

The G20 Research Group
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in the University of Toronto
presents the

2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance Report

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Prepared by
Alessandra Cicci, Ji Yoon Han and the G20 Research Group, Toronto,
and Irina Popova, Andrey Shelepov, Andrey Sakharov and Alexander Ignatov and the
Center for International Institutions Research
of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,
Moscow

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www.g20.utoronto.ca
g20@utoronto.ca

“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

munkschool.utoronto.ca



At Trinity College
1 Devonshire Place
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 3K7
T: 416.946.8900 F: 416.946.8915

At the Observatory
315 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 0A7
T: 416.946.8929 F: 416.946.8877

At the Canadiana Gallery
14 Queen's Park Crescent West
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 3K9
T: 416.978.5120 F: 416.978.5079

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12. Digital Economy: Digital Infrastructure

“[To maximize the benefits of digitalization and emerging technologies for innovative growth and productivity], we will promote measures to ... improve ... digital infrastructure.”

G20 Leaders Buenos Aires Declaration

Assessment

| Country | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | | +1 |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | | +1 |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | | +1 |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | | +1 |
| Indonesia | | 0 | |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | 0 | |
| Russia | | | +1 |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | | +1 |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average Score | | +0.85 | |

Background

Since 2015, the G20 adopted several commitments aimed at support for the development of information and communication technologies (ICT).

In 2015 during the summit in Antalya, the G20 members acknowledged that “threats to the security of and in the use of ICTs, risk undermining our collective ability to use the Internet to bolster economic growth and development around the world” and also committed to “bridge the digital divide” and “promote security, stability, and economic ties with other nations.”³⁰¹⁴ In 2015 the G20 adopted Adjusted Growth Strategies embracing development of ICT among other pillars of future growth.

In 2016 in Hangzhou the G20 leaders endorsed the G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth focusing on “policies and measures in and across the areas of innovation, the new industrial revolution and

³⁰¹⁴ G20 Leaders Communique Antalya Summit (Moscow) 15-16 November 2015. Access Date: 18 May 2019. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>.

the digital economy.”³⁰¹⁵ That same year, the G20 addressed the issue of opportunities of the new industrial revolution (NIR) in the G20 New Industrial Revolution Action Plan.³⁰¹⁶

In 2017 at the Hamburg Summit, the G20 leaders addressed the issues related to digitalization in the final declaration. The transformations of the global economy harnessed by steady progress of the ICT was acknowledged as a driving force of global, innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth.”³⁰¹⁷ The G20 members agreed to create favourable conditions for digital transformation, promote digital literacy and digital skills, to foster investments and innovation, promote effective cooperation of all stakeholders and support the free flow of information.³⁰¹⁸

In 2018, the G20 ministers responsible for the digital economy signed a joint ministerial declaration addressing several digital-related issues namely government principles, measurement of digital economy, digital divide, digital infrastructure, etc.³⁰¹⁹ At the Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 leaders agreed on the necessity of the promotion of digital infrastructure, digital inclusion, adoption of innovative digital economy business platforms.³⁰²⁰

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to actively support improvement of digital infrastructure.

The digital infrastructure itself includes such “backbone facilities” as fixed-line and wireless networks as defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its topic-related papers.³⁰²¹ Following the OECD definition, the possible actions by the G20 members might include but are not limited to providing better access to the Internet in remote areas (fixed and wireless), overall increase of average Internet connection speed (fixed and wireless), increase of the total number of Internet users and mobile devices owners, etc.

The G20 digital ministers highlighted the need for “national, regional and international initiatives” in the digital infrastructure sphere.³⁰²² In this case, to achieve full compliance a G20 member should take actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure not only within its territory, but on international fora as well. This means that a G20 member should support international initiatives in this sphere (bilateral or multilateral).

³⁰¹⁵ G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth (Moscow) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 18 May 2019.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20Blueprint%20on%20Innovative%20Growth.pdf>

³⁰¹⁶ G20 New Industrial Revolution Action Plan (Moscow) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 18 May 2019.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20New%20Industrial%20Revolution%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

³⁰¹⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Shaping an Interconnected World (Moscow) 7/8 July 2017. Access Date: 18 May 2019.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf

³⁰¹⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Shaping an Interconnected World (Moscow) 7/8 July 2017. Access Date: 18 May 2019.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf

³⁰¹⁹ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration (Moscow) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 18 May 2019.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/g20_detf_ministerial_declaration_salta.pdf

³⁰²⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development (Moscow) 1 December 2018.

Access Date: 18 May 2019.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

³⁰²¹ OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2017 (Paris) 2017. Access Date: 18 May 2019. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/oecd-digital-economy-outlook-2017_9789264276284-en#page118.

³⁰²² G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration (Moscow) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 17 May 2019. 2018.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/g20_detf_ministerial_declaration_salta.pdf

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---|
| -1 | The G20 member has not taken any action aimed at the improvement of digital infrastructure. |
| 0 | The G20 member has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory OR at international fora. |
| +1 | The G20 member has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory AND at international fora. |

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 14 December 2018, the Central Bank of Argentina announced that it would finance, together with the Secretariat for Modernization and National Communications Agency, a number of projects aimed at improving connectivity, firstly in small towns to be implemented by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).³⁰²³ A specific line of credit will be launched for investments and working capital, up to seven years and with a grace period of 24 months from the first disbursement, and whose interest rate will be subsidized by the ENACOM. For this purpose, USD500 million will be allocated, USD20 million per project. This measure aims to promote investments in equipment, software and associated elements as well as telecommunications infrastructure to expand networks for the provision of services for information and communications technologies, in particular 5G, around the country.³⁰²⁴

On 18 December 2018, the Secretariat for Modernization of Argentina held the second federal meeting for the digital country with an awarding ceremony for the most outstanding municipalities in terms of modernization. One of the criteria was municipal digital services. At the meeting, the Platform for Municipal Solutions was launched, a portal to facilitate a modernization process of the governorates and municipalities throughout the country. The Platform will allow local governments to access more than 20 digital country products such as web-pages, project tracking system, employment portal, among others.³⁰²⁵

On 4 January 2019, the Secretariat for Modernization of Argentina announced an installation of mobile telephony infrastructure of 79 new booster radios to guarantee a correct functioning of communications, including good 4G signal, in the tourist centers of the Atlantic Coast of Buenos Aires.³⁰²⁶ The initiative reaches the parties of the Coast (San Clemente del Tuyu, Santa Teresita, San Bernardo, Mar de Ajo, among others) Villa Gesell, Pinamar and General Pueyrredón (Mar del Plata) where new antennas were installed. In the case of Mar del Plata, six antennas now provide public and

³⁰²³ Financiarán inversiones para la mejora de la conectividad, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/financiaran-inversiones-para-la-mejora-de-la-conectividad>.

³⁰²⁴ Financiarán inversiones para la mejora de la conectividad, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/financiaran-inversiones-para-la-mejora-de-la-conectividad>.

³⁰²⁵ Premian municipios por sus avances en materia de modernización, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/premian-municipios-por-sus-avances-en-materia-de-modernizacion>.

³⁰²⁶ El gobierno mejora la conectividad en los principales puntos de la costa atlántica, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros (Buenos Aires) 4 January 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-mejora-la-conectividad-en-los-principales-puntos-de-la-costa-atlantica>.

free Wi-Fi used by more than 50,000 people.³⁰²⁷ The objective of the National Communications Plan is to reach 93 per cent of the population with quality mobile internet by the end of 2019.³⁰²⁸

On 18 February 2019, Argentinian Deputy Chief of Cabinet and Secretary for Modernization Andrés Ibarra and Minister of Transportation Guillermo Dietrich announced the launch of the National Digital Driving License (LNCD).³⁰²⁹ The LNCD can be obtained through “My Argentina” application. It has the same validity as the physical card. The LNCD aims to reduce possible falsifications and improve driver license control as well as make life easier for Argentinian citizens. The LNCD can be used to travel throughout Argentina.

On 12 March 2019, the first workshop “Internet of things in the Agroindustrial Sector” was organized in the framework of Expoagro 2019.³⁰³⁰ The event was attended by representatives of public and private sector as well as academia. The participants discussed the problems related to the implementation of Internet of things solutions in the agro-industrial sector, identifying regions and needs of different sectors.³⁰³¹

On 13 March 2019, Argentina signed the Resolution adopted by the International Conference of Commissioners of Information (ICIC) in Johannesburg.³⁰³² The ICIC is an international forum promoting universal right of access to public information worldwide. At the event, the ICIC not only adopted its charter of principles but also launched a new logo, a website and the official twitter account with the purpose to share good practices and promote international cooperation of the authorities of access to public information.³⁰³³

On 14 March 2019, Argentinian President Mauricio Macri and Deputy Chief of Staff Andrés Ibarra launched a new band of 450Mhz aimed to improve the internet in rural areas in more than 1,500 municipalities with a population of 100,000 citizens in provinces of Buenos Aires, Neuquén, Santa Fe, Mendoza, Cordoba and Santa Cruz.³⁰³⁴ A total of 70 SMEs and telecommunications cooperatives will use the new band. The band will also allow the connectivity of equipment and rural machinery for agriculture.³⁰³⁵

On 19 March 2019, the Government of Argentina announced that a number of technological solutions provided by País Digital had been implemented in the southernmost province of Esteros

³⁰²⁷ El gobierno mejora la conectividad en los principales puntos de la costa atlántica, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros (Buenos Aires) 4 January 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-mejora-la-conectividad-en-los-principales-puntos-de-la-costa-atlantica>.

³⁰²⁸ El gobierno mejora la conectividad en los principales puntos de la costa atlántica, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros (Buenos Aires) 4 January 2019. Access Date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-mejora-la-conectividad-en-los-principales-puntos-de-la-costa-atlantica>.

³⁰²⁹ Se presentó la Licencia Nacional de Conducir digital, Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros: Modernización (Buenos Aires) 18 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-la-licencia-nacional-de-conducir-digital>.

³⁰³⁰ Realizamos el 1er Taller “IoT en el Sector Agroindustrial” (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-el-1er-taller-iot-en-el-sector-agroindustrial>.

³⁰³¹ Realizamos el 1er Taller “IoT en el Sector Agroindustrial” (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-el-1er-taller-iot-en-el-sector-agroindustrial>.

³⁰³² Una voz global para promover el acceso a la información (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/una-voz-global-para-promover-el-acceso-la-informacion>.

³⁰³³ Una voz global para promover el acceso a la información (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/una-voz-global-para-promover-el-acceso-la-informacion>.

³⁰³⁴ Adjudican una nueva banda que mejorará el internet en zonas rurales 14 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/adjudican-una-nueva-banda-que-mejorara-el-internet-en-zonas-rurales>.

³⁰³⁵ Adjudican una nueva banda que mejorará el internet en zonas rurales 14 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/adjudican-una-nueva-banda-que-mejorara-el-internet-en-zonas-rurales>.

del Iberá.³⁰³⁶ For example, the province received eight satellite connectivity antennas that provide free public Internet through Wi-Fi Points, in particular in remote areas. In many places an access to Internet was provided for the first time. In Tolhuin Municipal Culture House a Digital Point was installed with digital literacy courses and trainings, a movie theater and a video game room. Among the solutions implemented, one of the most used is the Citizen Management, which allows citizens to make a request to the Municipality through a mobile application or the Municipal Web Page.³⁰³⁷

On 20 March 2019, the Ministry of Transport of Argentina launched a digital license for professional drivers (LiNTI) applied throughout the country.³⁰³⁸ The new scheme aims to increase security standards through raises the criteria for training and evaluation and simplify drivers` daily life because they will be able to carry it on the cell phone. The LiNTI has a QR code for a more rapid inspection. At the same time, it will provide greater transparency to verify the validity of the license and avoid falsifications.³⁰³⁹ To obtain the new credential, drivers must be over 21 years old, be able to read and write in the national language and have a driver`s license according to the vehicle with which interjurisdictional transportation will be developed.³⁰⁴⁰

On 21 March 2019, the Argentine authorities announced that in the last year, more than 3 million people attended the different activities organized in more than 400 digital points installed throughout the country.³⁰⁴¹ The points were installed with the aim of reducing the digital divide. The points provide training and ensure access to the Internet.

On 29 March 2019, it was announced that six Argentine students from the universities of Córdoba, Tucumán, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires would travel to Mexico under the program “ICT Talent Contest” carried out by Huawei.³⁰⁴² The Contest is supported by the Secretariat for Modernization and Ministry of Education of Argentina. The initiative aims to provide the students from Argentina and other countries with knowledge in information and communication technologies as well as to develop their professional skills in new technologies, with exams and international certifications.³⁰⁴³ The six young people selected at the national level will compete in Mexico along with other Latin

³⁰³⁶ De Tierra del Fuego al Norte de la Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/de-tierra-del-fuego-al-norte-de-la-argentina>.

³⁰³⁷ De Tierra del Fuego al Norte de la Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/de-tierra-del-fuego-al-norte-de-la-argentina>.

³⁰³⁸ Comienza a regir en todo el país la licencia digital para los conductores profesionales (Buenos Aires) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comienza-regir-en-todo-el-pais-la-licencia-digital-para-los-conductores-profesionales>.

³⁰³⁹ Comienza a regir en todo el país la licencia digital para los conductores profesionales (Buenos Aires) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comienza-regir-en-todo-el-pais-la-licencia-digital-para-los-conductores-profesionales>.

³⁰⁴⁰ Comienza a regir en todo el país la licencia digital para los conductores profesionales (Buenos Aires) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comienza-regir-en-todo-el-pais-la-licencia-digital-para-los-conductores-profesionales>.

³⁰⁴¹ Más de 3 millones de personas asistieron a los Puntos Digitales el último año (Buenos Aires) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/mas-de-3-millones-de-personas-asistieron-los-puntos-digitales-el-ultimo-ano>.

³⁰⁴² Seis estudiantes argentinos viajarán a México para competir en telecomunicaciones (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seis-estudiantes-argentinos-viajaran-mexico-para-competir-en-telecomunicaciones>.

³⁰⁴³ Seis estudiantes argentinos viajarán a México para competir en telecomunicaciones (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seis-estudiantes-argentinos-viajaran-mexico-para-competir-en-telecomunicaciones>.

American students. Those who pass this stage will be able to participate in the Global Final to be held in China in May 2019.³⁰⁴⁴

On 3 April 2019, the new Platform for Municipal Solutions was launched.³⁰⁴⁵ The Platform will support Argentinian municipalities in getting technological solutions developed by País Digital to improve public management and facilitate access to information. In addition, interested municipalities can share their projects with the rest of the country through the Platform.

Argentina has taken actions aimed at the improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 19 December 2018, the federal government released its revamp of Australia's national digital economy strategy to seize the potential economic benefits presented by new technology. The strategy has been developed over the last 15 months in collaboration with businesses, academia and the community to help develop digital skills and deliver better services.³⁰⁴⁶ Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews said the strategy identifies where Australia's efforts should be focused in the years ahead to amplify the digital economy. Those four areas are people, services, digital assets and the enabling environment, each of which is accompanied by opportunities and areas for further improvement.³⁰⁴⁷

On 6 March 2019, the European Union and Australia agreed to strengthen support for sustainable infrastructure and development in the Pacific. The parties noted that Australia and the EU share a strong commitment to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recognize the need to support Pacific Small Island Developing States in order to meet the SDGs.³⁰⁴⁸ They also emphasized the importance of digital infrastructure and connectivity for economic development and lifting productivity in the region. Australia's Pacific Step-Up initiative will also deliver better economic infrastructure in the region through the AUD2 billion Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, along with the AUD1 billion increase in callable capital to the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation.³⁰⁴⁹

³⁰⁴⁴ Seis estudiantes argentinos viajarán a México para competir en telecomunicaciones (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/seis-estudiantes-argentinos-viajaran-mexico-para-competir-en-telecomunicaciones>.

³⁰⁴⁵ País Digital presenta la nueva Plataforma de Soluciones Municipales (Buenos Aires) 3 April 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pais-digital-presenta-la-nueva-plataforma-de-soluciones-municipales>.

³⁰⁴⁶ Australia finally gets a new digital economy strategy, Itnews (Sydney) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019. <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/australia-finally-gets-a-new-digital-economy-strategy-517102>.

³⁰⁴⁷ Australia finally gets a new digital economy strategy, Itnews (Sydney) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019. <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/australia-finally-gets-a-new-digital-economy-strategy-517102>.

³⁰⁴⁸ European Union and Australian Government - Joint Statement, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-and-australian-government-joint-statement_en.

³⁰⁴⁹ European Union and Australian Government - Joint Statement, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-and-australian-government-joint-statement_en.

On 29 March 2019 the federal government released a strategy on how to best to host data within the Commonwealth, launching a new certification program for data center providers. The Hosting Certification Framework will be the responsibility of a new Digital Infrastructure Service set up within the Digital Transformation Agency.³⁰⁵⁰ It will be responsible for assessing and measuring supply chain risks presented by hosting providers and for determining standards, measures, and timelines to achieve the government's desired hosting standards.³⁰⁵¹

Australia has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anna Kotlyarova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 3 December 2018, the President of the National Telecommunications Agency (ANATEL) Leonardo Euler de Moraes and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication's telecommunications secretary André Borges participated in the 32nd Meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee II of Radiocommunications.³⁰⁵² Borges highlighted the ministry's efforts to expand Internet access in Brazil and announced the launch of the Geostationary Satellite of Defense and Strategic Communications as an important action to connect more remote regions of the country; the national connectivity plan to expand investments in broadband infrastructure; and the updating of the laws that regulate the telecommunications sector.³⁰⁵³

On 13 December 2018, the Ministry of Modernization of Argentina accepted the Brazilian proposal for the inclusion of new frequency bands in the bilateral agreement for the Provision of Space Capacity.³⁰⁵⁴ With the approval of the amendment to the agreement, Brazilian satellite companies are able to invest in the Argentine market with the title of foreign satellite and, thus, can increase the bilateral trade volume and the telecommunications services provided to the consumers of the two countries.³⁰⁵⁵

On 1 February 2019, it was announced that the ANATEL held public hearings on the Regulation of Regulatory Oversight. It has the following purposes: to subsidize ANATEL with information relevant to its decision-making processes; analyze the performance of telecommunication service

³⁰⁵⁰ Australia brings in data centre certification with new government Hosting Strategy, Zdnet (Sydney) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 31 March 2019. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-brings-in-data-centre-certification-with-new-government-hosting-strategy/>.

³⁰⁵¹ Australia brings in data centre certification with new government Hosting Strategy, Zdnet (Sydney) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 31 March 2019. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-brings-in-data-centre-certification-with-new-government-hosting-strategy/>.

³⁰⁵² Anatel e Citel realizam evento sobre Radiocomunicações, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2139-anatel-e-citel-realizam-evento-internacional-sobre-radiocomunicacoes>

³⁰⁵³ Anatel e Citel realizam evento sobre Radiocomunicações, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2139-anatel-e-citel-realizam-evento-internacional-sobre-radiocomunicacoes>

³⁰⁵⁴ Acordo Brasil-Argentina amplia o uso de satélites entre os dois países, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2161-acordo-brasil-argentina-amplia-o-uso-de-satelites-entre-os-dois-paises-3>.

³⁰⁵⁵ Acordo Brasil-Argentina amplia o uso de satélites entre os dois países, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2161-acordo-brasil-argentina-amplia-o-uso-de-satelites-entre-os-dois-paises-3>.

providers; to stimulate the continuous improvement of the provision of telecommunication services aiming at solutions to detected nonconformities and to act in the search for the repair or minimization of eventual damages to the provision of telecommunications services or to its users.³⁰⁵⁶

On 7 February 2019, ANATEL's Board of Directors approved the proposal to set up an ANATEL Comparator Application monitoring group, which will coordinate and monitor activity, bring greater transparency to the telecommunications market's offerings and will make it easier for consumers to access information.³⁰⁵⁷

On 8 February 2019, the ANATEL published the results of the survey conducted in December 2018, according to which in relation to the previous month (November 2018), the mobile service lost 2,617,069 lines, which is equivalent to minus 1.13 per cent.³⁰⁵⁸

On 11 March 2019, the President Jair Bolsonaro opened the telecommunications services of the new the Comandante Ferraz Antarctic Station. The new facilities provided the videoconference of the President of the Republic with the Brazilian officials in the Antarctic.³⁰⁵⁹ With the new facilities, developments are expected in high-speed fixed internet services which are provided for data transmission, videoconferencing and calls; mobile network with 4G connection; wi-fi access distributed throughout the naval base; and TV signal reception system.³⁰⁶⁰

On 21 March 2019, the Board of Directors of the ANATEL approved the Regulatory Agenda 2019-2020. One of the most important items of the Agenda is studies of frequency bands for introduction of the 5G within country.³⁰⁶¹

On 25 March 2019, the ANATEL issued the report on the Brazilian broadband market which demonstrates that the Brazilian broadband market is ranked 6th among the ten largest in the world, shows the significant growth of the market in recent years, however with a reduction in the rate of increase, 1 per cent in the quarter for a few years. The average annual growth of fixed broadband accesses in Brazil (12.8 per cent) is almost the same as the rest of the world (13 per cent).³⁰⁶²

³⁰⁵⁶ Anatel realiza audiências sobre Regulamento de Fiscalização Regulatória em 5 capitais, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2185-anatel-realiza-audiencias-sobre-regulamento-de-fiscalizacao-regulatoria>.

³⁰⁵⁷ Anatel lançará aplicativo de comparação de ofertas, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2193-anatel-lancara-aplicativo-de-comparacao-de-ofertas>.

³⁰⁵⁸ Brasil perde 7,2 milhões de linhas móveis em 2018, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 8 February 2019. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2196-brasil-perde-7-2-milhoes-de-linhas-moveis-em-dezembro>.

³⁰⁵⁹ Base brasileira na Antártica tem novas instalações para modernização do sistema de telecomunicações, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2217-base-brasileira-na-antartica-tem-novas-instalacoes-para-modernizacao-do-sistema-de-telecomunicacoes>.

³⁰⁶⁰ Base brasileira na Antártica tem novas instalações para modernização do sistema de telecomunicações, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2217-base-brasileira-na-antartica-tem-novas-instalacoes-para-modernizacao-do-sistema-de-telecomunicacoes>.

³⁰⁶¹ Anatel aprova Agenda Regulatória 2019-2020, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2228-anatel-aprova-agenda-regulatoria-2019-2020>.

³⁰⁶² Anatel divulga relatório sobre o mercado de banda larga brasileiro, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2230-anatel-divulga-relatorio-sobre-o-mercado-de-banda-larga-brasileiro>.

On 25 March 2019, the President of the ANATEL Leonardo de Morais met with the President of the City Council of São Paulo Eduardo Tuma to discuss measures for the improvement of the telecommunications infrastructure in São Paulo and a draft of Law n° 751/2013 (“Law of Antennas”) regarding perspective of the alignment between the various political entities for the expansion of infrastructure, with the consequent improvement in the quality and coverage of telecommunications services.³⁰⁶³

On 29 March 2019, the ANATEL announced the comparative classification of telecommunication services providers, according to the accessibility actions promoted by them, aimed at improving the service to people with disabilities. At the awarding of the winning company there will be discussion on services more accessible to people with disabilities.³⁰⁶⁴

On 29 March 2019, the ANATEL and the National Electricity Regulatory Agency held a meeting with the objective of aligning for the revision of the joint regulation of knowledge-sharing and infrastructure sharing which will be critical to the deployment of the 5G mobile telephony.³⁰⁶⁵

On 4 April 2019, the meeting of the Board of Directors of ANATEL took place. Monitoring and control of the modernization and expansion of the national fiber optic network was among discussed issues.³⁰⁶⁶

On 8 and 11 April 2019, the President of the ANATEL met with the president of the National Congress and the Senate, Senator Davi Alcolumbre. The meetings included discussion of a draft law of Senate 349/2018 and a draft law 7.656 / 2017, pursuing an objective of expanding the offer of access to broadband by satellite and altering the tax treatment necessary for the full consolidation of the ecosystem of the so-called Internet of Things.³⁰⁶⁷

On 26 April 2016, the ANATEL opened a public consultation for introduction of 5G.³⁰⁶⁸

Brazil has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Polina Petrova

³⁰⁶³ Presidente da Anatel se reúne com o presidente e vereadores da Câmara Municipal de São Paulo sobre a ampliação de infraestrutura de telecomunicações, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Sao Paulo) 26 March 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2233-presidente-da-anatel-se-reune-com-o-presidente-e-veredores-da-camara-municipal-de-sao-paulo-sobre-a-ampliacao-de-infraestrutura-de-telecomunicacoes>.

³⁰⁶⁴ Anatel premia empresa mais acessível às pessoas com deficiência, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2237-anatel-premia-empresa-mais-acessivel-as-pessoas-com-deficiencia>.

³⁰⁶⁵ Anatel e ANEEL debatem uso compartilhado de postes, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 3 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2240-anatel-e-aneel-debatem-uso-compartilhado-de-postes>.

³⁰⁶⁶ Conselho Diretor da Anatel reúne-se às 10h de quinta-feira (4/4), Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2239-conselho-diretor-da-anatel-reune-se-as-10h-de-quinta-feira-4-4>.

³⁰⁶⁷ Mensagem da Presidência da Anatel é entregue ao presidente do Congresso Nacional, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2244-mensagem-da-presidencia-da-anatel-e-entregue-ao-presidente-do-congresso-nacional>.

³⁰⁶⁸ Anatel abre consulta pública para evolução de antenas com vistas ao 5G, Agência Nacional de Telecomunicações (Brasília) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2019. <http://www.anatel.gov.br/institucional/ultimas-noticiass/2248-anatel-abre-consulta-publica-para-evolucao-de-antenas-com-vistas-ao-5g>.

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 4 February 2019, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) launched a series of national workshops aimed at directly supporting businesses conducting research and development (R&D) in the ICT sector. During these workshops, businesses gained insights into how to best relate their innovation to Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED).³⁰⁶⁹ Useful tips and best practices also provide help to businesses to receive their full entitlements under the SR&ED program. Businesses also engaged directly with the CRA. The Scientific SR&ED tax incentive program supports R&D investments in Canada towards risks associated with attempting to advance technology.³⁰⁷⁰

On 13 February 2019, the National Research Council's Security and Disruptive Technologies and Digital Technologies research centres hosted a workshop led by D-Wave Systems.³⁰⁷¹ The workshop brought together leading Canadian researchers with government problem owners and high-tech industry to disseminate the latest scientific knowledge, develop solutions and new capabilities for government, and support Canadian innovative business. It provided an opportunity to educate data scientists on the state of the art in quantum computing, its strengths and limitations, and how it can help solve complex issues.³⁰⁷²

On 18 February 2019, the governments of Canada and Quebec granted a total of CAD465,000 in financial assistance to two innovative Sherbrooke businesses: CIBLE Solutions d'affaires and Samson Odours Specialty.³⁰⁷³ With this funding, CIBLE will carry out marketing activities in Canada and abroad for its new online donation management tool. SOS Odours intends to purchase new production equipment, complete leasehold improvements and hire chemistry, engineering and information technology experts. The investment generated by these projects is estimated at CAD1,601,461.³⁰⁷⁴

On 12-16 April 2019, Alberta Government, in partnership with the Canadian Consulate in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council held the International ICT Expo.³⁰⁷⁵

³⁰⁶⁹ SR&ED national industry engagement technical workshops for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program/information-seminars-webinars/sector-specific-seminars/ict-industry.html>.

³⁰⁷⁰ SR&ED national industry engagement technical workshops for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program/information-seminars-webinars/sector-specific-seminars/ict-industry.html>.

³⁰⁷¹ SR&ED national industry engagement technical workshops for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program/information-seminars-webinars/sector-specific-seminars/ict-industry.html>.

³⁰⁷² Quantum computing at the temple of science, National Research Council Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 February 2019. https://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/stories/2019/quantum_computing.html.

³⁰⁷³ SR&ED national industry engagement technical workshops for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program/information-seminars-webinars/sector-specific-seminars/ict-industry.html>.

³⁰⁷⁴ Ottawa and Quebec award \$465,000 to CIBLE Solutions d'affaires and SOS Odours, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 19 February 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2019/02/ottawa-and-quebec-award-465000-to-cible-solutions-daffaires-and-sos-odours.html>

³⁰⁷⁵ SR&ED national industry engagement technical workshops for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/scientific-research-experimental-development-tax-incentive-program/information-seminars-webinars/sector-specific-seminars/ict-industry.html>.

Organizers invited Albertan ICT companies with innovative solutions in the areas of Smart City, Communications Technologies and Financial Services to join in the Canadian ICT Partnering Mission to Hong Kong and to participate in the Expo.³⁰⁷⁶

Canada has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Uliana Koptukh

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 17 December 2018, the “4th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (LMC) (this cooperation initiative includes China, Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting” saw ministers from the six LMC countries agreed to launch the implementation plan for building the economic development belt. One of the directions of the plan includes making efforts to strengthen digital infrastructure and innovation capacity building.³⁰⁷⁷

On 22 December 2018, China launched a technology experiment satellite as part of its Hongyun Project, a low-orbit broadband communication satellite system. The project is planned to provide Internet access to remote areas in China.³⁰⁷⁸

On 10 January 2019, the Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza, an initiative to bring Indian information technology companies and Chinese enterprises closer to each other on a single artificial intelligence enabled platform was launched. This is a partnership by National Association of Software and Services Companies with Municipal Governments of Guiyang and Dalian. A Joint Venture comprising of one Indian and Chinese company was tasked with the running of the platform.³⁰⁷⁹

China has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yekaterina Litvintseva

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on information and communications technologies (ICT) and digital economy.

On 27 December 2018, President Emmanuel Macron announced the allocation of financing to broaden the broadband coverage (fixed and mobile). The funding, EUR20 million, is intended to

³⁰⁷⁶ International ICT Expo 2019, Invest Alberta (Edmonton) 16 April 2019. Access Date: 6 May 2019. <https://investalberta.ca/event-items/approved-events/2019/international-ict-expo-2019/>

³⁰⁷⁷ LMC economic development belt to boost sub-region's common development: Chinese FM, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 25 April 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-12/17/c_137680511.htm.

³⁰⁷⁸ China launches tech experimental satellite for wider-reaching broadband connection, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 22 December 2018. Access Date: 25 April 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-12/22/c_137692006.htm.

³⁰⁷⁹ Launch of Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2019. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1559382>.

accelerate the deployment of high-speed broadband in 17 territories, which together represent more than a quarter of the French population.³⁰⁸⁰

On 29 January 2019, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Amr Talaat of Egypt and Secretary of State at the French Ministry of Economy and Finance Agnès Pannier-Runacher, signed a declaration on the promotion of entrepreneurship and growth of emerging companies in the field of Information Technology.³⁰⁸¹ The minister stressed the importance of enhancing joint cooperation between Egypt and France in the field of communications and information technology through exchanging of experiences and increasing the volume of investments of French companies operating in the ICT sector in Egypt.³⁰⁸²

On 31 January 2019, Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy and Finance Agnès Pannier-Runacher and Secretary of State for Digital Mounir Mahjoubi launched a call for the creation of 5G experimental platforms in the 26 GHz frequency band.³⁰⁸³

On 25 February 2019, it was announced that French President Emmanuel Macron advocated the use of blockchain to innovate supply chain management in the European agriculture industry.³⁰⁸⁴

On 25 April 2019, it was announced that France implemented a tax break for data centres in a bid to make it a more attractive investment destination, which arose off the back of Brexit.³⁰⁸⁵

France has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Daria Myasnikova

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 6 February 2019, German Agency for International Cooperation launched its Global Project Africa Cloud. The three-year project worth EUR10 million is aimed at providing educational offers in

³⁰⁸⁰ Très haut débit: 620 million d'euros pour accélérer la couverture territoriale, Gouvernement de la République française (Paris) 27 December 2018. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/tres-haut-debit-620-millions-d-euros-pour-accelerer-la-couverture-territoriale>.

³⁰⁸¹ Egypt, France sign 4 agreements in ICT field, Egypt Today (Cairo) 29 January 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/3/64038/Egypt-France-sign-4-agreements-in-ICT-field>

³⁰⁸² Egypt, France sign 4 agreements in ICT field, Egypt Today (Cairo) 29 January 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/3/64038/Egypt-France-sign-4-agreements-in-ICT-field>

³⁰⁸³ Le Gouvernement et l'Arcep lancent un appel à la création de plateformes d'expérimentation 5G dans la bande 26 GHz, Le portail de l'Économie, des Finances, de l'Action et des Comptes publics (Paris) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=6829CD8D-0087-4D96-A232-5E061581AA60&filename=999%20-%20CP%20plateforme%205%20G-%20Arcep.pdf.

³⁰⁸⁴ French President Calls on Europe to Use Blockchain to Innovate the Agriculture Industry, Cointelegraph (Paris) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2019. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/french-president-calls-on-europe-to-use-blockchain-to-innovate-the-agriculture-industry>.

³⁰⁸⁵ France Aims to Increase Data Centre Investment Via Tax Breaks After Brexit (London) 25 April 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019. <https://data-economy.com/france-aims-to-increase-data-centre-investment-via-tax-breaks-after-brexit/>.

selected partner countries of Africa with support of digital learning content and the use of innovative data systems.³⁰⁸⁶

On 21 February 2019, the German Bundestag approved an amendment to the Basic Law or constitution providing for the investment of EUR5 billion in digitalizing schools.³⁰⁸⁷

On 19 March 2019, the German government launched a spectrum auction as the first important element in the launch of 5G technology in the country. The auction was conducted by the Bundesnetzagentur (Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railway).³⁰⁸⁸ All revenue generated from the auction of 5G licenses was expected to go to the special fund for digital infrastructure. A total of 70 per cent of revenues will be channelled into the development of the gigabit network and 30 per cent will be earmarked for the digital compact for schools. Earlier the Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railway announced that by the end of 2022 a minimum of 98 per cent of households, all motorways and major trunk roads and railway lines will be served by a 100 megabit per second system.³⁰⁸⁹

Germany has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 18 December 2018, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare announced that it developed Kisan Suvidha mobile application to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also compiled more than 100 mobile apps, which offer valuable information to the farmers, including package of practices, market prices of various commodities, weather related information, advisory services, etc.³⁰⁹⁰

On 10 January 2019, the Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza, an initiative to bring Indian information technologies companies and Chinese enterprises closer to each other on a single artificial intelligence enabled platform was launched. This is a partnership by National Association of Software and Services Companies with Municipal Governments of Guiyang and Dalian. A Joint

³⁰⁸⁶ Africa Cloud - innovative e-Learning-Angebote für afrikanische Entwicklungssprünge Global Project Africa Cloud, German Agency for International Cooperation. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bmz.de/de/mediathek/publikationen/reihen/strategiepapiere/Toolkit-Digitalisierung-Entwicklungszusammenarbeit-Bildung-Kultur-Medien.pdf>

³⁰⁸⁷ Green light for the "digital compact for schools", German Federal Government (Berlin) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/green-light-for-the-digital-compact-for-schools-1583250>.

³⁰⁸⁸ FAQs on the new generation mobile phone technology, German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/faqs-on-the-new-generation-mobile-phone-technology-1592338>.

³⁰⁸⁹ FAQs on the new generation mobile phone technology, German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/faqs-on-the-new-generation-mobile-phone-technology-1592338>.

³⁰⁹⁰ Mobile application for farmers, Government of India (New Delhi) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 18 December 2018. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1556465>.

Venture comprising one Indian and Chinese company was tasked with the running of the platform.³⁰⁹¹

On 4 February 2019, the central government launched an integrated scheme for school education. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, information and communications technologies component envisages covering all Government and Government Aided schools from classes VI to XII, subject to the availability of budgetary provision.³⁰⁹²

India has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Polina Sbtanko

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 19 December 2018, Indonesia's Ministry of Communications and Informatics announced new statistics of broadband coverage, which is assessed at 9.38 per cent for fixed broadband and 96 per cent for mobile broadband.³⁰⁹³ The government was trying to accelerate the development of fixed broadband infrastructure to facilitate the use of fixed broadband and conducted a free trial for rental internet access to local business communities for five months to encourage small business players to use the internet.³⁰⁹⁴

On 28 January 2019, the Palapa Ring project had reached completion of 96.3 per cent; it is expected to become operational by mid-2019, improving internet access in rural areas throughout Indonesia and supporting the country's digital economy, which is targeted to achieve the volume of USD100 billion by 2025.³⁰⁹⁵

On 21 February 2019, Indonesian Nusantara Satu communications satellite was successfully launched, which will become an integral part of Indonesia's digital infrastructure, and provide the most remote islands and villages with reliable, broad-based and affordable broadband to fuel economic growth and opportunity in the region, as well as ensure voice and data communications and video distribution throughout the Indonesian archipelago.³⁰⁹⁶

Indonesia has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory.

³⁰⁹¹ Launch of Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2019. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1559382>.

³⁰⁹² Digitalisation of Schools across the country, Government of India (New Delhi) 4 February 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2019. <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1562596>.

³⁰⁹³ Indonesia struggling to achieve fixed broadband target, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/12/19/indonesia-struggling-to-achieve-fixed-broadband-target.html>.

³⁰⁹⁴ Indonesia struggling to achieve fixed broadband target, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/12/19/indonesia-struggling-to-achieve-fixed-broadband-target.html>.

³⁰⁹⁵ Nearly complete Palapa Ring key to boosting digital economy, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 28 January 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/01/28/nearly-complete-palapa-ring-key-boosting-digital-economy.html>.

³⁰⁹⁶ Indonesia's Nusantara Satu Communications Satellite Successfully Launched By SpaceX, Spacewatch (Bern) February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://spacewatch.global/2019/02/indonesias-nusantara-satu-communications-satellite-successfully-launched-by-spacex/>.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 10 December 2018, at the Ministry of Economic Development the General Manager for Electronic Communications, Broadcasting and Postal Services Antonio Lirosi and the CEO of Infratel Italia Domenico Tudini signed the operating agreement for the realization of the WiFi project.³⁰⁹⁷ The Ministry of Economic Development has entrusted Infratel Italia with the implementation of the Wi-Fi access point installation activities, the provision of maintenance services and the strengthening of any existing physical and technological infrastructures, primarily in the areas affected by the 2016 seismic events and in the territories of municipalities with a population of less than 2000 inhabitants.³⁰⁹⁸

On 12 December 2018, the Minister of Economic Development and Labor Luigi Di Maio and the President of the Lazio Region Nicola Zingaretti signed the Memorandum of Understanding at the Ministry of Economic Development for the dissemination of Wi-Fi connectivity in the municipalities of Lazio affected by the earthquake of 24 August 2016. The objective of the protocol is to allow citizens to access the Internet (5G) for free in public places and to encourage entrepreneurial initiative, enhancing research, tourism and culture.³⁰⁹⁹

On 13 December 2018, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food, Forestry and Tourism Policies and Google signed the Memorandum of Understanding to offer, through the free My Business page, greater visibility on the web to about 21,000 structures in Italy.³¹⁰⁰

On 19 December 2018, Digital Italy Agency (AgID – technical agency of Presidency of Council of Ministers) extended the terms for the qualification of the cloud services provider and software as a service, necessary for the acquisition of the same by the administrations. It aims at protecting the needs of public administrations to proceed with the acquisition of cloud services in the process of qualification by Cloud service providers, also accepting the numerous requests received from the same service providers.³¹⁰¹

³⁰⁹⁷ Wi-Fi Italia: firmata la convenzione operativa per la realizzazione del Progetto tra Mise e Infratel, Agenzia per l'Italia digitale 10 December 2018. Access Date: 25 January 2019. <http://wifi.italia.it/it/wi-fi-italia-firmata-la-convenzione-operativa-la-realizzazione-del-progetto-mise-infratel/>

³⁰⁹⁸ Wi-Fi Italia: firmata la convenzione operativa per la realizzazione del Progetto tra Mise e Infratel, Agenzia per l'Italia digitale 10 December 2018. Access Date: 25 January 2019. <http://wifi.italia.it/it/wi-fi-italia-firmata-la-convenzione-operativa-la-realizzazione-del-progetto-mise-infratel/>

³⁰⁹⁹ Firmato Protocollo d'intesa tra il MiSE e la Regione Lazio per il Wi-Fi nelle zone terremotate, Agenzia per l'Italia digitale, Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico (Rome) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 25 January 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/it/198-notizie-stampa/2038926-firmato-protocollo-d-intesa-tra-il-mise-e-la-regione-lazio-per-il-wi-fi-nelle-zone-terremotate>.

³¹⁰⁰ Agriturismo, il ministero si allea con Google per la promozione online, Italia Digitale (Milan) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 30 February 2019. <https://www.corrierecomunicazioni.it/digital-economy/agriturismo-il-ministero-si-allea-con-google-per-la-promozione-online/>.

³¹⁰¹ Cloud della PA: dopo il 31 marzo 2019 le amministrazioni possono acquisire solo servizi cloud qualificati, Agenzia per l'Italia digitale (Rome) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 3 January 2019. <https://www.agid.gov.it/it/agenzia/stampa-e-comunicazione/notizie/2018/12/20/cloud-pa-il-31-marzo-2019-amministrazioni-possono-acquisire-solo-servizi-cloud>.

On 23 January 2019, Lazio, Puglia and Sardinia signed territorial agreements with Ministry of Agriculture and the Agency for Territorial Cohesion to speed up the digital transformation of public services in their territories.³¹⁰²

On 30-31 January 2019, the Italian delegation conducted a series of bilateral meetings with government and research organizations operating in the Artificial Intelligence field in the UK.³¹⁰³

On 6 February 2019, the third meeting of the new Steering and Monitoring Committee set up by the Ministry of Economic Development on the activities of strengthening the public infrastructure network for ultra-broadband took place in order to discussing the Ultra-wide band construction with particular attention to local development and problems relating to site permits. Open Fiber announced that around 1,300 construction sites have been started and that by 2019 the opening of a further 2,000 construction sites is planned for the coverage of approximately 1.3 million users.³¹⁰⁴

On 14 March 2019, the Ministry of Economic Development launched the Global Start Up Program initiative, which supports 120 start-ups holding patents that intend to strengthen their technical, organizational and financial capabilities to face new markets. The project is aimed at Italian companies not yet present on international markets, engaged in the development of new high-tech ideas.³¹⁰⁵

On 16 April 2019, the Embassy of Italy in Hanoi organized a seminar dedicated to the blockchain technology, the related aspects of security and traceability of data and applications for smart cities. The seminar also included discussions on the challenges and opportunities for cooperation between Italy and Vietnam in the scientific and technological field.³¹⁰⁶

On 30 April 2019, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development, Labour and Social Policies Luigi Di Maio and the Minister of Industry and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Tunisia Slim Feriani, signed the agreement for the electricity interconnection project between the two countries.³¹⁰⁷

Italy has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Kochetkova

³¹⁰² Piano Triennale: Lazio, Puglia e Sardegna firmano gli accordi per velocizzare l'attuazione delle agende digitali, Agenzia per l'Italia digitale (Rome) 23 January 2019. Access Date: 25 January 2019. <https://www.agid.gov.it/it/agenzia/stampa-e-comunicazione/notizie/2019/01/23/piano-triennale-lazio-puglia-sardegna-firmano-accordi-velocizzare-lattuazione>.

³¹⁰³ L'Italia presenta l'iniziativa sull'Intelligenza Artificiale nel Regno Unito, Ministero dello sviluppo economico (Rome) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 30 February 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2039157-l-italia-presenta-l-iniziativa-sull-intelligenza-artificiale-nel-regno-unito>.

³¹⁰⁴ Nel 2019 in avvio oltre 2mila cantieri per la banda ultra larga, Agenzia per l'Italia digitale 6 February 2019 (Rome) Access Date: 30 February 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2039189-nel-2019-in-avvio-oltre-2mila-cantieri-per-la-banda-ultra-larga>.

³¹⁰⁵ Nuove imprese e mercati internazionali, al via il Global Start Up Program, Ministero dello sviluppo economico (Rome) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/198-notizie-stampa/2039401-nuove-imprese-e-mercati-internazionali-al-via-il-global-start-up-program>.

³¹⁰⁶ Hanoi: seminario su tecnologia blockchain, Ministero degli Affari Esteri (Rome) 16 April 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2019/04/hanoi-seminario-su-tecnologia-blockchain.html.

³¹⁰⁷ Di Maio al Vertice Italo – Tunisino, Ministero dello sviluppo economico (Rome) 30 April 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/198-notizie-stampa/2039662-di-maio-al-vertice-italo-tunisino>.

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 8 January 2019, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications made a public appeal for proposals on subsidies for a project on the development of terrestrial basic broadcasting stations as part of a project to support the development of broadcasting networks.³¹⁰⁸

On 22 January 2019, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications held a promotion meeting for development and utilization of Wi-Fi towards the upcoming 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.³¹⁰⁹

On 1 December 2018, the 13th Japan-ASEAN Information and Communications Ministerial Level Meeting was held in Denpasar, Indonesia, having been focused on "the formulation of Japan-ASEAN ICT Work Plan 2019, a set of actions on cooperation and collaboration measures in the field of information and communications technologies (ICT), including disaster prevention, smart city, and cybersecurity plans."³¹¹⁰

On 17 December 2018, the Japan-Viet Nam joint working group on communications was held in Tokyo, having discussed the issues of "further cooperation of Japan and Viet Nam in the fields of cybersecurity, radio wave surveillance, and smart cities, and 5G for the future."³¹¹¹

On 12 February 2019, it was reported that a number of ICT infrastructure development projects with Japan's investment and technologies involved were expected to be launched in 2019 in Zimbabwe.³¹¹²

On 13 March 2019, Japan's Toyota Tsusho and NEC corporations announced the conclusion of a contract with Uzbektelecom JSC, the Uzbek state-owned communication carrier, to expand and improve their nationwide network infrastructure as part of strengthening the communication environment of Uzbekistan and facilitating the enhanced use of mobile phones, the Internet and cloud-based services.³¹¹³

Japan has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

³¹⁰⁸ Public Appeal (2nd Time) for Proposals on Subsidies for Development of Terrestrial Basic Broadcasting Stations as Part of Project to Support Development of Broadcasting Networks, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 8 January 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019.

³¹⁰⁹ Holding Wi-Fi Development and Utilization Promotion Meeting for 2020 in Tokyo s, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 2 January 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019.

³¹¹⁰ Results of the 13th Japan-ASEAN Information and Communications Ministerial Level Meeting, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019.

³¹¹¹ Results of Second Meeting of Japan-Viet Nam Joint Working Group, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019.

³¹¹² Japan Promotes Ministry of ICT Infrastructure Developments, TECHNOMAG (Harare) 12 February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.technomag.co.zw/2019/02/12/japan-promotes-ministry-of-ict-infrastructure-developments/>.

³¹¹³ Toyota Tsusho and NEC Conclude Contract with Uzbektelecom on Nationwide Data Communication System, Marketwatch (Tokyo) 13 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.marketwatch.com/press-release/toyota-tsusho-and-nec-conclude-contract-with-uzbektelecom-on-nationwide-data-communication-system-2019-03-13>.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 4 December 2018, the leaders of Korea and New Zealand held a meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. The President of Korea Moon Jae-in and the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern agreed to boost cooperation between the two countries in various spheres including information and communications technologies (ICT), healthcare, defense and biotechnologies.³¹¹⁴

On 18 December 2018, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of Korea introduced measures to promote innovations in key industrial sectors including semiconductors, displays and rechargeable batteries. The ministry plans to work with industry leaders to enhance R&D of the next generation memory chips, semiconductor components, new materials for batteries as well as prevent technology leakages to foreign countries by means of designation of “key national technologies.”³¹¹⁵

On 26 December 2018, the Government of Korea announced its intention to establish a two-year innovative academy to nurture the national pool of software development professionals and boost industry. The government plans to allocate USD160.6 million for the project’s needs.³¹¹⁶

On 27 December 2018, the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration with a goal to promote cooperation in the field of ICT and joint investment. The vice-minister of science and ICT of Korea said that the agreement will facilitate spread of the Korean ICT development model to Central America with a purpose to expand broadband Internet and ICT development.³¹¹⁷

On 10 January 2019, the Government of Korea announced the blueprint of a project aimed at improvement of business regulation framework in ICT sphere. The concept of a so-called regulatory sandbox is designed to encourage ICT companies and startups to operate freely from excessive regulations to foster new growth engines.³¹¹⁸

On 14 February 2019, Korea and Croatia signed a MoU on Science and Technology cooperation. The parties agreed to expand cooperation in joint research and talent exchanges in various spheres including ICT, energy, life sciences, etc.³¹¹⁹

On 20 February 2019, the 2nd Ministerial meeting on promotion of innovations in industries took place. The government presented a list of measures aimed at integration of 5G Services into business

³¹¹⁴ Leaders of Korea, New Zealand agree to boost cooperation, economic ties, Korea Herald (Seoul) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20181204000074&ACE_SEARCH=1.

³¹¹⁵ Korea vows to upgrade key industrial sectors, Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20181218000621&ACE_SEARCH=1

³¹¹⁶ Korea to found innovation academy to nurture software experts, Korea Herald (Seoul) 26 December 2018. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20181226000519&ACE_SEARCH=1.

³¹¹⁷ Korea to Strengthen ICT Cooperation with Central America, Government of Korea (Seoul) 28 December 2018. Access Date: 2 April 2019.

<http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catId=msse42&artId=1502251>.

³¹¹⁸ Korea announces blueprints of regulatory sandbox program, Korea Herald (Seoul) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190110000327&ACE_SEARCH=1.

³¹¹⁹ Korea – Croatia MoU on Science and Technology Cooperation Signed, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2019. <http://english.msip.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catId=msse42&artId=1703799>.

practices supported with 3 per cent tax reduction for companies building 5G networks and promotion of promising services with KRW3.9 trillion of allocated funds.³¹²⁰

On 25 February 2019, the Financial Services Commission of Korea announced its plans to establish an open financial payment system to foster development of the fintech business sector. The main purpose of the operation of a new system is to allow nonbank players to access the network facilitating money payments and transfers and thus decreases required time for consuming process and usage fees.³¹²¹ The backbone of the system is a proposed single-window mobile app designed to grant access to diverse bank accounts and make cross platform transfers or payments.³¹²²

On 21 March 2019, the Financial Services Commission of Korea announced package of measures aimed at fostering digital start-ups and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The package implies easing listing rules for targeted companies to help them list on the KOSDAQ (Korean stock Exchange) next year, and also includes proposals to cut tax rates. The program is supported with offered loans for innovative SMEs worth KRW100 trillion allocated for next three years.³¹²³

Korea has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 24 December 2018, Mexican Institute of Transportation announced update of the existing Cartographic representation in digital and georeferenced format of the national road network.³¹²⁴ This measure allows updates to information on new road infrastructure works, which contributes to improving digital infrastructure.

Mexico has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure only within its territory.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nadezhda Kamenkovich

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 22 January 2019, the State Program “Development of Education” was supplemented by the rules for granting subsidies for the Digital Economy project implementation. As part of the Digital Economy project, the federal project Digital Education Environment provides for the establishment

³¹²⁰ Government to Promote 5G Services and Fintech, Government of Korea (Seoul) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2019. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4629>.

³¹²¹ Korea to form open financial payment network to boost fintech, Korea Herald (Seoul) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190225000708&ACE_SEARCH=1.

³¹²² Korea to form open financial payment network to boost fintech, Korea Herald (Seoul) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190225000708&ACE_SEARCH=1.

³¹²³ S. Korea to provide loans worth 100 tln won to innovative firms, SMEs, Korea Herald (Seoul) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2019. http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190321000491&ACE_SEARCH=1.

³¹²⁴ Red Nacional de Caminos, Gob.mx (Moscow) 24 December 2018. Access Date: 21 March 2019. <https://www.gob.mx/imt/acciones-y-programas/red-nacional-de-caminos>.

of centers of digital education for children; for introducing the target model of the digital educational environment in general educational organizations and professional educational organizations.³¹²⁵

On 4 February 2019, the Deputy Chairman of the Government held a meeting of the Presidium of the Government Commission on Digital Development. At the meeting, the requirements for the development of roadmaps in the areas of development of pass-through digital technologies, as well as the requirements for the operators of such development were approved.³¹²⁶ In addition, at the Presidium meeting, a list of 25 priority life situations for digital transformation of public services (development of super-services) were also discussed. To implement each of the 25 special services, a separate digital transformation team will be formed, the main tasks of which would be to develop the target state of the service from the point of view of the best user experience, optimize business processes, analyze existing state information systems and develop requirements for their modernization, taking into account common architectural requirements and best world practices.³¹²⁷

On 20 February 2019, it was announced that the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation will act as a coordinator for the creation of an innovation hub in Vietnam. The decision was made during the visit of the Russian delegation headed by the deputy head of the Ministry of Communications and Mass Media, Mikhail Mamonov, to Vietnam.³¹²⁸

On 2 March 2019, the Government of the Russian Federation issued decree number 234. The government approved the regulations on the management system of the implementation of the national program "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation."³¹²⁹ The functional structure of the management system for the implementation of the national program, the procedure for the development, monitoring and control of the implementation of federal projects within its structure have been determined.³¹³⁰

On 18 March 2019, Russian President V.V. Putin signed the Federal Law No. 34 on the legal regulation of digital rights. Federal law amended the Civil Code regarding the regulation of digital rights. At the same time, the rights of obligation and other rights named as such in the law are recognized as digital rights, the content and conditions for the implementation of which are determined in accordance with the rules of the information system that meets the criteria established by law.³¹³¹ Implementation, disposal, including transfer, pledge, encumbrance of a digital right by

³¹²⁵ . On the procedure for co-financing the implementation of national projects in the field of education, Government of Russia (Moscow) 22 January 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2019.

<http://static.government.ru/media/files/hNoFhA7vc9MijMUMDaZax0IUaM2cO587.pdf>.

³¹²⁶ Maxim Akimov chaired a meeting of the presidium of the government commission on digital development, Government of Russia (Moscow) 4 February 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2019. <http://government.ru/news/35622/>.

³¹²⁷ Maxim Akimov chaired a meeting of the presidium of the government commission on digital development, Government of Russia (Moscow) 4 February 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2019. <http://government.ru/news/35622/>.

³¹²⁸ The Ministry of Communications and Mass Media of Russia will coordinate the creation of an IT hub in Vietnam, The Ministry of Communications and Mass Media of Russia (Moscow) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/38790/>.

³¹²⁹ On the management system of the implementation of the national program "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation," Government of Russia (Moscow) 2 March 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2019.

<http://static.government.ru/media/files/AaAVznPIXIM9VBt9B4UWuE9EnRLxK1AW.pdf>.

³¹³⁰ On the management system of the implementation of the national program "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation," Government of Russia (Moscow) 2 March 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2019.

<http://static.government.ru/media/files/AaAVznPIXIM9VBt9B4UWuE9EnRLxK1AW.pdf>.

³¹³¹ The President of Russia signed the Federal Law on the Legal Regulation of Digital Rights, Government of Russia (Moscow) 18 March 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2019. <http://government.ru/activities/selection/525/36098/>.

other means or restriction of disposal of digital law are possible only in the information system without recourse to a third party.³¹³²

On 29 March 2019, Prime Minister of Russian Federation D.A. Medvedev signed the Order No 377-p. The Prime Minister approved the state program “Scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation,” The state program was developed taking into account the targets of the national projects “Science,” “Education” and “Digital Economy.” The state program provides for the consolidation of federal budget allocations for research and development of civilian use, mentioned in other state programs.³¹³³

On 30 March 2019, Prime Minister of Russian Federation D.A. Medvedev signed the Order No 597-p. The signed order approved the allocation of interbudgetary transfers in the amount of 200 million rubles from the federal budget among 33 regions of the Russian Federation for the creation of virtual concert halls.³¹³⁴ According to this order, virtual concert halls will allow people living in places which are far from cultural centers in real time and in high quality watch concerts of leading Russian musical groups. As part of the implementation of the federal project “Digital Culture” of the national project “Culture,” it is planned to create 500 virtual concert halls by the end of 2024.³¹³⁵

Russia has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anna Piekalnits

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 18 December 2018, Dr. Abdul Aziz bin Salem Al Ruwais, Governor of the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC), inaugurated a workshop to promote the development of international mobile communications, policies, spectrum assessment and auctions, in the presence of more than 20 experts from several organizations and research organizations including the University of Massachusetts (MIT), in collaboration with the United Nations Telecommunications Organization.³¹³⁶

On 19 December 2018, Saudi Aramco and the Saudi Information Technology Company signed an agreement aimed at the development of a new investment platform to facilitate growth of information technology companies. According to the statement, the focus of the new joint venture will be on opportunities with significant potential for local value creation, with the target market

³¹³² The President of Russia signed the Federal Law on the Legal Regulation of Digital Rights, Government of Russia (Moscow) 18 March 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2019. <http://government.ru/activities/selection/525/36098/>.

³¹³³ Order on March 29, 2019, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/AAVpU2sDAVMQkIHV20ZJZc3MDqcTxt8x.pdf>.

³¹³⁴ Order on March 30, 2019, Government of Russia (Moscow) 30 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/x5YVaX6GGZvFZdKx2y3RFKISbj7t36Ng.pdf>.

³¹³⁵ Order on March 30, 2019, Government of Russia (Moscow) 30 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/x5YVaX6GGZvFZdKx2y3RFKISbj7t36Ng.pdf>.

³¹³⁶ HE The Governor of the Telecommunications Authority inaugurates a workshop on the development of international mobile communications and related policies, frequency assessment and auctions, Communications and Information Technologies Commission (Riyadh) 18 December 2018. Access date: 25 June 2019. <https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/2018121801.aspx>

being Saudi Arabia and the countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, said a statement from Saudi Aramco.³¹³⁷

On 17 January 2019, the Governor of the Communications and Information Technology Commission Dr. Abdulaziz bin Salem Al Ruwais signed the Agreement "Strengthening Cooperation and Partnerships in the Field of Communications and Information Technology" with the Director of International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Development Sector during her first visit to Riyadh. The agreement will contribute to strengthening cooperation in supporting the work of ICT regulators around the world, especially in developing countries.³¹³⁸

On 17 March 2019, the Saudi Ports Authority announced plans to increase the productivity and competitiveness of the Kingdom's ports as it seeks a 'qualitative leap' in its management methods and operational performance by means of integration of digital solutions into working routine in line with the Saudi Vision 2030.³¹³⁹

On 28 April 2019, Saudi Arabia presented an ambitious initiative aimed at creation of more than 500.000 jobs in digital-related industries by 2023 in line with Vision 2030. The Ministry of Labor and Social Development of Saudi Arabia also announced launch of the Qiwa online platform to combine all the country's employment services in one-window system.³¹⁴⁰

Saudi Arabia has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 23-24 of January 2019, Deputy Minister of Communications Pinky Sharon Kekana launched various digital services at four public facilities in Vhembe District in Limpopo. The Digital services include, the rolling out of broadband services at four sites and the donation of equipment for information and communications technologies (ICT) to three schools as well as a comprehensive cyber-security outreach program.³¹⁴¹

On 5 of March 2019, South Africa and the UK announced their agreement to co-lead the Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Agenda. This was one of five clusters of activity promoted by the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda on Trade and Investment, which was agreed at the 2018

³¹³⁷ Saudi Arabia to set up new platform to drive digital transformation, Tahawultech (Dubai) Access Date: 6 May 2019. <https://www.tahawultech.com/region/saudi-arabia/saudi-aramco-sitc-jv-digital-transformation/>.

³¹³⁸ ITU signs agreement to strengthen cooperation and partnerships in the field of communication and information, Communications and Information Technologies Commission (Riyadh) 17 January 2019. Access date: 25 June 2019. <https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/2019011701.aspx>

³¹³⁹ Saudi Ports Authority outlines plans to boost productivity and competitiveness, Logistics Middle East (Dubai) 17 March 2019. Access Date: 6 May 2019. <https://www.logisticsmiddleeast.com/transport/maritime/32307-saudi-ports-authority-outlines-plans-to-boost-productivity-and-competitiveness>.

³¹⁴⁰ Saudi Arabia plans to create 561.000 jobs under new digital employment initiative, Arab News (Riyadh) 24 April 2019. Access Date: 06 May 2019. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1487711/saudi-arabia>.

³¹⁴¹ Deputy Minister Kekana unveils digital services in Vhembe District, The Department of Communications (Cape Town) 21 January 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2019, <https://www.doc.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/deputy-minister-kekana-unveils-digital-services-vhembe-district-23-24-jan>.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London.³¹⁴² The Digital Connectivity Agenda would facilitate an exchange of experiences, views and best practices on digital connectivity to support inclusive growth and sustainable development in the Commonwealth. Member states would cooperate across a range of areas for the development of national digital economies, including ICT capability; regulatory frameworks; digital infrastructure; the disruptive effects of digital trade; and the participation of women in the digital economy.³¹⁴³

On 1 April 2019, Chief Electoral Officer Sy Mamabolo launched an innovative online reporting platform for citizens to report instances of alleged digital disinformation. The new platform is developed in partnership with Media Monitoring South Africa. It serves to facilitate for the online submission and tracking of complaints relating to disinformation encountered on social media platforms.³¹⁴⁴

South Africa has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arseniy Zakharov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 21 December 2018, Turkey's National Broadband Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2020 was published.³¹⁴⁵ A primary target includes increasing investments in broadband services in order to spread related infrastructure across Turkey, and as specific aims at:

Improving access to fiber technologies across Turkey;

- Improving capacity and speed of internet connections;
- Progressing in line with market competition principles and market requirements;
- Expanding the scope of inter-machine communications;
- Developing smart city and transportation operations;
- Execution of 5G research development activities;
- Making broadband common and increasing the demand for internet services;
- Making internet services and applications widespread and common.³¹⁴⁶

³¹⁴² Trade and Industry on UK and South Africa agreement to co-lead Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Agenda, South African Government (Cape Town) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/uk-south-africa-joint-announcement---commonwealth-digital-connectivity-agenda-5-mar-2019>.

³¹⁴³ Trade and Industry on UK and South Africa agreement to co-lead Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Agenda, South African Government (Cape Town) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/uk-south-africa-joint-announcement---commonwealth-digital-connectivity-agenda-5-mar-2019>.

³¹⁴⁴ Electoral Commission launches online reporting platform for digital disinformation, 1 Apr, South African Government (Cape Town) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/electoral-commission-launches-online-reporting-platform-digital-disinformation-1-apr-29-mar>.

³¹⁴⁵ Turkey: Turkey Announces National Broadband Strategy And Action Plan For 2017 To 2020, Mondaq 23 January 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <http://www.mondaq.com/turkey/x/666528/Telecommunications+Mobile+Cable+Communications/Turkey+Announces+National+Broadband+Strategy+And+Action+Plan+For+2017+To+2020>.

On 31 January 2019, the 3rd meeting of the Ministers of Information and Communication Technologies of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, having discussed the issues of expanding cooperation on cybersecurity, e-government, satellite services and the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (TASIM) project, which is aimed to establish a transnational fiber optic line from Western Europe to East Asia (“Frankfurt to Hong Kong”) to eliminate “digital distinction” and open new economic opportunities.³¹⁴⁷

On 12 February 2019, Turkey’s Information and Communication Technologies Authority approved bids from Turkcell, Vodafone Turkey and TTMobil to conduct 5G trials in different frequency bandwidths in Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara, the three largest cities of the country. Turkey’s Transport and Infrastructure Minister Cahit Turhan further stated that the country aimed to achieve the goal of shifting to 5G technologies in 2020.³¹⁴⁸

Turkey has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 15 February 2019, the government set out its new strategic priorities for telecoms regulator Ofcom to support improved mobile coverage, broadband investment, and a better deal for consumers. The measures will be instrumental in helping to deliver the Government’s commitment to nationwide full fibre broadband coverage by 2033 and increasing geographic mobile coverage to 95 per cent of the UK by 2022.³¹⁴⁹

On 5 February 2019, Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund invested GBP18 million in research and innovation projects. A total of GBP 13.3 million awarded to 24 projects, which saw industry collaborate with the research base to innovate. For all projects, the ultimate aim is to:

- Develop digitally-enabled simulations that support the design and management of buildings;
- Adopt offsite manufacturing approaches that improve the quality of buildings;
- Create active power generation and storage within buildings.³¹⁵⁰

On 5 of March 2019, South Africa and the UK announced their agreement to co-lead the Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Agenda. This was one of five clusters of activity promoted by the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda on Trade and Investment, had been agreed at the 2018

³¹⁴⁶ Turkey: Turkey Announces National Broadband Strategy And Action Plan For 2017 To 2020, Mondaq 23 January 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019.

<http://www.mondaq.com/turkey/x/666528/Telecommunications+Mobile+Cable+Communications/Turkey+Announces+National+Broadband+Strategy+And+Action+Plan+For+2017+To+2020>.

³¹⁴⁷ ICT ministers of Turkic Speaking States gather in Kazakhstan to mull TASIM project, Azernews (Ankara) 5 February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.azernews.az/region/145086.html>.

³¹⁴⁸ Turkey goes full throttle in 5G technology tests, Hurriyet (Ankara) 12 February 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/turkey-goes-full-throttle-in-5g-technology-tests-141181>.

³¹⁴⁹ Mobile and Broadband Boost for UK Consumers, GOV.UK (London) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-and-broadband-boost-for-uk-consumers>.

³¹⁵⁰ AI and digital design to transform future of UK construction, GOV.UK (London) 5 February 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-and-digital-design-to-transform-future-of-uk-construction>.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London.³¹⁵¹ The Digital Connectivity Agenda would facilitate an exchange of experiences, views and best practices on digital connectivity to support inclusive growth and sustainable development in the Commonwealth. Member states would cooperate across a range of areas for the development of national digital economies, including capability for information and communications technologies; regulatory frameworks; digital infrastructure; the disruptive effects of digital trade; and the participation of women in the digital economy.³¹⁵²

The United Kingdom has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mariya Kalugina

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 12 December 2018, the Federal Communications Commission announced additional funding to its Connect America Fund dedicated to expanding broadband internet service to rural communities. The agency will make available USD67 million more per year than originally earmarked for the project. The funds could bring high-speed internet connections to more than 100,000 additional households and businesses.³¹⁵³

On 13 December 2018, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering up to USD600 million in loans and grants to help build broadband infrastructure in rural America.³¹⁵⁴

On 6 February 2019, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett announced the USDA had launched a new toolkit to help support the deployment of high-speed broadband e-Connectivity in rural communities. This user-friendly tool will help rural customers find USDA resources to support the expansion and use of e-Connectivity in rural America.³¹⁵⁵

On 23 April 2019, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced that USDA is accepting online applications for funding through the new ReConnect Rural Broadband Pilot Program. These funds

³¹⁵¹ Trade and Industry on UK and South Africa agreement to co-lead Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Agenda, South African Government (Cape Town) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/uk-south-africa-joint-announcement---commonwealth-digital-connectivity-agenda-5-mar-2019>.

³¹⁵² Trade and Industry on UK and South Africa agreement to co-lead Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Agenda, South African Government (Cape Town) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/uk-south-africa-joint-announcement---commonwealth-digital-connectivity-agenda-5-mar-2019>.

³¹⁵³ FCC offers \$67 million more per year for rural broadband programs, Engadget (London) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2019. <https://www.engadget.com/2018/12/12/fcc-67-million-rural-broadband-connect-america-fund/>.

³¹⁵⁴ United States Department of Agriculture offers \$600 million in loans for expanding rural broadband infrastructure, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 31 March 2019. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/12/13/usda-launches-new-program-create-high-speed-internet-e-connectivity>.

³¹⁵⁵ USDA Launches High-Speed Broadband e-Connectivity Resource Guide, US Department of Agriculture (Washington, D.C.) 6 February 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/02/06/usda-launches-high-speed-broadband-e-connectivity-resource-guide>.

will enable the federal government to partner with the private sector and rural communities to build modern broadband infrastructure in areas with insufficient internet service.³¹⁵⁶

United States has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure only within its territory.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dmitriy Lukanin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to improve digital infrastructure.

On 11 December 2018, the government adopted the new European Electronic Communications code, which would boost investments in high capacity networks across the EU, including in remote and rural areas.³¹⁵⁷ In the Directive that issued this decision the Commission and the Member States commit to pursuing the following general objectives: promoting connectivity and access to, and take-up of, very high capacity networks, including fixed, mobile and wireless networks, by all citizens and businesses of the Union; promoting competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and associated facilities, including efficient infrastructure-based competition, and in the provision of electronic communications services and associated services, etc.³¹⁵⁸

On 18 December 2018, the European Commission announced that it set out its ambitions for a comprehensive and innovative partnership between Africa and the EU called the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs.³¹⁵⁹ The objectives of this initiative includes providing recommendations on policies and measures that can support pan-African digital integration; providing recommendations on development assistance interventions based on the conclusions of the Abidjan Business Forum on how to mainstream digital services and technologies across different sectors of the economy and society (the focus was on the topics such as affordable broadband connectivity, boosting the uptake of digital skills, support to digital entrepreneurship and the deployment of e-Services.³¹⁶⁰

On 8 January 2019, the European Union finalized the contract with Latin America to construct a fibre optic cable running under the Atlantic Ocean that will connect Latin America and Europe

³¹⁵⁶ USDA Opens Application Portal for New ReConnect Rural Broadband Infrastructure Program, US Department of Agriculture. 23 April 2019. Access Date: 30 April 2019. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/04/23/usda-opens-application-portal-new-reconnect-rural-broadband>.

³¹⁵⁷ Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2018. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018L1972&from=EN>.

³¹⁵⁸ Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 establishing the European Electronic Communications Code, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 10 February 2018. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018L1972&from=EN>.

³¹⁵⁹ The European Union-African Union Digital Economy Task Force, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-african-union-digital-economy-task-force_en.

³¹⁶⁰ The European Union-African Union Digital Economy Task Force, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-african-union-digital-economy-task-force_en.

(from Portugal to Brazil).³¹⁶¹ By 2020, the cable would provide high broadband connectivity and boost business, scientific and cultural exchanges between the two continents. The cable would boost business exchanges and enable companies in Europe and Latin America to further develop a data economy, building on existing cooperation, for example in the fields of the Internet of Things and High-Performance Computing.³¹⁶²

On 24 January 2019, the European Commission adopted an amending Implementing Decision to harmonize the radio spectrum in the 3.4-3.8 GHz (or 3.6 GHz) band for the future use with 5G.³¹⁶³ This was necessary to enable Member States to reorganize and allow the use of that band for 5G systems by 31 December 2020 in line with the European Electronic Communications Code. This decision would enable the take-up of 5G services in the Union. This band has been harmonized for wireless broadband services in the EU since 2008.³¹⁶⁴ However, its use has been low and only a limited number of licenses has been issued. This amendment of the Decision updated the technical conditions to make them 5G-ready as the 3.6 GHz band was identified as the primary pioneer band for 5G in the Union.³¹⁶⁵

On 14 February 2019, the European Commission issued an annex to the Commission implementing decision on establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2019 and 2020 for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Telecommunications sector.³¹⁶⁶ This document set out the 2019 work programme (WP2019) for CEF Telecommunications (CEF Telecom) Digital Single Infrastructures (DSIs) and wireless internet connectivity in local communities. It outlined the general objectives and priorities for actions to be launched in 2019 and explained how these can be tangibly achieved through the selected digital service infrastructure.³¹⁶⁷ It defined the scope of the programme as well as the envisaged level of funding, which would take the form of procurement, calls for proposals and other supporting actions.³¹⁶⁸

³¹⁶¹ New data highway will bring Europe and Latin America closer, European Commission (Brussels) 8 January 2019. Access Date: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/new-data-highway-will-bring-europe-and-latin-america-closer>.

³¹⁶² New data highway will bring Europe and Latin America closer, European Commission (Brussels) 8 January 2019. Access Date: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/new-data-highway-will-bring-europe-and-latin-america-closer>.

³¹⁶³ Commission decides to harmonise radio spectrum for the future 5G, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/commission-decides-harmonise-radio-spectrum-future-5g>.

³¹⁶⁴ Commission decides to harmonise radio spectrum for the future 5G, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/commission-decides-harmonise-radio-spectrum-future-5g>.

³¹⁶⁵ Commission decides to harmonise radio spectrum for the future 5G, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 14 February 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/commission-decides-harmonise-radio-spectrum-future-5g>.

³¹⁶⁶ Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision on establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2019 and 2020 for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Telecommunications sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/c_2019_1021_f1_annex_en_v2_p1_1010998.pdf.

³¹⁶⁷ Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision on establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2019 and 2020 for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Telecommunications sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/c_2019_1021_f1_annex_en_v2_p1_1010998.pdf.

³¹⁶⁸ Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision on establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2019 and 2020 for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Telecommunications sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/c_2019_1021_f1_annex_en_v2_p1_1010998.pdf.

On 14 February 2019, the European Commission launched the CEF Telecom 2019–1 call, making EUR19.2 million available to stimulate and sustain the deployment of European DSIs in the areas of Automated Translation, eIdentification and eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, Europeana and the EU Student eCard. This call was the first under the current CEF Telecom Work Programme. In 2019, CEF Telecom aimed to provide up to EUR88 million in total funding for 18 DSIs.³¹⁶⁹

On 6 March 2019, the European Union and Australia agreed to strengthen support for sustainable infrastructure and development in the Pacific.³¹⁷⁰ The parties noted that Australia and the EU share a strong commitment to the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recognize the need to support Pacific Small Island Developing States in order to meet the SDGs. They also emphasized the importance of digital infrastructure and connectivity for economic development and lifting productivity in the region.³¹⁷¹ Australia’s Pacific Step-Up initiative will also deliver better economic infrastructure in the region through the AUD 2 billion Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, along with the AUD1 billion increase in callable capital to the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation.³¹⁷²

On 4 April 2019, the European Commission adopted a Cohesion Policy project worth more than EUR573 million of EU funds to support the deployment of fast broadband in Italy.³¹⁷³ The EU funding, covering 60 per cent of the project’s eligible costs, would help bring fast internet access to areas where it is currently not available. More than Italian 7,000 municipalities would be covered, totaling 12.5 million inhabitants and almost 1 million companies. The project was part of the “Italian Digital Plan – Ultra-broadband,” the national strategy for Next Generation Access network. It aimed to ensure connection speeds of at least 100 megabits per second (Mbps) for 85 per cent of Italian households and all public buildings – in particular schools and hospitals – and of at least 30 Mbps for all by 2020.³¹⁷⁴ The project would in particular cover so-called “white areas,” where market forces could not deliver the necessary infrastructure upgrade, in all 20 Italian regions. The project should be completed end of 2020.³¹⁷⁵

On 12 April 2019, the EU announced that from this date forward European public administrations of the Member States would be able to process e-Invoices in the European Standard. This marked the implementation of the Directive 2014/55/EU on electronic invoices for public procurement that

³¹⁶⁹ Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Telecom: Further €19.2 million to support cross-border services for citizens, businesses and public administrations, European Commission (Brussels) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/connecting-europe-facility-cef-telecom-further-eu192-million-support-cross-border-services>.

³¹⁷⁰ European Union and Australian Government - Joint Statement, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-and-australian-government-joint-statement_en.

³¹⁷¹ European Union and Australian Government - Joint Statement, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-and-australian-government-joint-statement_en.

³¹⁷² European Union and Australian Government - Joint Statement, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/european-union-and-australian-government-joint-statement_en.

³¹⁷³ The EU Invests In Fast Broadband for All in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2019/04/04-04-2019-the-eu-invests-in-fast-broadband-for-all-in-italy.

³¹⁷⁴ The EU Invests In Fast Broadband for All in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2019/04/04-04-2019-the-eu-invests-in-fast-broadband-for-all-in-italy.

³¹⁷⁵ The EU Invests In Fast Broadband for All in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 April 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2019/04/04-04-2019-the-eu-invests-in-fast-broadband-for-all-in-italy.

was adopted in April 2014.³¹⁷⁶ The European Standard became available in October 2017. Ever since 2017 individual e-Invoicing country factsheets were prepared to monitor the state of e-Invoicing development in each Member State.³¹⁷⁷

On 7 March 2019, the European Commission published the report on Africa-Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation prepared by the Task Force Rural Africa, which stated that the Task Force put particular emphasis on supporting access to internet among other things as critical tools for economic development.³¹⁷⁸ It was also reported that the EU invested in digitalization for agriculture in Africa. The EU also supported projects through research and connectivity: for example, European Development Fund provided funding for the Africa connect2 project where high speed internet in Zambia addressed soil degradation and input to sustainable land policies³¹⁷⁹

The European Union has taken actions aimed at improvement of digital infrastructure within its territory and in other countries on a bilateral basis.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Karina Khasanova

³¹⁷⁶ E-Invoicing Is Connecting Europe, CEF Digital (Brussels) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2019.

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/2019/04/12/eInvoicing+is+Connecting+Europe>.

³¹⁷⁷ E-Invoicing Is Connecting Europe, CEF Digital (Brussels) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2019.

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/2019/04/12/eInvoicing+is+Connecting+Europe>.

³¹⁷⁸ An Africa-Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation, European Commission (Brussels) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/report-tfra_mar2019_en.pdf.

³¹⁷⁹ An Africa-Europe Agenda for Rural Transformation, European Commission (Brussels) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/report-tfra_mar2019_en.pdf.