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The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021

Prepared by
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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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13. International Cooperation: Science, Research and Technology

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.”

G7 Leaders’ Statement

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

Background

The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought a renewed focus on the need for global leaders to cooperate in the field of scientific research and technology for vaccine creation to combat COVID-19. The commitment to a global cooperation to fight infectious diseases is not new to G7 leadership. The first time that leaders acknowledged the need to work together to fight infectious diseases was at the 1996 Lyon Summit.²⁵¹⁷ Similarly, at the 1997 Denver Summit, leaders committed to enhanced cooperation to accelerate AIDS vaccine research in order to strengthen international scientific cooperation and collaboration.²⁵¹⁸ The G8 further cemented its commitment to encouraging enhanced international cooperation against infectious diseases at the 1998 Birmingham Summit.²⁵¹⁹ Leaders emphasized the need to continue efforts to fight against AIDS through vaccine development and continued support for UNAIDS.²⁵²⁰ At the 1999 Koln Summit G8 leaders reaffirmed their support for international coordination of vaccine development for AIDS.²⁵²¹

The leaders pledge to cooperate in the sharing of scientific research and technology to fight against infectious diseases was not brought up again until the 2002 Kananaskis Summit. At the Summit leaders committed to supporting health research on diseases prevalent in Africa, as well as expanding health research networks to focus specifically on health in Africa.²⁵²² In 2003, the severe acute respiratory syndrome pandemic surfaced and accordingly G8 leaders affirmed the need to address this issue multilaterally. At the 2003 Evian Summit, leaders committed to conducting infectious disease research at a high level with the aim of developing appropriate international cooperation.²⁵²³ The following year, G8 leaders took a big step by enhancing

²⁵¹⁷ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵¹⁸ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵¹⁹ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

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²⁵²² Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵²³ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

coordinated efforts of vaccine development. At the 2004 Sea Land Summit leaders endorsed the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise to facilitate global cooperation for the creation of a HIV vaccine.²⁵²⁴

The 2006 St. Petersburg Summit provided the groundwork for the importance of international cooperation in the realm of scientific knowledge sharing for the outbreak of infectious diseases and necessary response measures. At the summit, leaders pledged to intensify scientific research and international exchanges of information relating to infectious diseases, including virus samples, surveillance, and control.²⁵²⁵

Despite this big step, G8 members neglected to commit specifically to the need of enhanced international cooperation in scientific research and technology to fight against infectious diseases until the 2014 Brussels Summit following the Ebola outbreak. At the summit, leaders affirmed their commitment to building global capacity to ensure there are better response measures for epidemic outbreaks.²⁵²⁶ In 2015, similar rhetoric continued at the Schloss Elmau Summit. G7 leaders committed to coordinating research and development efforts, including data access and vaccine creation.²⁵²⁷ In early 2015, the Zika epidemic began to spread across the world. Accordingly, leaders at the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit reaffirmed the importance of immunization in fighting against future pandemics and pledged to continue global efforts to achieve targets that were established in the Global Vaccine Action Plan.²⁵²⁸ They also committed to exploring the possibility of partnerships, such as the Vaccine Innovation for Pandemic Preparedness Partnership, to conduct coordinated vaccine research and development.²⁵²⁹

Despite the G7's emphasis on the necessity of coordinating science, research, and technology in response to past epidemics, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused over 2 million deaths worldwide since its start.²⁵³⁰ Correspondingly, in the 2020 Virtual Summit, held on 16 March under the U.S. presidency to respond to the crisis, G7 leaders affirmed their commitment to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation in order to engage in the global fight against COVID-19.²⁵³¹ At the time, they expected to meet gain in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment states that “We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.” In this commitment there are three targets. These are to encourage: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; and 3) technology cooperation. The instrument to achieve these targets is marshalling the full power of G7 members’ respective governments.

“Marshalling” is understood as organizing and directing in an effective manner. Therefore, actions must demonstrate a commitment to the aim of encouraging the aforementioned targets.

²⁵²⁴ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵²⁵ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵²⁶ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵²⁷ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵²⁸ Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

²⁵²⁹ 2003 Evian Final Compliance Report: Information and Communication Technology, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 May 2004. Access Date: 8 December 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2003evian_comp_final/03-2003evian_ict.pdf.

²⁵³⁰ COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at John Hopkins University, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine (Baltimore) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>.

²⁵³¹ G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

“Full power” is understood as the fullest extent to which governments are capable of implementing a certain process. Therefore, providing funding is understood as the fullest extent to which governments can act because it demonstrates a purposeful commitment to achieving cooperation in the target areas.

“Encourage” is understood as support that makes one more likely to follow suit. The term does not imply strong measurability; however, this is outweighed by the preceding sentence “marshalling the full power of our governments.”²⁵³² Consequently, in order to receive a score of +1 members must use their “full power.”

“Cooperation” is understood as the action or process of working together to the same objective.²⁵³³ The same objective in this commitment is understood as the fight against COVID-19.

Encouraging Science, Research, and Technology Cooperation

“Science cooperation” is understood as the process of working together in the scientific field to ensure a common effort to combat COVID-19. Examples include, but are not limited to, sharing a vaccine/antibody formula, or encouraging two countries’ separate labs to share scientific information for the joint goal of fighting COVID-19.

“Research cooperation” is understood as the process of working together in the research field to ensure a common effort to combat COVID-19. Examples include, but are not limited to, sharing research findings, allocating research funding, or endorsing a joint research institute.

“Technology cooperation” is understood as the process of working together in the technological field to ensure a common effort to combat COVID-19. Examples include, but are not limited to, financial support to help build infrastructure for vaccine production, supplying respiratory support equipment, or rapid testing kits.

Due to this commitment’s nature and the circumstances of the COVID-19 vaccine development alongside scientific research, all three areas of the commitment are ripe for overlap. For example, if members fund the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility that might count as an action in all three areas, or if a member is investing in vaccine research that may be considered scientific research in a new technology. Consequently, this compliance report groups together actions in science, research, and technology cooperation and uses a depth analysis, as per the Compliance Coding Manual, to distinguish whether a member receives full compliance.

For full compliance members must act to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation. Due to the commitments emphasis on “marshalling the full power” and “encourage,” a member must take strong action while also urging other G7 members to act for a +1. A strong action is defined as providing funding to any of the target areas (i.e science, research, and technology cooperation). For example, a member may act in only one of the target areas but if they take strong action and encourage other G7 members to follow suit then they will receive a +1. As a result, a member can receive full compliance even if they only act in one target area. Yet, due to the nature of this commitment it is likely that member actions will overlap target areas.

To achieve partial compliance, members must either only take strong action or only encourage G7 member to take part in science, research, or technological cooperation. For example, if a member only provides funding for a joint COVID-19 research institute without encouraging other countries to cooperate in the target areas then they will receive partial compliance. Additionally, if a member only encourages cooperation in the target areas through a verbal commitment then they will also receive partial compliance. Since the language used in this commitment emphasizes the importance of G7 members to “marshalling the full power” of their governments, verbal commitments to take strong action will count as encouraging action in the target areas.

²⁵³² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

²⁵³³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

This is because by verbally committing to take strong action, members are setting an example for others to follow, thus, encouraging action.

Lastly, inaction in any target area will be recognized as -1 compliance. In addition, actions taken against this commitment, such as if a member purposefully states that it does not want to share its research on COVID-19 with other G7 members or that it will not provide funding for a cooperative G7 COVID-19 venture, will also be recognized as a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

Score	Description
-1	G7 member takes no strong action AND does not encourage one of the following: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; or 3) technology cooperation.
0	G7 member takes strong action OR encourages at least one of the following: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; or 3) technology cooperation.
+1	G7 member takes strong action AND encourages at least one of the following: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; and 3) technology cooperation.

*Compliance Director: Isabel Davis
Lead Analyst: Paul Huang*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 23 March 2020, the Government of Canada released Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Science to Fight COVID-19, an agenda to mobilize its domestic scientific and technology sector. The plan directed CAD275 million in federal funding towards both current and future research projects, as well as towards securing a domestic supply of potential vaccines.”²⁵³⁴ One action, the certification of a Good Manufacturing Practice facility in Montreal, intends to “ensure that any vaccines produced by the facility can be made available to ... people around the world.”²⁵³⁵

On 5 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced CAD159.5 million in funding for international efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, stated that “we recognize the need to invest in vaccine research while supporting developing countries and helping the most vulnerable as the crisis evolves around the world.”²⁵³⁶

On 17 April 2020, Canada endorsed the Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, encouraging the maintenance of global links and calling for the pooling of resources, research findings, towards the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be available for all countries.²⁵³⁷

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada is directing CAD850 million to various international research initiatives against COVID-19, including treatment trials

²⁵³⁴ Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Science to Fight COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/23/canadas-plan-mobilize-science-fight-covid-19>.

²⁵³⁵ Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Science to Fight COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/23/canadas-plan-mobilize-science-fight-covid-19>.

²⁵³⁶ Canada’s Support for International Efforts to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

²⁵³⁷ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 on maintaining essential global links, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

organized by the World Health Organization.²⁵³⁸ An additional target of this funding was the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a global partnership targeted with accelerating the rate of vaccine development worldwide.²⁵³⁹ The Canadian government expressed its commitment “to a robust global effort to stop COVID-19 and ... will work together with our partners to end this pandemic.”²⁵⁴⁰

On 12 May 2020, the Government of Canada directed CAD600 million to Gavi, Vaccine Alliance, to support vaccine distribution to the world’s poorest countries. With this funding, Gavi would be “well positioned to ensure the scale-up of manufacturing, access and allocation, along with timely delivery, of new vaccines in vulnerable countries.”²⁵⁴¹

On 15 June 2020, the Government of Canada announced its membership in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). This multilateral initiative aims to encourage international scientific and technological collaboration to advance the development of artificial intelligence.²⁵⁴² A significant short-term task of the GPAI is to research how artificial intelligence can be mobilized and adapted to the fight against COVID-19.²⁵⁴³

On 14 September 2020, the Government of Canada expressed its concern regarding the security of its domestic research efforts and ordered its federal research funding agencies to evaluate their current security guidelines so Canadian researchers can effectively guard their research discoveries.²⁵⁴⁴ In the same statement, the Canadian government reaffirmed its “strong commitment to Open Science and [its] support for a global research response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”²⁵⁴⁵

On 30 October 2020, the Government of Canada created the Pandemic Response Challenge program, an initiative intended to augment Canada’s contributions to the international fight against COVID-19. Minister of Innovation Navdeep Bains announced CAD796,000 in federal funding to the National Research Council,

²⁵³⁸ Canada and International Partners Launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

²⁵³⁹ Canada and International Partners Launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

²⁵⁴⁰ Canada and International Partners Launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

²⁵⁴¹ Minister Gould Announces Funding for Global Vaccinations, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>.

²⁵⁴² The Governments of Canada and Quebec and the International Community Join Forces to Advance the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>.

²⁵⁴³ The Governments of Canada and Quebec and the International Community Join Forces to Advance the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>.

²⁵⁴⁴ Policy Statement on Research Security and COVID-19, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/09/policy-statement-on-research-security-and-covid-19.html>.

²⁵⁴⁵ Policy Statement on Research Security and COVID-19, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/09/policy-statement-on-research-security-and-covid-19.html>.

which in turn is sponsoring projects uniting Canadian and international researchers to overcome key challenges in the COVID-19 response.²⁵⁴⁶

On 14 December 2020, the Government of Canada pledged a total CAD458 million to various partners of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. This includes CAD230 million to “procure COVID-19 treatments for developing countries in response to urgent priorities.”²⁵⁴⁷ Furthermore, the government of Canada announced an additional CAD255 million meant for the deployment of medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing countries; this investment allows for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility to better administer the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and personal protective equipment.²⁵⁴⁸

Canada has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to the research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Timothy Tennant

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 14 April 2020, French pharmaceutical company Sanofi and British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline struck a deal to combine resources to develop a vaccine collectively.²⁵⁴⁹

On 16 April 2020, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian co-signed a joint declaration urging all nations to adopt a multilateral approach to COVID-19. The declaration demonstrated the co-authors’ commitment to strengthen global health systems and ensure universal access to vaccines. The declaration also names various international actors and organizations that have contributed to global health efforts related to COVID-19, and strongly urges others to support these organizations in their work: “We ... call upon all countries, international organizations, the private sector, philanthropies, and individuals to contribute to these efforts.”²⁵⁵⁰

²⁵⁴⁶ Government of Canada Announces Funding for Research and Development to Address COVID-19 Gaps and Challenges, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-research-and-development-to-address-covid-19-gaps-and-challenges.html>.

²⁵⁴⁷ Canada Announces Additional Support for Equitable Access to COVID-19 Tests, Treatments and Vaccines, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

²⁵⁴⁸ Canada Announces Additional Support for Equitable Access to COVID-19 Tests, Treatments and Vaccines, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

²⁵⁴⁹ GSK and Sanofi Join Forces to Work on Coronavirus Vaccine, The Guardian (London) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/14/gsk-and-sanofi-join-forces-to-work-on-coronavirus-vaccine>.

²⁵⁵⁰ Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multiculturalism, French Ministry of Europe, and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

On 17 April 2020, as part of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, the French government committed to “pool scientific resources and efforts, promote research and share findings,” with the purpose of developing a vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be made available to all countries.²⁵⁵¹

On 21 April 2020, the French Development Agency, an arm of the French government, launched an initiative called “COVID-19 - Health In Common,” through which it provided EUR12 million to fight COVID-19 through improving monitoring, testing, research, and treatment methods in Sub Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean. Countries involved in this initiative included Benin, Guinea, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, and more.²⁵⁵²

On 24 April 2020, France, along with World Health Organization, the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global framework and partnership of health organizations, businesses, philanthropists, and scientists with the goal of facilitating the distribution of vaccines and treatments globally, most notably through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility.²⁵⁵³ France contributed EUR10 million to fund the ACT-Accelerator.²⁵⁵⁴

On 18 February 2021, Emmanuel Macron urged Europe and the United States to send 4-5 per cent of its vaccine supply to low-income nations.²⁵⁵⁵

France has taken strong action by investing in research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ciara McGarry

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 16 April 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel urged at an hour-long conference call at the virtual G7 for a “coordinated international response” to the pandemic, in response to U.S President Donald Trump’s remarks about the World Health Organization (WHO).²⁵⁵⁶

On 16 April 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas signed onto the Joint Declaration for the Alliance of Multilateralism, calling on all countries, international organizations, private and public actors alike to support the global COVID-19 response organized by the WHO.²⁵⁵⁷

²⁵⁵¹ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 on maintaining essential global links, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

²⁵⁵² Covid-19 – Health in Common Initiative: Financing the First Projects in Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative-financing-first-projects-africa>.

²⁵⁵³ Act-Accelerator Frequently Asked Questions, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. Covid-19 – Health in Common Initiative: Financing the First Projects in Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative-financing-first-projects-africa>.

²⁵⁵⁴ France and WHO: A Strategic Partnership, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-02-2021-france-and-who-a-strategic-partnership-for-global-health-security>.

²⁵⁵⁵ Covid Vaccines: Macron Proposes Sending 4-5% of Doses to Poorer Nations, BBC News (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56121062>.

²⁵⁵⁶ G7 backing for WHO leaves Trump isolated at virtual summit, The Guardian (London) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/16/g7-backing-for-who-leaves-trump-isolated-at-virtual-summit>.

On 17 April 2020, as part of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, the German government committed to “pool scientific resources and efforts, promote research and share findings,” with the purpose of developing a vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be made available to all countries.²⁵⁵⁸

On 22 June 2020, the German government called for the expansion of the global health crisis management system, including advocating for funding to strengthen the coordinating role of the WHO, ensuring its financial autonomy and financing its emergency fund.²⁵⁵⁹

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany announced EUR140 million for the international Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) a research alliance founded in 2015 alongside Japan, Norway, India, the World Economic Forum and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to bridge the divide between public and private actors in global health research and development. The development of the COVID-19 vaccine has been fast-tracked due to the research activities done by CEPI into the Middle East respiratory syndrome and severe acute respiratory syndrome.²⁵⁶⁰

On 19 February 2021, Chancellor Merkel committed an additional EUR1.5 billion, on top of 600 million euros previously earmarked, to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, to support vaccine distribution worldwide through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility, a global initiative by the WHO to provide equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine. It is stated that the contribution will also help support vaccine research for various mutations, provide support for COVID-19 treatment, and alleviate the cost of rapid tests for developing countries.²⁵⁶¹

Germany has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Iman Ahmed

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 31 March 2020, Italy funded 18 research projects on diagnosis and treatment focused on COVID-19. EUR90 million was put towards the Medical Innovation Initiative, and EUR80 million was initiated for the development and production of a vaccine.²⁵⁶²

On 21 April 2020, Italy took action to promote multilateral coordination mechanisms to respond to the crisis with the United Nations, European Union, G20, and G7. Priority areas included research, vaccine

²⁵⁵⁷ Declaration of Commitment to Multilateralism, The Federal Government (Berlin) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/alianz-fuer-multilateralismus-1744934>.

²⁵⁵⁸ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/ministerial-coordination-group-covid19/2333632>.

²⁵⁵⁹ Policy Paper, The Federal Government (Berlin) June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2354916/4229a3d433f85aea39310bb1440a33ac/covid19-data.pdf>.

²⁵⁶⁰ Coronavirus: What the BMBF is doing, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/en/coronavirus-what-the-bmbf-is-doing-11194.html>.

²⁵⁶¹ Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany is contributing a further 1.5 billion euro to global efforts to fight the pandemic, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>.

²⁵⁶² DEF 2020 SECTION III - National Reform Program, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. http://www.dt.mef.gov.it/modules/documenti_en/analisi_progammazione/documenti_programmatici/def_2020/NRP_2020.pdf.

development and distribution, and food crisis prevention, as well as an emphasis on supporting fragile countries.²⁵⁶³

On 16 July 2020, Italy approved the “Rilancio” Decree, recognizing a network of microbiology and virology laboratories to aid in the fight against COVID-19.²⁵⁶⁴

On 14 August 2020, Italy’s National Emergency Fund was increased by EUR580 million for the year 2020 and EUR300 million for the year 2021, including: “one share of the aforementioned resources equal to 80 million for the year 2020 and 300 million for the year 2021 [that] is destined for the research, development the purchase of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies produced by industries of the sector, also through the acquisition of share capital market conditions.”²⁵⁶⁵

On 3 November 2020, Italy’s Regional Reference Laboratory stated that it was “involved in characterizing SARS-CoV-2 strains of regional clusters, whose sequences have been made available to the scientific community.”²⁵⁶⁶

On 29 January 2021, Italy authorized the export of vaccines related to the coronavirus that caused severe acute respiratory syndrome.²⁵⁶⁷

Italy has taken no strong action to invest in any of the target areas however they have verbally committed to collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anjali Rao

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 8 May 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi held a telephone conversation with Spain’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain Arancha González Laya.²⁵⁶⁸ Both ministers desired to “continue working closely together through sharing information and collaboration to combat COVID-19.”²⁵⁶⁹

²⁵⁶³ DEF 2020 SECTION III - National Reform Program, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021.

http://www.dt.mef.gov.it/modules/documenti_en/analisi_progammazione/documenti_programmatici/def_2020/NRP_2020.pdf.

²⁵⁶⁴ Prevention and response to COVID-19: evolution of strategy and planning in the transition phase for the autumn winter season, Higher Institute of Health (Rome) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. https://www.iss.it/documents/5430402/0/COVID+19_+strategy_ISS_MoH+%281%29.pdf/f0d91693-c7ce-880b-e554-643c049ea0f3?t=1604675600974.

²⁵⁶⁵ DECREE-LAW, n. 104 Urgent measures to support and revive the economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2020/DL-104-del-14082020-Misure-urgenti-per-sostegno-e-rilancio-economia.pdf>.

²⁵⁶⁶ Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2020/DPCM-3-novembre-2020.pdf>.

²⁵⁶⁷ SUBJECT: Authorization for export of SARS-related coronavirus vaccines (especially SARS-CoV) in application of the Implementing Regulation (EU), Excise, Customs, and Monopoly Agency (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://www.adm.gov.it/portale/documents/20182/6323589/20210201-34605RU+INFO+ASSOCAT_AUT+EXP+VACCINI+def.pdf/9fbf063f-8e49-423f-aa7f-7d5c5c3dedf6.

²⁵⁶⁸ Japan-Spain Foreign Minister’s Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002810.html.

²⁵⁶⁹ Japan-Spain Foreign Minister’s Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002810.html.

On 8 October 2020, Japan announced that it will contribute more than USD130 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market Commitment to ensure countries gain equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.²⁵⁷⁰

On 25 November 2020, Japan pledged JPY229 million to the World Health Organization's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator for vaccine development and distribution.²⁵⁷¹

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide delivered a speech at the General Debate of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, promising multilateral cooperation schemes with other UNGA nations and the Japanese private sector.²⁵⁷²

On 11 December 2020, the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea discussed plans to strengthen information sharing and "encourage and support scientific research institutions to develop joint scientific research."²⁵⁷³

On 15 December 2020, Japan allocated JPY820.4 billion to "enhancing the testing system & developing the vaccine distribution system" as well as JPY144.4 billion to "International cooperation for containing the COVID-19."²⁵⁷⁴

On 31 December 2020, Japan provided over USD1.54 billion in medical and health assistance bilaterally, and through international organizations.²⁵⁷⁵ Japan also provided USD13 million of technical cooperation to 45 countries.²⁵⁷⁶ Furthermore, Japan provided medical equipment such as X-ray equipment, thermographic cameras, ambulances, etc. to more than 89 countries across the world, amounting to USD436 million.²⁵⁷⁷ Finally, Japan provided "sanitary goods, training of health care workers on prevention and raising awareness about the risk of infections."²⁵⁷⁸

On 5 March 2021, Minister Motegi announced at a press conference that Japan, the United States, Australia, and India "discussed the necessity and importance of international cooperation for ensuring fair access to vaccines, including developing countries."²⁵⁷⁹

²⁵⁷⁰ Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html.

²⁵⁷¹ Japan's Contribution to the Act-A Program, WHO (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-japan-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf.

²⁵⁷² Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html#.

²⁵⁷³ Joint Statement of the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10501000/000704834.pdf>.

²⁵⁷⁴ Overview of the Third Supplementary Budget for FY2020, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2020/05.pdf>.

²⁵⁷⁵ Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

²⁵⁷⁶ Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

²⁵⁷⁷ Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

²⁵⁷⁸ Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

²⁵⁷⁹ Press Conference by Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken22e_000020.html.

Japan has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Anjali Rao and Paul Huang

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 13 April 2020, Jonathan Pearce, on behalf of United Kingdom Research and Innovation, a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy of the government of the United Kingdom, called for global cooperation on the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. As part of a joint declaration coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), Pearce was joined by representatives of numerous pharmaceutical companies, governments, and universities, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in a pledge to strengthen “worldwide collaboration, cooperation and sharing of data.”²⁵⁸⁰

On 17 April 2020, the United Kingdom endorsed the Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, encouraging the maintenance of global links and calling for the pooling of resources, research findings, towards the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be available for all countries.²⁵⁸¹

On 29 April 2020, the Secretary of State for the UK Department for International Development Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced GBP330 million a year over the next five years to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to immunise 75 million children and fund the reparation and rebuilding of health systems in the world’s poorest countries.²⁵⁸²

On 30 April 2020, Oxford University announced a partnership with the UK-based global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to jointly manufacture and mass distribute the vaccine candidate developed by the University’s Jenner Institute. The deal requires AstraZeneca to work with global partners for international distribution and is supported by GBP20 million in government funding.²⁵⁸³

On 10 January 2020, the United Kingdom helped mobilize USD1 billion in funding for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, the global initiative for equitable COVID-19 vaccine access, launched in alliance with the WHO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, with the UK itself contributing GBP548 million.²⁵⁸⁴

²⁵⁸⁰Public statement for collaboration on COVID-19 vaccine development, The World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-04-2020-public-statement-for-collaboration-on-covid-19-vaccine-development>.

²⁵⁸¹Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 on maintaining essential global links, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

²⁵⁸² UK leads global fight to protect up to 75 million children against deadly diseases, Department for International Development (London) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-protect-up-to-75-million-children-against-deadly-diseases>.

²⁵⁸³ Landmark partnership announced for development of COVID-19 vaccine, University of Oxford (Oxford) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-04-30-landmark-partnership-announced-development-covid-19-vaccine>.

²⁵⁸⁴ UK meets £250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

The United Kingdom has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research and science.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Iman Ahmed

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 26 March 2020, the United States government announced USD274 million in funding to 64 countries deemed most at-risk of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pledge included USD100 million in emergency health assistance, USD110 million in international disaster assistance, and USD64 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.²⁵⁸⁵ Within the countries selected to receive aid, the United States provided funds to ensure the preparation of laboratory systems, the amelioration of water and sanitation systems, and supporting “technical experts for response and preparedness.”²⁵⁸⁶

On 8 April 2020, the United States government pledged an additional USD225 million in foreign aid, with the intention of “preparing and bolstering health systems, improving laboratories, training healthcare workers and more.”²⁵⁸⁷ In the same announcement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States would hold all critical medical items within its borders until “the demand at home is met.”²⁵⁸⁸

On 11 April 2020, the United States government authorized an assistance package to Italy in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This aid included technical support as well as American military support. Secretary Pompeo stated that American military personnel in Italy would help in providing “telemedicine services [and] facilitating transport and assembly of field hospitals and equipment.”²⁵⁸⁹

On 15 April 2020, President Donald Trump announced that the United States was going to halt its funding to the World Health Organization (WHO). The president stated that the halting comes as “a review is conducted to assess the World Health Organization’s role in severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus.”²⁵⁹⁰

On 16 April 2020, the United States government released the U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19. This initiated the “SAFER” package, which aims to share American

²⁵⁸⁵ U.S. Foreign Assistance in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of State (Washington) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/u-s-foreign-assistance-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/index.html>.

²⁵⁸⁶ The United States Is Leading the Humanitarian and Health Assistance Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/the-united-states-is-leading-the-humanitarian-and-health-assistance-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

²⁵⁸⁷ Continuing U.S. Leadership in the Global COVID-19 Response Through Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance, Department of State (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/continuing-u-s-leadership-in-the-global-covid-19-response-through-additional-u-s-foreign-assistance/index.html>.

²⁵⁸⁸ Continuing U.S. Leadership in the Global COVID-19 Response Through Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance, Department of State (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/continuing-u-s-leadership-in-the-global-covid-19-response-through-additional-u-s-foreign-assistance/index.html>.

²⁵⁸⁹ U.S. Assistance to Italy, Department of State (Washington) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/u-s-assistance-to-italy/index.html>.

²⁵⁹⁰ Coronavirus: US to Halt Funding to WHO, says Trump, BBC News (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52289056>.

health and scientific expertise to global partners.²⁵⁹¹ Assistance includes increasing laboratory capacity to test for COVID-19, strengthening epidemiological surveillance capacity, and supporting governments in the “procurement, distribution, and access to critical COVID-19 medical supplies.”²⁵⁹²

On 4 May 2020, the United States government called on other countries to contribute to scientific and technological efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic. In its Whole-of-America Action Plan, the United States announced its partnership with the European Medicines Agency in the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines initiative. This partnership pledged to develop “a collaborative framework to prioritize vaccine and drug candidates [and] streamline clinical trials.”²⁵⁹³ Furthermore, the United States government announced two government-sponsored vaccine projects, one in partnership with the international Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.²⁵⁹⁴

On 12 May 2020, the United States government reaffirmed its commitment to North American cooperation in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. In this cooperation, the United States has collaborated with its North American allies on “efforts to develop vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics and once developed, make them available, accessible, and affordable to all.”²⁵⁹⁵

On 4 June 2020, the United States government announced USD194 million in foreign aid to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement directs USD180 million of this pledge to support ventilator purchase and acquisition worldwide. Secretary Pompeo expressed America’s involvement in the development of a high-flow respirator in Israel, as well as stated his desire for America’s partners to increase domestic production of personal protective equipment.²⁵⁹⁶

On 7 July 2020, the United States gave an official notification to the United Nations of its intention to withdraw from the WHO. In May 2020, President Trump justified his decision by stating that it had “failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms” and that the United States will instead be “redirecting those funds to other worldwide and deserving urgent public health needs.”²⁵⁹⁷ The withdrawal was set to take place on 6 July 2021.²⁵⁹⁸

On 15 July 2020, the United States government announced USD208 million in international aid to support countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. USD62 million of the funding is directed towards “the purchase

²⁵⁹¹ Release of U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/release-of-u-s-government-action-plan-to-support-the-international-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

²⁵⁹² Release of U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/release-of-u-s-government-action-plan-to-support-the-international-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

²⁵⁹³ The U.S. Is Leading the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Developing a Vaccine, Department of State (Washington) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/the-u-s-is-leading-the-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-developing-a-vaccine/index.html>.

²⁵⁹⁴ The U.S. Is Leading the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Developing a Vaccine, Department of State (Washington) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/the-u-s-is-leading-the-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-developing-a-vaccine/index.html>.

²⁵⁹⁵ North American Cooperation on COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/north-american-cooperation-on-covid-19/index.html>.

²⁵⁹⁶ Fulfilling the President’s Generous Commitment to Provide Critical Medical Supplies Across the Globe, Department of State (Washington) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/fulfilling-the-presidents-generous-commitment-to-provide-critical-medical-supplies-across-the-globe/index.html>.

²⁵⁹⁷ Trump Administration Gives Formal Notice of Withdrawal from WHO, NBC News (Washington) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-administration-gives-formal-notice-withdrawal-who-n1233100>.

²⁵⁹⁸ Update on U.S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization, Department of State (Washington) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/update-on-u-s-withdrawal-from-the-world-health-organization/index.html>.

of ventilators for countries in need, enabling delivery of machines, training, equipment, and support measures.”²⁵⁹⁹

On 11 September 2020, the United States government organized an Innovation Roundtable hosted by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. The event brought the federal government and leaders from the “Smart Spaces/Smart Cities” technology industry to discuss international technological development and innovation meant to further the world’s recovery from COVID-19.²⁶⁰⁰

On 8 December 2020, President Trump signed the Executive Order on Ensuring Access to the United States Government COVID-19 Vaccines. This order aimed to ensure that American-made vaccines will be accessible on an international level.²⁶⁰¹

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden reversed the decision of President Trump to leave the WHO. The following day, the United States government announced its intention to join the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility] and support Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator “to advance multilateral efforts for COVID-19 vaccine ... and research and development.”²⁶⁰²

The United States has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Timothy Tennant

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 20 April 2020, the European Commission launched a data sharing platform called the “European COVID-19 Data Platform” for the rapid collection and sharing of COVID-19 research data. The platform will allow European countries a global environment to share their findings.²⁶⁰³

On 24 April 2020, the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, along with WHO, France, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global framework and partnership of health organizations, businesses, philanthropists, and scientists with the goal of facilitating the distribution of vaccines and treatments globally, most notably through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. The ACT-Accelerator was launched as a result of the

²⁵⁹⁹ New Humanitarian and Health Assistance Bolsters U.S. Leadership in Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/new-humanitarian-and-health-assistance-bolsters-u-s-leadership-in-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

²⁶⁰⁰ Innovation Roundtable: Smart Spaces and COVID-19 Recovery, Department of State (Washington) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/innovation-roundtable-smart-spaces-and-covid-19-recovery/index.html>.

²⁶⁰¹ President Trump’s Executive Order on Ensuring Access to United States Government COVID-19 Vaccines, Department of State (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/president-trumps-executive-order-on-ensuring-access-to-united-states-government-covid-19-vaccines/index.html>.

²⁶⁰² U.S. Intends to Join COVAX and Remain WHO Member- Fauci, Reuters (Geneva) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-who-usa-idUSFWN2JV1AG>.

²⁶⁰³ Coronavirus: Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_680.

G20 Summit in March 2020, not the G7 Summit, but still meets the criteria for goals made at the G7 Summit.²⁶⁰⁴

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission announced that the Global Community had raised EUR74 billion for universal access to COVID-19 vaccines. This includes a pledge of EUR1.4 billion made by the European Commission. The event that this announcement was made at was co-convened by the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom.²⁶⁰⁵

On 19 May 2020, the European Commission initiated EUR122 million from Horizon 2020 for research into the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is a part of the Commission's EUR1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Response Initiative.²⁶⁰⁶

On 4 June 2020, the European Commission announced a pledge of EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance for the period of 2021-2025. The funding will help immunise 300 million children across the world (including against COVID-19) and keep vaccine stockpiles for infectious diseases.²⁶⁰⁷

On 8 June 2020, the European Commission initiated EUR314 million through the European Innovation Council Accelerator Pilot to 36 companies to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The companies selected for support come from 16 countries, two EU member states, the UK and three associated countries.²⁶⁰⁸

On 10 June 2020, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation organized an international networking event in which various scientists from around the world presented their COVID-19-related findings, thus promoting information sharing. The event featured about three dozen research projects funded by the EU as well as a dozen international partners.²⁶⁰⁹

On 6 July 2020, the European Investment signed a EUR75 million loan agreement with CureVac for the development and production of vaccines. This includes CureVac's vaccine candidate against SARS-CoV-2.²⁶¹⁰

On 11 August 2020, the European Commission initiated EUR128 million to fund 23 new research projects that aim to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The 23 research projects include 347 research teams from 40 countries and 34 participants from 16 countries outside of the EU. In specific the research projects will work to target the development of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for COVID-19.²⁶¹¹

²⁶⁰⁴ Act-Accelerator Frequently Asked Questions, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. Covid-19 – Health in Common Initiative: Financing the First Projects in Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative-financing-first-projects-africa>

²⁶⁰⁵ Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797.

²⁶⁰⁶ Coronavirus: Commission boosts urgently needed research and innovation with additional €122 million, European Commission (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_887.

²⁶⁰⁷ Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges €300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_989.

²⁶⁰⁸ Coronavirus: EU grants €314 million to innovative companies to combat the virus and support recovery, European Commission (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1007.

²⁶⁰⁹ COVID-19 International Research Networking Event, European Commission (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/covid-19-international-research-and-innovation-networking-event-2020-jun-11_en.

²⁶¹⁰ Commission and EIB provide CureVac with a €75 million financing for vaccine development and expansion of manufacturing, European Commission (Brussels) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1238.

²⁶¹¹ Coronavirus: 23 new research projects to receive €128 million in EU funding, European Commission (Brussels) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1460.

The European Union has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research and science.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

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