not included in the version sent out for stakeholder feedback.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has not cooperated with United Nations OR with INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.
0	G7 member has cooperated with United Nations OR with INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.
+1	G7 member has cooperated with United Nations AND with INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

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Lead Analyst: Bogdan Stovba*

¹⁵⁹³ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/sahel-partnership-action-plan.html>

¹⁵⁹⁴ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/sahel-partnership-action-plan.html>

Canada: -1

Canada has not complied with its commitment to work with United Nations and INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to the G5 Sahel group in developing more efficient security and defence capabilities.

On 1 September 2019, Canada ended its peacekeeping mission in Mali that was a part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA).¹⁵⁹⁵ Only “a small number of CAF members will remain in the region” until January 2020.¹⁵⁹⁶ There is no indication that Operation PRESENCE Mali would resume at a later date.¹⁵⁹⁷ However, Canada will continue to provide financial, military personnel, military training, and civilian police officers in Mali through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program and Canadian Policy Arrangements.¹⁵⁹⁸

On 14 March 2020, a Canadian woman and Italian man kidnapped in Burkina Faso in 2018 were found by MINUSMA peacekeeping forces. Canada Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Phillippe Champagne indicated that the Government of Canada was working closely with the leaders of Burkina Faso and Mali to apprehend the perpetrators.¹⁵⁹⁹

On April 7 2020, Travel and Tourism Canada updated its travel advisories, warning against “non-essential” to Burkina Faso “due to the threat of terrorism.”¹⁶⁰⁰ Updated travel advisory all recommend to “avoid all travel” to provinces along Mali, Niger, Benin and Togo boarded due to “terrorist threat as well as the risk of banditry and kidnapping.”¹⁶⁰¹

Canada has failed to extend its pivotal PRESENCE-MALI mission despite increasing tensions in the region and growing threat of terrorism. Canada has not demonstrated effort to work with INTERPOL and reduced its cooperation with United Nations to support Sahel countries security and defect capabilities improvement.¹⁶⁰²

¹⁵⁹⁵ Operation PRESENCE, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 December 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/op-presence.html>

¹⁵⁹⁶ Canadian Armed Forces Conclude Peacekeeping Mission in Mali, National Defense (Ottawa) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/08/canadian-armed-forces-conclude-peacekeeping-mission-in-mali.html>

¹⁵⁹⁷ Canadian Armed Forces Conclude Peacekeeping Mission in Mali, National Defense (Ottawa) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/08/canadian-armed-forces-conclude-peacekeeping-mission-in-mali.html>

¹⁵⁹⁸ Canada’s Engagement in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/mali/rerelations.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁵⁹⁹ Diallo, Tiemoko. Two Western Hostages Freed after 15-Month Captivity in Africa’s Sahel (Bamako) 14 March 2020. Access Date: April 13 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-kidnapping-canada-italy/canadian-woman-and-italian-man-kidnapped-in-burkina-faso-have-been-released-u-n-idUSKBN2110HR>

¹⁶⁰⁰ Official Global Travel Advisory (Ottawa) April 7 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/burkina-faso?wbdisable=true#levels>

¹⁶⁰¹ Official Global Travel Advisory (Ottawa) April 7 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/burkina-faso?wbdisable=true#levels>

¹⁶⁰² This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/mali/rerelations.aspx?lang=eng> <https://pm.gc.ca/en> <https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca/sahel-crisis> https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/peace_security-paix_securite/capacity_building-renforcement_capacites.aspx?lang=eng https://oecdobserver.org/news/archivestory.php/aid/181/Shifting_sands_of_Sahel_aid.html <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/list.html> <https://www.unhcr.ca/where-we-work/central-sahel/> <http://natoassociation.ca/the-fall-of-canadian-peacekeeping-should-it-be-revived/> https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/afrika-afrique/index.aspx?lang=eng

Thus, Canada receives a score of –1.

Analyst: Nicholas Lovrics

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

Between 29 September and 7 October 2019, French soldiers of the “Belleface” desert battle group led a major operation, which mobilized about 200 men and 40 vehicles, to establish zone control in the three-border area of the Liptako region and to strengthen the Operational Military Partnership with the Malian Armed Forces in the area.¹⁶⁰³ The operation led to the improvement and reinforcement of passive defense points in the cities and the Malian military camps, with the aim of preventing the armed terrorist groups from operating in the region.¹⁶⁰⁴

On 3 October 2019, the French Barkhane force participated in the operational coordination committee of the G5 Sahel member countries, organized by the General Staff of the Armies of Chad, which aimed to increase cooperation between the forces.¹⁶⁰⁵ Participation in the coordination committee improved “understanding of the complementary” of the Barkhane and the G5 Sahel members armed forces “in the fight against armed terrorist groups.”¹⁶⁰⁶

On 10 October 2019, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, backed by the French-led Operation Barkhane force, completed a “major arms seizure” following a 10-day military counter-terrorism operation in northern Niger, during which the French force carried out airdrops and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance flights.¹⁶⁰⁷

Between 1-17 November 2019, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, in cooperation with the armies of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and with support from the Barkhane force, carried out operation Bourkou IV which aimed to disrupt the activity of armed terrorist groups in the in the “three borders” Sahel region.¹⁶⁰⁸ The operation mobilized over 1,400 soldiers, with 600 of them French.¹⁶⁰⁹ Bourkou IV succeeded in the coordination of all the troops and resulted in 25 terrorists neutralized or captured,

¹⁶⁰³ BARKHANE: The Malian armed forces and Barkhane in operation in the Liptako, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-les-forces-armees-maliennes-et-barkhane-en-operation-dans-le-liptako>

¹⁶⁰⁴ BARKHANE: The Malian armed forces and Barkhane in operation in the Liptako, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-les-forces-armees-maliennes-et-barkhane-en-operation-dans-le-liptako>

¹⁶⁰⁵ BARKHANE: Operational coordination committee of the G5 Sahel member countries in N'Djamena, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/espanol/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-comite-de-coordination-operationnelle-des-pays-membres-du-g5-sahel-a-n-djamena>

¹⁶⁰⁶ BARKHANE: Operational coordination committee of the G5 Sahel member countries in N'Djamena, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/espanol/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-comite-de-coordination-operationnelle-des-pays-membres-du-g5-sahel-a-n-djamena>

¹⁶⁰⁷ G5 Sahel Joint Force makes ‘major’ weapons seizure in northern Niger, The Defense Post (Washington) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/10/17/g5-sahel-weapons-seizure-niger-madama>

¹⁶⁰⁸ French and Sahel soldiers step up campaign against jihadists, France 24 (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191125-french-and-sahel-soldiers-step-up-campaign-against-jihadists>

¹⁶⁰⁹ BARKHANE: Operation BOURGOU IV in the Gourma, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-operation-bourgou-iv-dans-le-gourma>

64 vehicles destroyed, a large quantity of ammunition seized, over 100 phones recovered, and a fuel depot and an IED manufacturing workshop destroyed.¹⁶¹⁰

On 20 November 2019, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Nicolas de Rivière affirmed that France supports “the G-5 countries’ requests for increased multilateral support.”¹⁶¹¹ Rivière announced that a European special forces unit named Takuba will be deployed as part of Operation Barkhane in Mali starting in 2020 to support them on their path to autonomy.¹⁶¹²

On 19 December 2019, President Emmanuel Macron delivered a speech in Niamey, Niger following an attack on a military camp in Niger that killed 71 soldiers.¹⁶¹³ Macron vowed to keep fighting extremism in the region, noting that the Sahel is at a “turning point” in the war, and emphasized the need to redefine and clarify military and political objectives at the upcoming summit on 13 January 2020 with the Sahel G5 leaders in Pau, France.¹⁶¹⁴

On 20 December 2019, Operation Barkhane forces killed 33 Islamist militants in Mali near the Mauritanian border where a “group linked to Al Qaeda operates,” utilizing helicopters, ground troops, and a drone.¹⁶¹⁵ The operation also included a seizure of four equipped trucks, four motorcycles, and a large volume of armaments including heavy machine guns, as well as a release of two Malian hostage gendarmes.¹⁶¹⁶

Between 27-29 December 2019, the G5 Sahel Joint Force Staff met with representatives of the Sahel national armies and the Barkhane Force at the Niamey command post.¹⁶¹⁷ General Facon, Commander of the Barkhane, “stressed that all the conditions are met for increased cooperation in the fight” and reaffirmed the need to continue strengthening the joint operationalization between the partner forces in the region.¹⁶¹⁸

¹⁶¹⁰ Joint Force G5 Sahel Operation in the Gourma, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/21-nos-activite%3%A9s/defense-et-securite/1539-force-conjointe-operation-dans-le-gourma>

¹⁶¹¹ Address by Permanent Representative Nicolas de Riviere at the United Nations Security Council, The Permanent Representation of France to the UN (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/situation-in-the-Sahel-remains-very-precarious>

¹⁶¹² Address by Permanent Representative Nicolas de Riviere at the United Nations Security Council, The Permanent Representation of France to the UN (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/situation-in-the-Sahel-remains-very-precarious>

¹⁶¹³ ‘We are at a turning point in war’ against jihadism: French President Macron in Niger, France 24 (Paris) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191222-we-are-at-a-turning-point-in-war-against-jihadism-french-president-macron-in-niger>

¹⁶¹⁴ ‘We are at a turning point in war’ against jihadism: French President Macron in Niger, France 24 (Paris) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191222-we-are-at-a-turning-point-in-war-against-jihadism-french-president-macron-in-niger>

¹⁶¹⁵ France Kills 33 Militants in Mali Raid: President, New York Times (New York) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2019/12/21/world/africa/21reuters-france-mali-conflict.html>

¹⁶¹⁶ BARKHANE: Neutralization of a major armed terrorist group in the Mopti region, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-neutralisation-d-un-important-groupe-arme-terroriste-dans-la-region-de-mopti>

¹⁶¹⁷ BARKHANE: The G5 Sahel Joint Force strengthens its preponderant role in cross-border operations, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-la-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-renforce-son-role-preponderant-dans-les-operations-transfrontalieres>

¹⁶¹⁸ BARKHANE: The G5 Sahel Joint Force strengthens its preponderant role in cross-border operations, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-la-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-renforce-son-role-preponderant-dans-les-operations-transfrontalieres>

On 13 January 2020, President Macron hosted the G5 Sahel member countries' heads of state at a summit in Pau, France, where they reaffirmed their commitment to jointly combat terrorism in the Sahel region and urged international partners to increase their aid.¹⁶¹⁹ The heads of state formed a new framework, "Coalition for the Sahel," on the basis of four pillars: the fight against terrorism, strengthening of military capabilities of states in the region, support for the return of the state and administrations on the territory, and development assistance.¹⁶²⁰

On 2 February 2020, the French Ministry of the Armed Forces issued a press release announcing the deployment of 600 more troops in the Barkhane force.¹⁶²¹ This action was taken as part of the Coalition for the Sahel framework agreed upon at the Pau summit and brought the total number of troops to approximately 5,100.¹⁶²²

Between 6-7 February 2020, Operation Barkhane neutralized 20 terrorists and destroyed several vehicles in a double targeted strike west of the Gourma region.¹⁶²³ This operation aimed was conducted to reduce "the potential of armed terrorist groups" by destroying their supply chains.¹⁶²⁴

Between 9-15 February 2020, Operation Barkhane's "Steel" desert battle group carried out an operation in Liptako, Mali, during which one terrorist was put out of action, several resources were seized, and terrorist group materials were destroyed.¹⁶²⁵

Between 9-17 February 2020, Operation Barkhane utilized drones, jet fighters and combat helicopters to carry out two operations in the Mopti region in Mali, which neutralized approximately 50 jihadist fighters, destroyed over 30 vehicles, and allowed for major weapon seizures.¹⁶²⁶ This operation aims to "weaken the offensive potential of armed terrorist groups."¹⁶²⁷

On 12 February 2020, a Barkhane-taught three-week training course for special Malian anti-terrorist units (USAT-2) was concluded in a ceremony which saw the graduation of 97 Malian soldiers.¹⁶²⁸

¹⁶¹⁹ France and the G5 Sahel agree for a "Coalition for the Sahel" at the Pau Summit, Embassy of France (Washington) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9533>

¹⁶²⁰ France and the G5 Sahel agree for a "Coalition for the Sahel" at the Pau Summit, Embassy of France (Washington) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9533>

¹⁶²¹ Official speeches and statements - February 4, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9575#2>

¹⁶²² Official speeches and statements - February 4, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9575#2>

¹⁶²³ BARKHANE: Opportunity actions in the region of the three borders, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-actions-d-opportunit%C3%A9-dans-la-region-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁶²⁴ BARKHANE: Opportunity actions in the region of the three borders, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-actions-d-opportunit%C3%A9-dans-la-region-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁶²⁵ BARKHANE: The "Steel" battle group in operation in the Malian Liptako, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-le-groupe-tactique-acier-en-operation-dans-le-liptako-malien>

¹⁶²⁶ BARKHANE: Operations in the Mopti region, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites2/barkhane-operations-dans-la-region-de-mopti>

¹⁶²⁷ BARKHANE: Operations in the Mopti region, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites2/barkhane-operations-dans-la-region-de-mopti>

¹⁶²⁸ BARKHANE: End of training for the USAT-2 of the Malian armed forces, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-fin-de-formation-pour-l-usat-2-des-forces-armees-maliennes>

This training also helped with establishing “real working relations ... between French and Malian soldiers.”¹⁶²⁹

On 20 February 2020, the Nigerian defense ministry released a balance sheet demonstrating that 120 terrorists have been neutralized in southwestern Niger since the start of the joint military operation conducted by the Nigerian armed forces and the French Barkhane force on 1 February 2020.¹⁶³⁰ Niger’s defence minister welcomed the “cooperation with the strategic partner in the fight against terrorism” and noted that the joint operation is “in line with the recommendations resulting from the Pau summit.”¹⁶³¹

Between 3-23 March 2020, the Barkhane force conducted Operation Monclar in an unprecedented joint commitment with the Malian and Nigerian forces in the three-border region.¹⁶³² Operation Monclar mobilized nearly 5,000 soldiers through the establishment of a Joint Command Mechanism, which made the large-scale coordination of forces possible; the operation brought “particularly notable results,” “neutralized a large number of terrorists,” and either seized or destroyed a “very large number of resources.”¹⁶³³

On 27 March 2020, French Minister for Armed Forces Florence Parly held a remote conference with five other European Defense Ministers and the Defense Ministers in Mali and Niger to discuss the launch of the Takuba Task Force, a grouping of European special forces whose military contributions will be placed under Operation Barkhane’s command and will operate in the Liptako region.¹⁶³⁴ The Takuba Task Force is expected to become operational by early 2021 and will work in coordination with G5 Sahel partners, the UN mission (MINUSMA) and EU missions.¹⁶³⁵

Between 2-5 April 2020, the “Dragon” desert battle group conducted a series of operations and sweeps along the Niger River in the area of the three borders to disrupt the movements of armed terrorist groups through and reassure local populations.¹⁶³⁶

¹⁶²⁹ BARKHANE: The "Altor" and "Centurion" battlegroups in operation in the Malo-Nigerian Liptako, Ministry of Defense (Paris) 27 February 2020, Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-les-groupements-tactique-altor-et-centurion-en-operation-dans-le-liptako-malo-nigerien>

¹⁶³⁰ Niger. 120 "terrorists neutralized" during an operation, Ouest France (Paris) 22 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/niger/niger-120-terroristes-neutralises-au-cours-d-une-operation-6747870>

¹⁶³¹ Niger. 120 "terrorists neutralized" during an operation, Ouest France (Paris) 22 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/niger/niger-120-terroristes-neutralises-au-cours-d-une-operation-6747870>

¹⁶³² BARKHANE: Operation Monclar - unprecedented concentration of efforts in the three border area, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-l-operation-monclar-concentration-inedite-des-efforts-en-zone-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁶³³ BARKHANE: Operation Monclar - unprecedented concentration of efforts in the three border area, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-l-operation-monclar-concentration-inedite-des-efforts-en-zone-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁶³⁴ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁶³⁵ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁶³⁶ BARKHANE: The Desert Dragon Battle Group (GTD) in operation, Ministry of Defense (Paris) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-le-groupement-tactique-desert-gtd-dragon-en-operation>

On 8 April 2020, a French patrol of two Mirage 2000s responded to an air support request from a reconnaissance mission of a G5 Sahel joint in Burkina Faso and successfully supported troops on the ground in repelling an armed terrorist group.¹⁶³⁷

France has demonstrated efforts to counter terrorism and provide appropriate support to G5 countries through the work of the Operation Barkhane forces, which have collaborated with the G5 Sahel Joint Force to neutralize jihadist groups and stifle militant operations in all five countries. France, through its leadership role in the United Nations, is advocating for increased multilateral support for the G5 but there is no evidence of its cooperation with INTERPOL.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mascha Kopytina

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 24 September 2019, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas stated that as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Germany will focus on “peaceful cooperation and de-escalation” of conflicts in Syria, Gulf states, Yemen, Sahel region and Sudan.¹⁶³⁸

On 16 October 2019, at the Franco-German Defense and United Nations Security Council, Germany reaffirmed its commitment to “securing, stabilizing and developing the Sahel region.”¹⁶³⁹ Germany also committed to working with France and the European Union on “the launch and implementation of the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S).”¹⁶⁴⁰

In December 2019, the German Defense Ministry rejected for the second time a French request to dispatch “European special forces to tackle Mali’s dangerous security situation.”^{1641,1642} Germany also “turned down the request” to create a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force.¹⁶⁴³ This is an instance of lack of compliance with the commitment to cooperate with G5 Sahel nations.

¹⁶³⁷ BARKHANE: Joint force of the G5 Sahel and Mirage 2000D coordinate during an operation, Ministry of Defense (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-et-mirage-2000d-se-coordonnent-au-cours-d-une-operation>

¹⁶³⁸ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas prior to his departure for New York, Federal Foreign Office 24 September 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-gneral-assembly/2249318>

¹⁶³⁹ Agreed Conclusions, Franco-German Defence and Security Council (Toulouse) 16 October 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258026/d0f478d0223d47c90dbe02f5426fc9c1/191016-erklarung-data.pdf>

¹⁶⁴⁰ Agreed Conclusions, Franco-German Defence and Security Council (Toulouse) 16 October 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258026/d0f478d0223d47c90dbe02f5426fc9c1/191016-erklarung-data.pdf>

¹⁶⁴¹ Germany twice rejects France plea for military aid in Mali as Paris keeps sending body bags home, Russia Today 21 December 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.rt.com/news/476973-germany-rejects-help-france-mali/>

¹⁶⁴² Terrorism poses growing threat in Africa's Sahel, Germany warns, Deutsche Welle 27 December 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/terrorism-poses-growing-threat-in-africas-sahel-germany-warns/a-51813261>

¹⁶⁴³ Terrorism poses growing threat in Africa's Sahel, Germany warns, Deutsche Welle 27 December 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/terrorism-poses-growing-threat-in-africas-sahel-germany-warns/a-51813261>

On 29 December 2019, Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer stated that “Germany should consider expanding its troop mandate” in Sahel region.¹⁶⁴⁴ Currently, 1100 Bundeswehr soldiers are “taking part in a UN mission in the region, as well as an EU military training mission,” however, the German mandate “does not cover taking part in counter-terrorism operations.”¹⁶⁴⁵ Thus, Germany expressed desire to cooperate further with the G5 Sahel countries.

While Germany rejected the creation of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, it has demonstrated commitment to work with the United Nations and G5 Sahel countries to build more efficient police and defense capabilities. However, Germany has demonstrated that it is or will be working with INTERPOL on improving Sahel countries police capabilities.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shamsbir Malik

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 29 August 2019, the Italian Army team, as part of the Bilateral Support Mission in Niger (MISIN), concluded its two-week improvised explosive device (IED) threat awareness course at the Niamey training centre.¹⁶⁴⁶ The course taught the Nigerian Security Forces the procedures of combatting fundamentalist terrorism attacks caused by explosive devices through lessons on the characteristics of the IEDs and their effects.¹⁶⁴⁷

On 13 September 2019, the Mobile Training Team (MTT) of the Carabinieri, the Italian military force, concluded the final exercise of a forest combat techniques course as part of MISIN.¹⁶⁴⁸ The course trained the Nigerian military forces on the proper defensive conduct in wooded areas, including specific techniques of concealment, “hand strike,” and ambush.¹⁶⁴⁹

On 27 September 2019, the MTT concluded the final exercise of a two-part Operative Intervention Techniques course as part of MISIN.¹⁶⁵⁰ The course trained the National Guard of Niger and the Gendarmes in theoretical and practical skills of engagement in territorial control and police

¹⁶⁴⁴ Germany ponders bigger troop mandate in Africa's Sahel, Deutsche Welle 29 December 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-ponders-bigger-troop-mandate-in-africas-sahel/a-51828723>

¹⁶⁴⁵ Germany ponders bigger troop mandate in Africa's Sahel, Deutsche Welle 29 December 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-ponders-bigger-troop-mandate-in-africas-sahel/a-51828723>

¹⁶⁴⁶ Niger: IED threat awareness course completed, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Niger_concluso_corso_contro_minaccia_IED.aspx

¹⁶⁴⁷ Niger: IED threat awareness course completed, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Niger_concluso_corso_contro_minaccia_IED.aspx

¹⁶⁴⁸ Niger Mission: combat techniques course, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_Niger_corso_tecniche_combattimento_boschivo_per_esercito_nigerino.aspx

¹⁶⁴⁹ Niger Mission: combat techniques course, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_Niger_corso_tecniche_combattimento_boschivo_per_esercito_nigerino.aspx

¹⁶⁵⁰ Mission to Niger: training courses for Nigerian forces, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. http://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_corsi_di_formazione_per_le_forze_nigerine.aspx

operations, and sought to develop the Nigerian forces' knowledge of criminal law and procedure, the "jus in bello," and the skills of carrying out immediate relief.¹⁶⁵¹

On 25 September 2019, at the 74th United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte declared Italy's "strong commitment to face the Sahel crisis."¹⁶⁵² Prime Minister stated that Italy plans to "play a high profile role" on the African continent at bilateral level and also through coordination with the European Union.¹⁶⁵³

On 4 October 2019, Brigade General Claudio Dei of MISIN and Permanent Secretary Maman Sambo Sidikou of the G5 Sahel signed a military cooperation agreement for the training of personnel at the G5 Sahel Defense College in Nouakchott, Mauritania.¹⁶⁵⁴ As part of the agreement, Italy committed to sending two MISIN officers to teach and train at the college.¹⁶⁵⁵

On 14 October 2019, the Ministry of Defense, with the aid of resources from the National Africa Fund and as part of the MISIN commitment, donated ten ambulances and three military tanks to the Government of Niger in a handover ceremony in Niamey.¹⁶⁵⁶ This military equipment will increase Nigerian authorities' capacity in "rescuing migrants and fighting human trafficking."¹⁶⁵⁷

On 4 December 2019, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Stefano Stefanile outlined the Italian efforts to "support the G5 Sahel Joint Force both financially and through capacity building activities" and confirmed Italy's "strong commitment to the stabilization of the Sahel" in a statement at the Peacebuilding Commission Session.¹⁶⁵⁸

On 22 December 2019, the MTT, under the command of the MISIN Brigadier General Claudio Dei, completed the training of the Paratrooper Battalion of Niger in a launch of 150 paratroopers.¹⁶⁵⁹ The

¹⁶⁵¹ Mission to Niger: training courses for Nigerian forces, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. http://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_corsi_di_formazione_per_le_forze_nigerine.aspx.

¹⁶⁵² Address by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte at the United Nations, The Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-74-assemblea-generale-onu/12876>

¹⁶⁵³ Address by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte at the United Nations, The Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-74-assemblea-generale-onu/12876>

¹⁶⁵⁴ Signature of a military cooperation partnership between the G5Sahel Defense College and Italy, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/21-nos-activit%C3%A9s/defense-et-securite/1525-signature-d-un-partenariat-de-cooperation-militaire-entre-le-college-de-defense-du-g5sahel-et-l-italie>.

¹⁶⁵⁵ Niger: two Italian officers in the Collège de Défense du G5 Sahel, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Niger_due_ufficiali_italiani_nel_Collage_de_Defence_du_G5_Sahel.aspx.

¹⁶⁵⁶ Italy donates 10 ambulances to the government of Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

¹⁶⁵⁷ Italy donates 10 ambulances to the government of Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

¹⁶⁵⁸ Statement by Ambassador Stefano Stefanile at the Peacebuilding Commission Annual Session, The Permanent Representation of Italy to the UN (Rome) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2019/12/peacebuilding-commission-sessione.html.

¹⁶⁵⁹ Mission to Niger: the 2019 Zebu exercise is over, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_terminata_lesercitazione_Zebu_2019.aspx.

training team included three instructors from the Pisa Parachuting Training Center in Italy, who carried out the 21-week course.¹⁶⁶⁰

On 6 March 2020, the Italian Air Force donated equipment to the Niger Armée de l'Air as part of the MISIN training program.¹⁶⁶¹ Donation of the equipment will allow Nigerian army to proceed with the practical training of the personnel that protects the country's main airport.¹⁶⁶²

Italy has demonstrated independent efforts to train and contribute to the defense of the security forces in Niger through the assistance initiative MISIN, and has cooperated with United Nations in the region. However, Italy has not directly cooperated with INTERPOL to target and neutralize threats in the Sahel region.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mascha Kopytina

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 28 August 2019, the government of 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 Commission.¹⁶⁶³ The Government of Japan and the African Union also co-organized the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel region, which occurred on the margins of TICAD7.¹⁶⁶⁴ The participants renewed their commitment to further enhancing peace and stability in the Sahel region and strengthening the coordination of their efforts.

On 30 August 2019, The Yokohama Declaration 2019 was produced, endorsing the theme of TICAD7, "Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation."¹⁶⁶⁵ The Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019, which accompanies the Declaration, lists actions expected to be implemented by the TICAD partners in order to promote focus areas of the three main pillars of the Yokohama Declaration 2019 adopted at TICAD7.¹⁶⁶⁶ These actions include Japan's "New Approach

¹⁶⁶⁰ Mission to Niger: the 2019 Zebu exercise is over, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_terminata_lesercitazione_Zebu_2019.aspx.

¹⁶⁶¹ MISIN: donated material to Niger's Armee de l'Air, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/MISIN_donato_materiale_a_Armeer_de_l_Air_Niger.aspx.

¹⁶⁶² MISIN: donated material to Niger's Armee de l'Air, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/MISIN_donato_materiale_a_Armeer_de_l_Air_Niger.aspx

¹⁶⁶³ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af2/page25e_000274.html

¹⁶⁶⁴ Co-chairs' Summary of the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on the Margins of TICAD7, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511802.pdf>

¹⁶⁶⁵ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

¹⁶⁶⁶ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 Actions for Implementation of the Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf

for Peace and Stability in Africa” (NAPSA).¹⁶⁶⁷ Japan has committed to train 60,000 people in the areas of justice, police, security maintenance and others, as well as provide states with border control equipment.¹⁶⁶⁸ Japan has also committed to strengthen capacity-building through supporting 15 African Peacekeeping Operations Training Centres and enhance capability development through the United Nations Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities.¹⁶⁶⁹

Japan’s cooperation with the United Nations is evidence of its commitment to build more efficient police and defence capabilities. However, it has not cooperated to the same extent with INTERPOL.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jonathan Banfield

United Kingdom 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On January 9, 2020, the United Kingdom ambassador Hames Roscoe conducted a briefing at the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel where he stated that “On the security and humanitarian side, as I said, we’re continuing to be concerned about the damaging cycles of violence that we’re seeing”¹⁶⁷⁰ and that to aid in this the UK “has just released a further 20 million pounds in additional humanitarian funding in the Sahel on top of the 50 million pounds we’re already spending to help address this situation.”¹⁶⁷¹

On January 16, 2020, United Kingdom ambassador Jonathan Allan, at the Security Council briefing on UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), said “we very much commend MINUSMA’s plans and efforts to adopt a more mobile, flexible and agile posture with high-end capabilities”¹⁶⁷² and that “the UK’s planned deployment of 250 troops to the mission is testament to the important role that we believe MINUSMA plays and also of this region.”¹⁶⁷³

On March 1, 2020, United Kingdom minister for Africa James Duddridge met with Sahel leaders to discuss “how the UK can support the fragile region in key sectors such as health and education, and

¹⁶⁶⁷ TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

¹⁶⁶⁸ TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

¹⁶⁶⁹ TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

¹⁶⁷⁰ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), United Nations (New York). 9 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>

¹⁶⁷¹ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), United Nations (New York). 9 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>

¹⁶⁷² Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations (New York). 16 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/inclusive-government-action-needed-to-bring-stability-to-mali>

¹⁶⁷³ Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations (New York). 16 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/inclusive-government-action-needed-to-bring-stability-to-mali>

help to build peace and security for millions.”¹⁶⁷⁴ Responding to a question from a Member of Parliament (MP) about terrorism in Sahel Africa, the minister stated that the UK is expanding “development, diplomacy and defence engagement to address the impacts and drivers of conflict and poverty” which included providing of “three CH-47 Chinook helicopters to French counter terrorism operation Barkhane [and] a UN peacekeeping deployment later this year.”¹⁶⁷⁵

On March 3, 2020, United Kingdom Minister of State (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) James Cleverly answered a question from MP Harriet Baldwin on the potential security effects of developments in the Sahel Libya region, stating that “UK interests will be supported by lasting peace and stability in the Sahel and Libya”¹⁶⁷⁶ and that the UK will increase “support to the Sahel, bringing together our development, diplomacy and defence expertise to help tackle the underlying causes of poverty and conflict in the region.”¹⁶⁷⁷

On 12 March, 2020, United Kingdom Minister of State answered another question from Baldwin about bi and multilateral programs in Sahel and Libya regions on 12 March, 2020, stating that at the G5 Leaders’ Summit the UK has restated its “commitment to increased efforts to improve security and encourage development in the Sahel.”¹⁶⁷⁸

On April 7, 2020, United Kingdom ambassador James Roscoe gave a speech in the UN security council briefing on the situation in Mali and “welcoming the deployment of the reconstituted armed forces to Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu and Menaka.”¹⁶⁷⁹

The United Kingdom has demonstrated commitment to expanding their military and financial commitments to provide support to G5 countries in areas of security and peace through bilateral programs and in cooperation with the United Nation but not INTERPOL.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

¹⁶⁷⁴ Minister for Africa James Duddridge meets Sahel leaders and partners, championing the UK’s role in girls’ education and ending preventable deaths, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>

¹⁶⁷⁵ Sahel and West Africa: Terrorism:Written question - 29866, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-16/29866/>

¹⁶⁷⁶ Libya and Sahel: Politics and Government:Written question - 20480, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20480/>

¹⁶⁷⁷ Libya and Sahel: Politics and Government:Written question - 20480, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20480/>

¹⁶⁷⁸ Libya and Sahel: Politics and Government:Written question - 25093, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-04/25093/>

¹⁶⁷⁹ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe, acting UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on the situation in Mali, United Nations (New York). Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-from-all-parties-is-necessary-for-sustainable-peace-in-mali>

On 18 September 2019, United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) commander Stephen Townsend met with the G5 Sahel joint force heads. The meeting was held to “get a better understanding of defence and security-related issues in the region” as well as to “ensure ... future cooperation is understood and well-coordinated.”¹⁶⁸⁰ Commander Townsend confirmed US continuous support of “international effort taking place in Burkina Faso” aiming to contain “the spread of terrorism.”¹⁶⁸¹ The actions taken by the AFRICOM commander display cooperation with the G5 Sahel countries.

On 30 September 2019, the United States cooperated with the G5 Sahel countries and delivered the “second tranche of equipment to Chadian G5 Sahel security forces.”¹⁶⁸² The equipment includes “vehicle, communications gear, and other related support material” worth of US\$15 million and will “help Chad’s military and police forces fight terrorism and insecurity in the region.”¹⁶⁸³

On 17 October 2019, AFRICOM hosted a “high level discussions on G5 Sahel region.”¹⁶⁸⁴ The meeting was attended by the representatives of the US, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, as well as Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

On 1 November 2019, U.S. Africa Command announced that intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations were conducted on the military base in Agadez, Niger.¹⁶⁸⁵ AFRICOM commander U.S. Army Gen. Stephen Townsend commented: “We are working with our African and international partners to counter security threats in West Africa.”¹⁶⁸⁶ The construction of this base demonstrates our investment in our African partners and mutual security interests in the region.”¹⁶⁸⁷

On 11 November 2019, the UN Secretary-General delivered a report to the United Nations Security Council on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.¹⁶⁸⁸ The report states that the United States provided US\$15 million worth of equipment to Chad, US\$15 million to Mauritania, US\$21 million

¹⁶⁸⁰ US AFRICOM commander Townsend meets G5 Sahel leaders in inaugural trip, The Defence Post. 18 September 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2020. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/09/18/us-africom-townsend-g5-sahel-mali-burkina-faso-niger/>

¹⁶⁸¹ US AFRICOM commander Townsend meets G5 Sahel leaders in inaugural trip, The Defence Post. 18 September 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/09/18/us-africom-townsend-g5-sahel-mali-burkina-faso-niger/>

¹⁶⁸² U.S. Equipment Donation Strengthens Chadian G5 Sahel Forces, US Embassy in Chad (Njamena) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/u-s-equipment-donation-strengthens-chadian-g5-sahel-forces/>

¹⁶⁸³ U.S. Equipment Donation Strengthens Chadian G5 Sahel Forces, US Embassy in Chad (Njamena) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/u-s-equipment-donation-strengthens-chadian-g5-sahel-forces/>

¹⁶⁸⁴ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2020. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/photo/32255/africom-hosts-high-level-discussions-on-g5-sahel-region>

¹⁶⁸⁵ Armed drones to fly out of Niger air base now operational after delayed completion. Air Force Times (Vienna, United States) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2019/11/01/armed-drones-to-fly-out-of-niger-air-base-now-operational-after-delayed-completion/>

¹⁶⁸⁶ Armed drones to fly out of Niger air base now operational after delayed completion. Air Force Times (Vienna, United States) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2019/11/01/armed-drones-to-fly-out-of-niger-air-base-now-operational-after-delayed-completion/>

¹⁶⁸⁷ Armed drones to fly out of Niger air base now operational after delayed completion. Air Force Times (Vienna, United States) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2019/11/01/armed-drones-to-fly-out-of-niger-air-base-now-operational-after-delayed-completion/>

¹⁶⁸⁸ Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel - Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations. 11 November 2019. Access Date: 14 January 2020. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/868>

to Niger.¹⁶⁸⁹ The US also provided “training to troops operating under the Joint Force.”¹⁶⁹⁰ This displays the cooperation of the United States with the United Nations.

On 20 December 2019, according to Foreign Policy, the Trump administration is “creating a new special envoy position and task force”¹⁶⁹¹ due to the “a growing alarm in Washington about the rise of extremist groups in West Africa.”¹⁶⁹²

On 7 March 2020, Reuters reported that the United States has created a special envoy for Africa’s Sahel region to “counter rising violence from groups linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State which are expanding their foothold.”¹⁶⁹³ Envoy Peter Pham, who previously served as U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, holds this newly created role.¹⁶⁹⁴

The efforts of the United States to engage with G5 Sahel Countries, in partnership with the United Nations, are evidence of its commitment to build more efficient police and defence capabilities. However, there is no evidence that US has cooperated with INTERPOL on these matters.

Thus, the United States receive a score of 0.

Analyst: Shamsbir Malik

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 17-18 October 2019, EU representatives met with researchers, Sahel experts, and representatives from other Sahel partner members to share security and stability analyses for the Sahel region.¹⁶⁹⁵ Representatives also discussed the difficulty of border management and possible solutions.¹⁶⁹⁶

On 12 November 2019, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini spoke at a conference after a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in Defense Formation.¹⁶⁹⁷ She announced that the EU decided to increase its presence and support given to

¹⁶⁸⁹ Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel - Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations. 11 November 2019. Access Date: 14 January 2020. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/868>

¹⁶⁹⁰ Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel - Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations. 11 November 2019. Access Date: 14 January 2020. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/868>

¹⁶⁹¹ U.S. to Ramp Up Counterterrorism Efforts in Sahel Region, Foreign Policy. (Washington DC) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/20/us-ramp-up-counterterrorism-sahel-africa/>

¹⁶⁹² U.S. to Ramp Up Counterterrorism Efforts in Sahel Region, Foreign Policy (Washington DC) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/20/us-ramp-up-counterterrorism-sahel-africa/>

¹⁶⁹³ U.S. creates new envoy position to counter rising terrorism in Sahel, Reuters. 7 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-sahel/u-s-creates-new-envoy-position-to-counter-rising-terrorism-in-sahel-idUSKBN20T2ZJ>

¹⁶⁹⁴ U.S. creates new envoy position to counter rising terrorism in Sahel, Reuters. 7 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-sahel/u-s-creates-new-envoy-position-to-counter-rising-terrorism-in-sahel-idUSKBN20T2ZJ>

¹⁶⁹⁵ 7th special envoys for the Sahel and partners meeting, West Africa Brief (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <http://www.west-africa-brief.org/content/en/7th-special-envoys-sahel-and-partners-meeting>

¹⁶⁹⁶ 7th special envoys for the Sahel and partners meeting, West Africa Brief (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <http://www.west-africa-brief.org/content/en/7th-special-envoys-sahel-and-partners-meeting>

¹⁶⁹⁷ EU to ‘increase presence and improve support’ for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, 13 November 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>

Sahel partners in fighting terrorism and organized crime, especially Mali, through the support of security forces and diplomatic efforts.¹⁶⁹⁸

On 12 November 2019, the European Council formally adopted 13 new projects under the Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defence and Security (PESCO), including a new EUR10.5 billion “peace facility” proposed by High Representative Mogherini.¹⁶⁹⁹ The purpose of the facility would be to pay for military equipment, including lethal weaponry, for crisis zones such as the Sahel region.¹⁷⁰⁰

On 25 November 2019, the Vice President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the EU Special Representative Ambassador met in Nigeria to discuss regional security in West Africa.¹⁷⁰¹ Parties discussed the importance of signing a Memorandum of Understanding to promote cooperation on G5 Sahel, especially protecting citizens living in areas affected by terrorism.¹⁷⁰²

On 20 January 2020, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borell announced that the EU Foreign Affairs Council would increase strategic cooperation with Sahel members as the leading partner and donor in the region.¹⁷⁰³ The Council expressed support for expanding the existing Sahel Strategy to increase security, stability and development in the region with maximum cooperation between actors involved in the Sahel region.¹⁷⁰⁴

On 25 February 2020, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen attended the G5 Sahel Summit in Mauritania.¹⁷⁰⁵ Commissioner Urpilainen donated seven armoured vehicles to the Mauritanian battalion of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and emphasized the EU’s commitment to the stabilization and recovery of the Sahel region.¹⁷⁰⁶

On 23 March 2020, the Council of the EU expanded the scope of the EU military mission contributing to the training of the Malian Armed Forces and increased the mission budget to

¹⁶⁹⁸ EU to ‘increase presence and improve support’ for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, 13 November 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>

¹⁶⁹⁹ EU launches 13 new PESCO defense cooperation projects, 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/12/new-pesco-projects-eu-defense-cooperation/>

¹⁷⁰⁰ EU launches 13 new PESCO defense cooperation projects, 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/12/new-pesco-projects-eu-defense-cooperation/>

¹⁷⁰¹ ECOWAS Commission and European Union Discuss Regional Security, Economic Community of West African States (Abuja) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.ecowas.int/ecowas-commission-and-european-union-discuss-regional-security/>

¹⁷⁰² ECOWAS Commission and European Union Discuss Regional Security, Economic Community of West African States (Abuja) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.ecowas.int/ecowas-commission-and-european-union-discuss-regional-security/>

¹⁷⁰³ Foreign Affairs Council, 20 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/01/20/>

¹⁷⁰⁴ Foreign Affairs Council, 20 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/01/20/>

¹⁷⁰⁵ G5 Sahel Summit: Commissioner Urpilainen underlines importance of continued partnership with Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g5-sahel-summit-commissioner-urpilainen-underlines-importance-continued-partnership-sahel_en

¹⁷⁰⁶ G5 Sahel Summit: Commissioner Urpilainen underlines importance of continued partnership with Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g5-sahel-summit-commissioner-urpilainen-underlines-importance-continued-partnership-sahel_en

EUR133.7 million for a four-year period.¹⁷⁰⁷ The Council also prolonged the mission until 18 May 2024.¹⁷⁰⁸ The mission will provide military assistance to the G5 Sahel Joint Force and national forces in G5 Sahel members through military advice, training, and mentoring conducted through coordination with the UN and ECOWAS.¹⁷⁰⁹

On 24 March 2020, the EU donated 13 armoured vehicles to Niger to strengthen the capacity of Nigerien soldiers fighting against terrorism in the Sahel.¹⁷¹⁰ Minister of National Defence of Niger Issoufou Katambé clarified that donated vehicles will protect deployed units in areas of operation against traps and explosive devices used by armed terrorist groups that seek to destabilize the border regions of Niger.¹⁷¹¹

The EU has demonstrated efforts to support G5 members through funding and cooperation, as well as UN initiatives to counteract terrorism. However, the EU has not cooperated with INTERPOL to support G5 police capabilities

Thus, the EU receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sofia Shatrova

¹⁷⁰⁷ EUTM Mali: Council extends training mission with broadened mandate and increased budget, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/23/eutm-mali-council-extends-training-mission-with-broadened-mandate-and-increased-budget>.

¹⁷⁰⁸ EUTM Mali: Council extends training mission with broadened mandate and increased budget, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/23/eutm-mali-council-extends-training-mission-with-broadened-mandate-and-increased-budget>.

¹⁷⁰⁹ EUTM Mali: Council extends training mission with broadened mandate and increased budget, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/23/eutm-mali-council-extends-training-mission-with-broadened-mandate-and-increased-budget>.

¹⁷¹⁰ European Union armored vehicle donation to Niger, Secrétariat Permanent du G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.g5sahel.org/nos-activites/infrastructures/1588-don-de-vehicules-blindes-de-l-union-europeenne-au-niger>

¹⁷¹¹ European Union armored vehicle donation to Niger, Secrétariat Permanent du G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.g5sahel.org/nos-activites/infrastructures/1588-don-de-vehicules-blindes-de-l-union-europeenne-au-niger>