

1. Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth

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

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

Background

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

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders recognized that fostering inclusive growth requires the use of “all policy tools and strong engagement with stakeholders.”⁵ Additionally, they strived to ensure

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

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

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

that growth is “robust,” “inclusive,” and “delivers more quality jobs.”⁶ According to the communiqué, rising inequalities negatively affect economies and “hinder our objective of lifting growth.”⁷ They affirmed that global trade and investment continue to be important for fuelling economic growth and development, generating employment and contributing to welfare and inclusive growth. They further affirmed their support for “policies that allow firms of all sizes, particularly SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises], in countries at all levels of economic development to participate in and take full advantage of Global Value Chains and encourage greater participation and value addition by developing countries.”⁸

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

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

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to their previous year’s pledge of using all three policy tools to “achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.”¹⁵ An additional focus on infrastructure growth as a criterion for inclusive growth was included; G20 leaders called for more private investment in infrastructure to address the continuing financing gap.¹⁶ The Buenos Aires Action Plan highlights key areas where member’s implemented policy measures have had

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

success in promoting inclusive growth, including taxation, social security reform, financial regulation, labour market changes and health insurance.¹⁷

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

Commitment Features

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

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

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

- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average;
- By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;
- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This commitment is divided into four key areas of action: increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and the upskilling and reskilling of workers. These areas of reform have been published in an OECD report entitled *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, calling for G20 members’ to better enhance equal access to opportunities for all. Incorporating phenomena including globalization, digitalization, demographics, climate change, as

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

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

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

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

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

well as the impact of COVID-19, this report was endorsed by the G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration, highlighting the importance of greater access to opportunities and affirming their commitment to "ensuring an inclusive recovery that tackles inequalities."²⁹

Increased Access to Opportunities for Youth

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

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

Increased Opportunities for Women

The OECD recognized that "across G20 economies, women still do not have the same labour market opportunities as men," noting that COVID-19 "risks having a greater impact on women."³⁴ While G20 economies have been recognized for "significant progress towards...reducing the gender gap in labour force participation by 25 per cent by 2025,"³⁵ gaps in job quality and earnings still remain,³⁶ which are expected to widen throughout the pandemic.

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: supporting the unpaid care burden of children through

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

incentivizing paternity care leave, ensuring access to maternity care leave and greater access to formal childcare, addressing systemic gender occupational inequalities particularly in science, technology, engineering and math, the implementation of budgeting that sufficiently consider and provide an effective framework to ensure gender equality, and conducting greater research on existing gaps in the labour market.³⁷ While these actions are predominantly domestic in scope, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G20 members specifically towards increasing access to opportunities for women can be included in compliance.

Increased Opportunities for SMEs and Entrepreneurs

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

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

Upskilling and Reskilling of Workers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

processes and rapidly shifted labour demand across sectors, in turn inducing redundancies in workers' skills.⁴⁵

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

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

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

Scoring Guidelines

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

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Argentina: +1

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

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development announced a ARS300 million initiative to create and strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) university centres, to

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

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

“provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the country.”⁴⁷ Part of the Program for Competitiveness of Regional Economies, the initiative hopes to “enhance competitiveness and promote the export capacity of [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)] and value chains” through financing “training, equipment and technical assistance.”⁴⁸

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

On 3 December 2020, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Economy Melina Mallamace and the National Director of Economy, Equality and Gender Mercedes D’Alessandro participated in a meeting of the Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective.⁵¹ The discussion pertained to the impact of COVID-19 on female employment in Argentina, noting that the crisis has disproportionately impacted women in the tourism, healthcare and textile sectors.⁵² The participants outlined several plans including “developing a map of productive development with a gender perspective,” encouraging more women to participate in the digitalized industries and technology sectors, increasing the number of female employees in the civil service and continuing gender-sensitive budgets, all to be implemented in 2021.^{53,54}

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development opened lines of credits amounting to ARS3.5 billion for MSMEs to “develop national productive investment projects,” with a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

maximum of ARS15 million per project.⁵⁵ The Direct Loans for Productive Reactivation program aims to promote the “financial inclusion of micro and small companies and cooperatives that have difficulties accessing bank financing.”⁵⁶

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

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

On 23 January 2021, Executive Decree No. 39/2021 was made public which states that there would be an extension for 90 calendar days on the ban against dismissals without just cause and dismissals and suspensions grounded on reduced or decreased workloads and force majeure.⁶⁰ Additionally, the decree announced that there would be an extension of the duplication of severance payments till December 2021.⁶¹

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

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta announced the implementation of the University Program of the School of Professional Education, aimed at training the professional skills

⁵⁵ The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

⁵⁶ The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

of students in the “strategic development of the productive and technological sector.”⁶³ The program would see training courses, support on research and strengthening cooperation between universities and international training centres.⁶⁴

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

On 5 March 2021, Argentina jointly presented a cooperation programme with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund to develop an adequate institutional framework for children and adolescents.⁶⁶ Through broad engagement with the Ministries of Economy, Social Development, Education and the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family, USD50,000 is to be allocated to assess the effectiveness of early childhood care, USD150,000 towards strengthening opportunities for youth. The document notes that for each core action, “support will be given for the development of evidence-based policies with a rights-based focus and a gender perspective, the allocation of adequate and sustainable budgets, a wider offering of inclusive, quality services.”⁶⁷

On 9 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá announced a new set of measures intended to bridge the gender gap in the Foreign Ministry. The most significant measures included the reduction of “gender-based unequal opportunities and treatment,” with particular attention paid to the persistent gender pay gap.⁶⁸

On 11 March 2021, the 2021 budget for the Progresar scholarship program was boosted to more than ARS27 billion marking a 163.7 per cent increase.⁶⁹ The scholarships have been divided into four categories: those for tertiary and university students, for nursing students, for those completing of primary and secondary school, and for professional training courses.⁷⁰

On 15 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Special Programs against Violence for Gender Reasons Carolina Varsky met with representatives of the native community in Tucumán and officials from

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

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

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

⁶⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF agreed on new 2021-2025 UNICEF programme for Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/ministry-foreign-affairs-and-unicef-agreed-new-2021-2025-unicef-programme>

⁶⁷ Costed evaluation plan—Argentina—UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021-2025, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/4511/file/2021-PL15-Arentina_CEP-EN-2021.03.08.pdf

⁶⁸ Felipe Solá announced measures to bridge gender gap within Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/felipe-sola-announced-measures-bridge-gender-gap-within-foreign-ministry>

⁶⁹ Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

⁷⁰ Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

nearby communes to work on strengthening the state's response capacity to gender-based violence.⁷¹ In the meetings that took place, the National Plan of Action against Gender Violence was presented, training session of gender perspectives was carried out and the creation of the Primary Care Office was announced.⁷²

On 31 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Equality Policies Pilar Escalante met with social organizations and municipal authorities of Lavalle to jointly plan for greater equality and economic autonomy for women.⁷³ The meeting concluded that the main obstacles for women in these communities include access to land, work tools, property and lack of connectivity.⁷⁴ The Undersecretary also visited numerous sites to learn more about the needs of women in schools in rural areas.⁷⁵

On 7 April 2021, Argentina attended a meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents to discuss rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery pathways for middle-income countries (MIC) following the pandemic.⁷⁶ Argentina noted two crucial mechanisms that should be focused on for improving the economic situation of MICs through the international financial system: allocation of special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund and establishing debt-restructuring methods that support inclusivity.

On 22 April 2021, Minister Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development, to be implemented in the Norte Grande Region of Argentina.⁷⁷ The plan consists of ten key actions: “the creation of a Comprehensive Vocational Training System; the creation of Technological Centers for Educational Innovation in the National Universities; the delivery of Strategic Study Scholarships for Sustainable Development; the development of a National Technological Innovation Program for Vocational Training through INET; the certification and accreditation of knowledge and skills acquired at work and in education to promote integration with the labor market; the creation of Regional Technological Centers for Vocational Training to strengthen the link between education, production, work and local development; the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the

⁷¹Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

⁷²Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

⁷³ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

⁷⁴ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

⁷⁵ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

⁷⁶ G20: Joint declaration of Argentina and Mexico on a rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/g20-declaracion-conjunta-de-argentina-y-mexico-sobre-una-recuperacion-rapida-inclusiva-y>

⁷⁷ Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-presento-el-programa-nacional-de-educacion-para-el-trabajo-y-el-desarrollo>

promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people's capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer, the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people's capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer.”⁷⁸

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the World of Work Pamela Ares participated in the “Socio-economic Recovery Program” Steering Committee to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the economic autonomy of women.⁷⁹ The meeting focused on two key aspects: increasing labour market participation through equal distribution of unpaid care and improving financial education for women.⁸⁰

On 23 April 2021, Minister Trotta signed an agreement with the General Confederation of Labor of the Argentine Republic to develop education and work programs within the framework for the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development.⁸¹ In particular, the programs seek to emphasize Vocational Training in conjunction with the national university system and using technological equipment and development to adapt to the modern economy.⁸²

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

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj and Malhaar Moharir

⁷⁸ Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021.

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

⁷⁹ First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

⁸⁰ First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

⁸¹ Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

⁸² Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

Australia: +1

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

On 25 November 2020, Australia announced three new skills project hubs for the mining sector in order to facilitate better delivery of training and quicker assessment.⁸³ These three hubs include an apprenticeships hub, digital transformation hub, and attraction and retention hub, all designed to modernize training and promote rewarding careers for workers.⁸⁴ Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Michaelia Cash said the pilot would help new and existing workers to upskill and reskill.⁸⁵

On 1 December 2020, Australia announced the Career Revive pilot initiative aimed at increasing women's workforce participation by encouraging businesses to attract and retain women workers, particularly in light of COVID-19.⁸⁶ The project is intended to provide businesses guidance on how to improve practices and policies and develop an action plan to address barriers to women's employment.⁸⁷

On 7 December 2020, Australia launched the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program.⁸⁸ The AUD24.8 million program offers women the opportunity to study a diploma in STEM subjects while providing paid employment.⁸⁹

On 8 December 2020, Australia launched the JobMaker Hiring Credit.⁹⁰ The scheme provides eligible employers with payments of up to AUD200 a week for each eligible employee aged 16 to 29 years and up to AUD100 a week for each eligible employee aged 30 to 35 years old.⁹¹

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced AUD11.6 million of assistance to extend the Skills and Training Incentive for eligible mature aged workers until June 2022.⁹² The Skills and Training Incentive provides workers aged 45 to 70 years with up to AUD2,200 for job training and is designed

⁸³ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

⁸⁴ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

⁸⁵ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

⁸⁶ Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

⁸⁷ Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

⁸⁸ Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

⁸⁹ Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

⁹⁰ New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

⁹¹ New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

⁹² Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

to increase the labour force participation of mature workers, particularly those adversely affected by COVID-19.⁹³

On 18 December 2020, Australia provided AUD10 million to establish a panel involving a “wide range of industries” dedicated to improving youth employment as well as assist hundreds of thousands of businesses in supplying jobs.⁹⁴

On 23 December 2020, Australia announced the hiring of 9 new Employment Facilitators in various Employment Regions across Australia tasked with helping job seekers find employment while supporting local employers.⁹⁵ As part of the Government’s AUD62.8 million Local Jobs Program, Employment Facilitators will “ensure better leverage of existing strategies, as well as [serve as] a valuable source of information on labour market developments.”⁹⁶

On 3 March 2021, Australia held an Indigenous Youth Employment roundtable to discuss local solutions to improve employment participation and outcomes for Indigenous youth. Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services Luke Howarth said the government would invest in “programs to improve the employability of both young people and Indigenous Australians” in order to reduce the 13.9 per cent national youth unemployment rate.⁹⁷

On 8 March 2021, Australia expanded the Women in STEM program from 500 to 600 places due to its popularity.⁹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Australia announced the expansion of the targeted wage subsidy program as part of the National Economic Recovery Plan.⁹⁹ The government is investing around AUD1.2 billion in the program which is expected to generate around 70,000 new apprentice and trainee places in order to address the “economic challenges faced by the COVID-19 recession.”¹⁰⁰ As of this date, over 100,000 apprenticeship positions had already been filled.¹⁰¹

⁹³ Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

⁹⁴ Panel established to create pathways to get young Australians into jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/panel-established-create-pathways-get-young-australians-jobs>

⁹⁵ Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

⁹⁶ Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

⁹⁷ Focus on giving young Indigenous Queenslanders more job opportunities, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/wyatt/focus-giving-young-indigenous-queenslanders-more-job-opportunities>

⁹⁸ More STEM Opportunities for Australian Women, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/more-stem-opportunities-australian-women>

⁹⁹ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹⁰⁰ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹⁰¹ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced the Youth Advisory Sessions initiative to help connect up to 15,000 young people with youth employment specialists.¹⁰² The assistance will help them stay connected to the labour market.¹⁰³

On 29 March 2021, Australia opened applications for the Future of Work Partnership with BHP, an Australian mining company.¹⁰⁴ The program will give up to 1,000 people in regional Australia the opportunity to study a course or start an Advanced Apprenticeship, with their student contribution covered.¹⁰⁵ The program is intended to help people in regional Australia improve their skills and employability.¹⁰⁶

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

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Para Babubaran

Brazil: +1

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

On 11 December 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) invested more than BRL18 million to advance the Qualifica Mulher project.¹⁰⁷ Noting that over 7 million women left the job market due to COVID-19, the initiative plans to promote “economic autonomy, in addition to stimulating professional qualification, work and entrepreneurship ...[and] the

¹⁰² Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

¹⁰³ Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

¹⁰⁴ Upskilling Australia's regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹⁰⁵ Upskilling Australia's regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹⁰⁶ Upskilling Australia's regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹⁰⁷ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

generation of jobs and income.”¹⁰⁸ The project aims to provide professional guidance, financial education and entrepreneurship workshops to boost the role of women in the Brazilian economy.¹⁰⁹

On 19 January 2021, the MMFDH allocated BRL1 million “for the qualification 100 young people [with Autistic Spectrum Disorder] between the ages of 18 and 29.”¹¹⁰ Representative of the National Youth Secretariat Emilly Coelho noted that “We need to ensure that youth can also occupy their space professionally, with training and opportunities focused on autonomy.”¹¹¹

On 2 March 2021, the World Economic Forum and the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness of the Government of Brazil and the Economy Ministry held the first Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative co-chair meeting. The Accelerator aims to close the skills gaps between the current and future workforce and promote the reskilling and upskilling of the Brazilian labour force by matching the more demanded capabilities. It targets to reach about 8 million workers.¹¹²

On 8 March 2021, the Minister of Women Family and Human Rights Damares Alves and the Minister of Citizenship João Roma signed a technical cooperation agreement “to promote social and productive inclusion actions for the socioeconomic autonomy of women in vulnerable situations.”¹¹³ Particular attention is given to women-led businesses and microentrepreneurs and the agreement reaffirmed support for the Qualifica Mulher pilot project, which over 25 thousand women have joined.

On 30 March 2021, the MMFDH allocated approximately BRL11 million towards programs for encouraging “professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation, among young people between 18 and 29 years old, especially among those who are in a situation of social vulnerability.” The Programa Horizontes will provide training to youth for better job market integration as well as spurring nano and micro entrepreneurship among them.¹¹⁴ The Espaço 4.0 program is aimed at

¹⁰⁸ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹⁰⁹ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹¹⁰ Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

¹¹¹ Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

¹¹² World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

¹¹³ Socioeconomic autonomy of women is the subject of an agreement signed by ministries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/autonomia-socioeconomica-das-mulheres-e-tema-de-acordo-assinado-por-ministerios>

¹¹⁴ Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

training youth in new technologies and infrastructure, offering courses in programming, robotics, and application development.¹¹⁵

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy reported that it is in the process of finalizing the reopening of two programs that could mitigate the effects of the pandemic on employment and preservation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).¹¹⁶ Also, it announced that BRL15 billion would be distributed among the two programs- BEm and Pronampe to support employment and SME survival.¹¹⁷

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights transferred BRL500,000 to Humana Brasil, a non-profit organization.¹¹⁸ The funds are to be used towards dispelling entrepreneurship training courses to the young people from Marajo.¹¹⁹ It is estimated that around 500 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 from 11 municipalities will benefit from this endeavor.¹²⁰ The secretary for the National Youth Secretariat which will carry out the initiative said, “In addition to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, the program aims to increase the qualification of young people to create and maintain their own businesses, create job opportunities and generate income, in addition to improving existing initiatives through guidance specialized.”¹²¹

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

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Simran Arulraj

Canada: +1

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

¹¹⁵ Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasília) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

¹¹⁶ Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe

¹¹⁷ Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe

¹¹⁸ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹¹⁹ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹²⁰ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹²¹ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

On 25 November 2020, Canada participated in a roundtable for the launch of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE).¹²² WISE's mission includes strengthening the measurement of inequalities and inclusion.¹²³

On 2 December 2020, Canada introduced Bill C-14 to provide support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic.¹²⁴ The legislation will allow an expense, such as rent, to qualify under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy before the expense is actually paid.¹²⁵ Bill C-14 also included measures to eliminate the interest on repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for one year.¹²⁶

On 4 December 2020, Canada expanded loans under the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).¹²⁷ Eligible businesses facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for a second CEBA loan of up to CAD20,000 in addition to the initial CAD40,000 that was available to small businesses.¹²⁸ Up to CAD10,000 of the additional funding will be forgivable if the loan is repaid by the end of 2022.¹²⁹

On 17 February 2021, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced CAD63.5 million over five years for 68 projects as part of the Union

¹²² Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

¹²³ Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

¹²⁴ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹²⁵ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹²⁶ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹²⁷ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹²⁸ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹²⁹ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

Training and Innovation Program.¹³⁰ The investment will help certify skilled tradespeople and prepare them for the job market.¹³¹

On 3 March 2021, Canada announced the extension of wage and rent subsidies to 5 June 2021.¹³² Active employees will remain subsidized at up to 75 per cent, rent will remain subsidized at up to 65 per cent, and Lockdown Support will remain at 25 per cent.¹³³

On 8 March 2021, Canada announced the members of a new Task Force on Women in the Economy.¹³⁴ The group includes experts from different sectors of the economy to advise the government on issues of gender equality in the wake of the pandemic.¹³⁵

On 8 March 2021, Minister Qualtrough announced an investment of over CAD11 million through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program.¹³⁶ The investment will support and train more than 650 young women for the job market.¹³⁷

On 19 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland released the 2021 budget of CAD101.4 billion in spending over three years.¹³⁸ The budget will support almost 500,000 new training and work opportunities including 215,000 opportunities for youth.¹³⁹ The budget will extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support to 25 September 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁰ The budget will assist

¹³⁰ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

¹³¹ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

¹³² Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

¹³³ Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

¹³⁴ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

¹³⁵ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

¹³⁶ Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

¹³⁷ Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

¹³⁸ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹³⁹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴⁰ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴⁰ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

over 160,000 businesses with the cost of new technology and allow them to fully expense up to CAD1.5 million in capital investments.¹⁴¹ The budget will invest CAD300 million in initiatives including the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, supporting women entrepreneurs who face barriers to launching and owning businesses.¹⁴² The budget will invest CAD8.9 billion in the Canada Workers Benefit to support about one million additional low-wage workers over six years.¹⁴³

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

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Para Babubaran

China: +1

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

On 3 December 2020, Vice Minister of Education and Chief Inspector of Schools Zheng Fuzhi and Vice Governor of Sichuan Province Luo Qiang attended a conference to launch a national supervision and assessment of early childhood education across China.¹⁴⁴ Vice Minister Fuzhi presented key goals and its corresponding evaluation criteria, including universal preschool attendance, standardizing school conditions and establishing a sound governance system.¹⁴⁵

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao reaffirmed the government's commitment to nurturing skilled labour.¹⁴⁶ In addition to the existing three-year plan released in May 2019, the department plans to introduce new policies in the 14th Five-Year Plan to foster more skilled talent through enhancing vocational education, enhancing the social status of skilled labourers, and improving their income.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴¹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴² Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴³ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴⁴ Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html

¹⁴⁵ Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html

¹⁴⁶ New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html

¹⁴⁷ New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html

On 22 December 2020, the State Council announced plans to unify China's registration system for movable property and rights pledges, effective 1 January 2021.¹⁴⁸ This move by the People's Bank of China allows financial institutions to provide loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) using their credit information.¹⁴⁹ As a result, SMEs now have better access to financing to help offset the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 3 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that the central government will spend over CNY19 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the growth of 1000 innovative SMEs.¹⁵⁰ The additional spending aims to strengthen the industrial supply chain and foster innovative growth in micro, small and medium-sized technology companies.

On 11 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang stated at a press conference that government expenditures for the coming year will focus on compulsory education and basic medical care.¹⁵¹ The "no child left behind" policy will involve improving the pay packages for rural teachers as well as improving access to education for children of migrant workers to achieve educational fairness and equal access to opportunities.

On 17 March 2021, People's Daily released a summary of the Chinese Ministry of Education's progress in promoting access to education among poor children. The government has rolled out student-origin-based loans, state scholarships, work-study programs, tuition exemptions and other types of relief funds to increase access to higher education in poor areas.¹⁵² The government is also offering preferential policies for vocational college enrollment in poor areas such that enrollment numbers have grown from 1.16 million in 2019 to 1.57 million in 2020.¹⁵³

On 24 March 2021, the State Council announced an additional tax deduction on firms who conduct research and development from 75 per cent to 100 per cent.¹⁵⁴ Additional preferential tax policies are also in place for innovation firms and business start-ups.¹⁵⁵ These policies will benefit entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and encourage research and development in the private sector.

On 25 April 2021, China's banking and insurance regulator issued a circular encouraging development of financial services offered to SMEs.¹⁵⁶ According to the circular, efforts will be made to enhance the effective growth of financial support and improve its quality, efficiency and

¹⁴⁸ New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

¹⁴⁹ New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

¹⁵⁰ Innovative SMEs to get policy boost in financing, China Daily (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

¹⁵¹ Premier stresses compulsory education, basic medical care at news conference, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

¹⁵² China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html

¹⁵³ China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html

¹⁵⁴ China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

¹⁵⁵ China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

¹⁵⁶ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

effectiveness.¹⁵⁷ In essence the circular promised to increase the number of loans to SMEs and borrowers and urged the major banks to increase inclusive loans by 30 per cent.¹⁵⁸

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced the launch of four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment.¹⁵⁹ These measures are in response to the concentration of the job market for young college graduates who are about to enter the workforce.¹⁶⁰ The first of these measures involves stabilizing jobs, reducing unemployment and work-related injury insurance rates.¹⁶¹ The second includes attempts to broaden employment channels, improve support policies such as entrepreneurial secured loans, support and standardize the development of new employment forms.¹⁶² The third and fourth measures are to focus on employment of key groups such as college graduates and optimizing employment services.¹⁶³

On 27 April 2021, Premier Keqiang announced at the State Council executive meeting that China will take steps to further protect intellectual property to promote entrepreneurial activity and boost innovation in the private sector.¹⁶⁴ China will reduce the review period for electronically submitted applications to alter or expand existing patents and trademarks.¹⁶⁵ Premier Keqiang also called for increased financial assistance and incentives during the trademark and patent application process.¹⁶⁶

On 27 April 2021, the State Council issued a circular to establish a leading group on protection of minors led by Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan.¹⁶⁷ The purpose of the working group is to oversee the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Minors.¹⁶⁸ It will also work with other departments

¹⁵⁷ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

¹⁵⁸ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

¹⁵⁹ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

¹⁶⁰ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

¹⁶¹ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

¹⁶² My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

¹⁶³ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

¹⁶⁴ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁶⁵ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁶⁶ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁶⁷ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁶⁸ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

to continue devising and implementing plans, policies, measures, and standards for protection of minors.¹⁶⁹

On 30 April 2021, the General Office of China's State Council issued a circular urging state departments and agencies to assist in the development of former Central Soviet areas through a pairing program.¹⁷⁰ From 2021 to 2030, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will work together to pair 63 centrally administered State organs with 43 local administrative units to cultivate talent and build industrial and innovation platforms.¹⁷¹

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

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tammy Cheng

France: +1

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

On 14 January 2021, Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire announced the implementation of increased measures to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through a new budgetary initiative valued at EUR4 billion.¹⁷² Moreover, companies will be able to delay the repayment of loans from this initiative if they do not have sufficient means a year after the loan was given.¹⁷³

On 15 January 2021, the members of the French Banking Federation BpiFrance created the State Guaranteed Loan system to relieve the cashflow of enterprises in difficulty because of the COVID19 pandemic.¹⁷⁴

On 25 January 2021, France put into place accessible meals for students for the price of EUR1 as part of the plan to aid with the poverty of youths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁷⁵ Due to the

¹⁶⁹ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁷⁰ State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁷¹ State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

¹⁷² Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

¹⁷³ Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

¹⁷⁴ Public aid for companies, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/cedef/aides-publiques-entreprises>

¹⁷⁵ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

lack of jobs, the government has provided this meal plan to support students who are in difficult situations and seeking employment.¹⁷⁶ This measure is a new addition to the larger plan one youth one solution from the previous year, a EUR9 billion initiative, and which is designed to financially support young people in a time of economic instability caused by the global pandemic, thus preventing the growth of financial disparity with youths.¹⁷⁷

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of the Economy required that all companies with more than 50 employees submit a professional equality index report to evaluate and reinforce the equality of men and women in the workplace.¹⁷⁸ The report allows companies to assess the level of equality between men and women on a scale of 100 points.¹⁷⁹ The points system includes recording the pay gap, the difference between men and women's pay raises, the number of pay raises awarded after maternity leave, parity among the 10 highest paid and the promotion rate difference between men and women.¹⁸⁰ The index must be posted on the company's website, and is considered in need of progress if it is below 75.¹⁸¹

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex and Minister Le Maire prolonged the 1 Jeune 1 Solution program, which is a part of the grander France Relance mission that focuses on economic inclusion for young people.¹⁸² Minister Le Maire added a new budget to support the employment of young people by providing between EUR5,000 to EUR8,000 to enterprises who hire young people for apprenticeships and internships.¹⁸³

On 15 March 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion launched a training project for economic inclusion through self-employment of people with difficulty accessing employment.¹⁸⁴ The project provides employment opportunities for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 by supporting the creation and restarting of businesses through financial assistance in

¹⁷⁶ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

¹⁷⁷ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

¹⁷⁸ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁷⁹ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁸⁰ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁸¹ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁸² Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

¹⁸³ Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

¹⁸⁴ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independant-des>

the form of a bonus of EUR3,000.¹⁸⁵ The total budget of the project is EUR25 million over two years.¹⁸⁶

On 30 April 2021, Secretary of State Cédric O announced the partnership between the startup ecosystem French Tech and the job searching platform JobTeaser in a press release.¹⁸⁷ This announcement outlined the intention to support young people in finding and training for jobs in start-up companies associated with French Tech, which anticipates creating at least 10,000 new jobs.¹⁸⁸

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

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dalia Michaud

Germany: +1

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

On 21 December 2020, the German development bank KfW signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia, Agence Française de Développement and the European Union, providing EUR37.1 million for the Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project, which aims to develop rural infrastructure in the central plain of Cambodia.¹⁸⁹ Central to this development plan is the improving infrastructure in the education sector.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁵ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

¹⁸⁶ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 Mars 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

¹⁸⁷ "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf

¹⁸⁸ "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf

¹⁸⁹ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

¹⁹⁰ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

On 6 January 2021, Germany proposed the Second Management Positions Act (FüPoG II) “to force larger listed companies to have at least one woman on their management boards, building on a 30 per cent quota for supervisory boards introduced in 2015 and will apply to listed companies with more than three management board members.”¹⁹¹

On 26 January 2021, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Björn Böhning held a workshop with Vice Minister at the Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao to discuss vocational education, highlighting that “it must become more individualized, more inclusive and make more use of digital technologies.”¹⁹²

On 2 February 2021, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey announced the “Youth Budgets Project” which aims to increase youth’s participation in policy making and tasks them to develop innovative projects in fields ranging from Diversity and Participation to Education, Work and Freedom. The best projects would receive up to EUR100,000 for their implementation.¹⁹³

On 29 March 2021, Germany announced its ratification of the Revised European Social Charter, with amendments made to include “protection against sexual harassment in the workplace and other forms of harassment ... [and] rights of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment.”¹⁹⁴

On 30 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) announced the implementation of a “German Equal Pay Award,” to be given to companies that actively seek to reduce the wage gap.¹⁹⁵ Minister Giffey noted “Fair pay and equal pay are part of a modern and sustainable personnel policy and are a decisive competitive advantage when it comes to securing skilled workers.”¹⁹⁶

On 16 April 2021, Minister Giffey launched the Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments to encourage young people to get involved in politics.¹⁹⁷ The program includes a diverse curriculum

¹⁹¹ German cabinet agrees quota for women on company boards, Reuters 6 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN29B16U>

¹⁹² Virtual exchange of ideas with China about vocational education and training, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/virtual-exchange-of-ideas-with-china-about-vocational-education-and-training.html>

¹⁹³ Minister Giffey: One million euros for the best ideas for young people in Germany, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-eine-million-euro-fuer-die-besten-jugendideen-deutschlands-165622>

¹⁹⁴ Details of Treaty No. 162, Treaty Office—Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/germany-ratifies-revised-european-social-charter.html>

¹⁹⁵ Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

¹⁹⁶ Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

¹⁹⁷ Minister Giffey launches the “Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments” to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

which offers seminars, workshops and events.¹⁹⁸ The academy is funded by a total of EUR4 million from the federal child and youth plan and is part of the Strong Child and Youth Parliaments initiative.¹⁹⁹

On 23 April 2021, the Federal Minister of Education Anja Karliczek voiced support for improvements in vocational training infrastructure in the country based on the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report.²⁰⁰ The country report on continuing vocational education and training by the OECD was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to provide expert support for the implementation process of Germany's National Skills Strategy. Minister Karliczek said, "Professional training is a key to maintaining our competitiveness and the innovative strength of our country. Professional training is an absolute necessity for companies and employees. It is part of lifelong learning. Setting the right framework conditions remains a central task of politics, which we gladly accept. External suggestions are certainly helpful for this. We will examine the recommendations of the OECD and take them up where appropriate and sensible."²⁰¹

On 30 April 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research published the Second Funding Guideline of the Secure Apprenticeships program.²⁰² The program enables companies facing economic difficulties with training.²⁰³ It supports trainees to continue and complete their training in midst of the pandemic.²⁰⁴ Minister Karliczek said, "With the revised Second Funding Guideline of the federal program, we have introduced a subsidy for the costs of external exam preparation courses for trainees. In addition, we have also further improved the promotion of contract and joint training so that trainees can continue their training if this is temporarily not possible in their own training company."²⁰⁵

¹⁹⁸Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

¹⁹⁹Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

²⁰⁰Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

²⁰¹Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

²⁰²Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁰³Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁰⁴Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁰⁵Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

On 4 May 2021, Minister Giffey presented the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” which outlined five fields of action to address in response to the growing trend of digitization in Germany.²⁰⁶ These fields’ key general goals were to introduce digital innovations that would “make people’s everyday lives easier, safer and more social,” noting that “all people should be able to use digital technologies informally” to ensure no citizen is left behind.²⁰⁷

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

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Muhammad Hamza Khan and Malhaar Moharir

India: +1

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

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the approval of allocation of training, specifically targeting states and districts on the basis of population, industry and labour supply.²⁰⁸ The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21) (PMKVY 3.0) aims to train youth and provide skill avenues, resulting in greater participation in the private sector.²⁰⁹ It also aims to reskill those in remote villages and towns in India. It is also the first phase in the PMKVY 3.0 initiative, creating a setting for phase two to occur from 2021-2026.²¹⁰

On 1 January 2021, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) announced the launch of an e-commerce website which catalogues over 50,000 products and aims to serve as a digital marketplace for farmers, artisans, craftsmen and other MSMEs.²¹¹ The website was jointly launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and is recognized as “a step towards

²⁰⁶ Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

²⁰⁷ Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

²⁰⁸ In-principle approval of allocation of training (STT) target under PMKVY 3.0 (2020-21) -reg., Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

²⁰⁹ Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

²¹⁰ Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

²¹¹ The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry’s process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

building an ecosystem that enables MSMEs to help achieve the Prime Minister's goal of [a self-reliant India]."²¹²

On 5 January 2021, Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textile Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched a joint initiative, Toycathon 2021.²¹³ This initiative is aimed at creating toys and games based on the Indian value and takes a step towards achieving the goal of a self-reliant India in toy manufacturing.²¹⁴ This initiative is also supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of MSMEs, Ministry of Information and Banking and All India Council for Technical Education.²¹⁵

On 14 January 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana project, which would focus on improving new-age technologies and COVID-19-related skills.²¹⁶ The program, funded under the Skill India Mission plans to utilize over 900 training facilities and institutes to "build a robust pool of skilled professionals."²¹⁷

On 1 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance has provided a welfare scheme of INR10 million for tea workers in West Assam and West Bengal, particularly for women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹⁸ Furthermore, the Ministry mentioned measures to increase employability of youth through amendments in the Apprenticeship Act for greater opportunities for youth.²¹⁹ These measures include a partnership with the United Arab Emirates for certification and with Japan to transfer vocational skills from Japan through training programs.²²⁰

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare announced training centres for farmers in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.²²¹ Farmers will be

²¹² The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry's process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

²¹³ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²¹⁴ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²¹⁵ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²¹⁶ Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

²¹⁷ Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

²¹⁸ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²¹⁹ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²²⁰ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²²¹ Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

trained in machinery and technology to increase production and crop yield along with the quality of crop yield.²²²

On 5 February 2021, the Nai Roshni Scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to be implemented through non-governmental organizations.²²³ This scheme empowers women to assume leadership roles outside of their homes with a six-day training program in health and hygiene, legal rights of women, financial literacy, digital literacy, life skills and advocacy for social and behavioral change.²²⁴

On 11 February 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the India International Skill Centre, allowing youth to mobilize their skills in the international workforce.²²⁵ This initiative is supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council, Japan, Russia, South East Asia, North America, Oceania and Europe.²²⁶

On 23 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation announced policy initiatives for insured workers and women.²²⁷ These initiatives include sickness benefits, maternity benefits and measures within hospitals.²²⁸

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry summit regarding the country's National Education Policy.²²⁹ Minister Goyal lauded the efforts of the policy's focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and skills development and expressed hope in making India the "knowledge capital of the world."²³⁰

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced initiatives to reduce standard testing fees for MSMEs, start-ups and women entrepreneurs to encourage business in these areas.²³¹

²²² Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

²²³ The overall objective of the "NaiRoshni" scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

²²⁴ The overall objective of the "NaiRoshni" scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

²²⁵ Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

²²⁶ Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

²²⁷ ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²²⁸ ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²²⁹ Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

²³⁰ Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

²³¹ The Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal directs BIS(Bureau of Indian Standards) to reduce testing fees for "MSME, Start Ups and Women Entrepreneurs" to encourage ease of doing business, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (New Delhi) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701683>

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana pilot project, which aims to facilitate “entrepreneurship education, training, advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship network.”²³²

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

Thus, India receives a score of +1

Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra

Indonesia: 0

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

On 9 February 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Arif Rahman Hakim held a meeting to collaborate on policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the national and local levels.²³³ Secretary Hakim noted that IDR4.85 trillion has been allocated in the national budget for the development of MSMEs and noted that next steps involved increasing income and market access for these groups, with a target export contribution of over 15 per cent for MSMEs and cooperatives.²³⁴

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo attended the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting.²³⁵ The meeting discussed two main agendas, the Global Economy and Policy Actions for a Transformative and Equitable Recovery, and Financial Sector Issues, which primarily highlights the G20 goals from the Riyadh presidency.²³⁶

On 12 March 2021, Minister Indrawati stated that the gender gap between men and women widened during the COVID-19 pandemic and further reiterated Indonesia’s commitment toward increasing

²³² Steps taken by the Government to expand Research-oriented higher education towards building a knowledge-based economy, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/he_pr.pdf

²³³ Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

²³⁴ Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

²³⁵ Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

²³⁶ Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

access to opportunities for women.²³⁷ They further stated, “the government through the 2021 State Budget provides equal access and opportunities to women through various priority programs, one of which is through education reform to improve the quality of human resources.”²³⁸

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga emphasised the role of women in improving the national economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁹ During a meeting with grassroots women, she said that “grassroots women in various parts of Indonesia have helped the government in filling spaces that are difficult to reach or have not been touched by the program at all.”²⁴⁰

On 29 April 2021, Minister Puspayoga said that women play an important role in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.²⁴¹ She said that women can bring voice and create various inclusive policies.²⁴² Additionally, the Chair of the Indonesian National Hero Family Association Saharto Sahardjo, said, “We see the role of women in developing or driving the economy of Small and Micro Enterprises [SMEs]. Many women have started online and culinary businesses. This moves the Indonesian economy.”²⁴³

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

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Muhammad Hamza Khan

Italy: +1

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

On 8 December 2020, Italy released a draft recovery plan with a total budget of EUR196 billion. The recovery plan allocated EUR74.3 billion to be invested in the green revolution and ecological

²³⁷ Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

²³⁸ Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

²³⁹ Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

²⁴⁰ Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

²⁴¹ Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

²⁴² Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

²⁴³ Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

transition.²⁴⁴ Aside from heading towards a more sustainable future, the objective of this initiative is also to free up job opportunities for people, which is particularly necessary due to the rising levels of unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁵ This will increase inclusive growth by providing new jobs for people who have struggled with job losses and unemployment.²⁴⁶ Moreover, the plan allocated EUR17.1 billion to implement measures to foster gender equality.²⁴⁷

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Labour and of Social Politics released the employment forecasts of the 2021 Budget.²⁴⁸ In this plan, the Ministry announced that they would provide financial support for young people under the age of 36 in need of steady employment.²⁴⁹ In addition, in this budget the Ministry also promoted the support of women's businesses.²⁵⁰ The Ministry announced that "resources of EUR3 million are assigned to the Venture Capital Support Fund for the year 2021 aimed at supporting investments in risk capital for highly innovative female entrepreneurship projects" to promote inclusivity and increase work opportunities for women.²⁵¹ Further, an additional EUR50 million was pledged to support the return to work of mothers after childbirth.²⁵²

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of the Economy and Finance launched the Recovery and Resilience Plan which mobilizes over EUR300 billion.²⁵³ One of the components of the "Inclusion and Cohesion" mission is to create Employment Policies to improve the employment situation of women, youth and vulnerable people.²⁵⁴ Additionally, it aims to rework existing employment policies with a focus on promoting new skills through reform of the training system.²⁵⁵

²⁴⁴ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility>

²⁴⁵ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

²⁴⁶ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

²⁴⁷ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

²⁴⁸ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁴⁹ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵⁰ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵¹ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵² Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵³ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

²⁵⁴ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

²⁵⁵ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

On 24 February 2021, Italy's initiative to support private employers in small or medium sized enterprises by exempting them from compulsory social security contributions was approved by the European Commission. The total budget allocated for this initiative is EUR61.4 million.²⁵⁶ The aim of this initiative is to reduce the financial burden on small and medium enterprises, particularly due to the economic problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing employers to keep their workers employed.²⁵⁷

On 15 March 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando participated in a meeting of the EU Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs focused on employment and wage concerns.²⁵⁸ Under the guiding force of the EU Pillar Action Plan on social rights, the minister noted that "in Italy we are working on the reform of social safety nets, on active labour policies, on hiring incentives, on the strengthening of redeployment allowance, on the reduction of the tax wedge," as well as committing to support the Community Initiative to establish minimum wage standards across Europe.²⁵⁹

On 16 March 2021, Italy allocated EUR63 million through the Italian aid scheme "to support the uncovered fixed costs of companies in the trade fairs sector affected by the coronavirus outbreak."²⁶⁰ The support will be delivered in the form of direct grants which will be made available to the affected companies, aiming to reverse the financial damage from COVID-19 restrictions such as "the suspension or reduction of their business activity."²⁶¹

On 19 March 2021, the Italian Cabinet approved a decree to provide further financial support as part of its COVID-19 recovery plan.²⁶² The allocated budget of this decree is approximately EUR32 billion.²⁶³ The initiative covers several areas including supporting businesses of the third sector and preventing poverty.²⁶⁴ The budget covers an allowance of EUR2,400 for seasonal and fixed-term

²⁵⁶ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁵⁷ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁵⁸ Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>.

²⁵⁹ Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>.

²⁶⁰ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁶¹ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁶² Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

²⁶³ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

²⁶⁴ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

workers and an expansion of the emergency income for citizens for another few months. In addition, the initiative announced the allocation of EUR400 million in social funds for employment and training of workers.²⁶⁵

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that more than EUR50 million worth of loans had been provided for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) over the past year to “support the competitiveness and innovative investments of SMEs” as part of Italy’s revised National Business Plan.²⁶⁶ Over 380 applications had been processed as of this date and the ministry noted that up to EUR100 million would be provided as well.²⁶⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced the provision of subsidized interest-free loans for youth and women-led startups.²⁶⁸ In particular, the investment is focused on businesses concerning “the production of goods in the sectors of industry, crafts and processing of agricultural products, supply of services to businesses, trade and tourism.”²⁶⁹

On 14 April 2021, Italy chaired a meeting of the Employment Working Group. The discussions primarily focused around “structural changes in the organization of work, the economy of platforms and the growing use of remote working.”²⁷⁰ Noting that artificial intelligence would have a transformative effect on labour relationships, the meeting’s participants stressed the need for “adequate social protection tools” that would adequately respond to green and digital economy changes accelerated by the pandemic.²⁷¹

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi presented a draft of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament in preparation for presentation to the European Commission.^{272,273} A total of EUR221.5 billion obtained from the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility and national borrowing is to be provided for six target areas including education and research, and social inclusion.²⁷⁴ Within the education and research mission, a total of EUR31.9 billion is to be allocated

²⁶⁵ Approved by the Council of Ministers the “Decree-law supports”: approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx>

²⁶⁶ Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

²⁶⁷ Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

²⁶⁸ Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-imprese-di-giovani-e-donne>

²⁶⁹ Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-imprese-di-giovani-e-donne>

²⁷⁰ Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

²⁷¹ Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

²⁷² Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

²⁷³ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

²⁷⁴ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

to “strengthen the educational system [and] digital and technical-scientific skills.²⁷⁵ Within the social inclusion mission, EUR22.4 billion are to be provided for facilitating “participation in the labour market” through training and strengthening labour policies, including the development of employment centres and promoting female entrepreneurship, including a new Women’s Enterprise Fund.²⁷⁶ The plan is predicted to increase gross domestic product by three percentage points higher than initially predicted.²⁷⁷

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

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Dalia Michaud and Malhaar Moharir

Japan: +1

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

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) requested for smoother financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).²⁷⁸ It asked several organizations to “improve the facilitation of financing for SMEs and small enterprises at the end of 2020, taking into consideration that some businesses are still facing serious difficulties in funding due to the impacts of COVID-19, and that demand for working capital and other funds is expected to grow during the period from the end of 2020 to the end of fiscal year 2020.”²⁷⁹

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released highlights of the Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which highlighted the need for “measures for medium- and long-term issues” such as digital and green societies, as well as robust social security systems.²⁸⁰ In particular, JPY2.2 billion would be allocated for the “digitalization of education,” JPY2.3 billion towards scholarships for youth through the University Fellowship Program, and tax reductions and subsidies for SMEs.²⁸¹

²⁷⁵ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

²⁷⁶ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

²⁷⁷ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

²⁷⁸ Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html

²⁷⁹ Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html

²⁸⁰ Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

²⁸¹ Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

On 5 February 2021, a cabinet decision was made on the bill that includes the SMEs Enterprises Business Enhancement Act.²⁸² The Act promotes the expansion of SME businesses and better regulations of the SMEs including funding for middle-ranking businesses working with SMEs.²⁸³

On 18 February 2021, METI initiated the “Japan Innovation Bridge” under the Japan External Trade Organization.²⁸⁴ The platform aims “to support Japanese companies in collaborating and advancing mergers and acquisitions with overseas companies based mainly in Asia, including startups, through open innovation.”²⁸⁵

On 2 March 2021, Japan “contributed USD7.8 million to support [the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF’s)] Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria.”²⁸⁶ The contribution provides aid to young people on education, employment opportunities, and strengthened community service.²⁸⁷ Akira Endo, the Special Coordinator for Syria and Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Syria said “Japan stays engaged in supporting children, youth and women wherever they are in Syria to meet their humanitarian needs.”²⁸⁸ Since 2017, Japan has contributed USD60 million to Syria through UNICEF programs.²⁸⁹

On 3 March 2021, virtual training for preparatory Japanese language was held for the 13th batch of Filipino nurse and care worker candidates bound for Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Philippines.²⁹⁰ Filipino nurses and health workers will be trained

²⁸² Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html

²⁸³ Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html

²⁸⁴ Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html

²⁸⁵ Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html

²⁸⁶ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁸⁷ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁸⁸ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁸⁹ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁹⁰ Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

virtually before they depart for work in Japan; after they arrive, they will receive another six months of language training.²⁹¹

On 9 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held the 10th meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the 20th meeting of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality.²⁹² At the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening efforts for gender equality.²⁹³

On 23 March 2021, Ambassador of Japan to Sierra Leone Himeno Tsutomu and United Nations Industrial Development Organization Country Representative to Sierra Leone Mariatu Abionor Swaray, signed an exchange of notes enacting USD3.88 million of aid from Japan to Sierra Leone.²⁹⁴ The financial aid is to “help Sierra Leone bridge the skills gap in the country’s automotive repair and maintenance sector and to promote decent employment opportunities for youth.”²⁹⁵

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan held a webinar on women’s empowerment. The webinar consisted of three panels: “Panel Discussion 1: Empowered Women as a Driving Force for the Betterment of Society; Panel Discussion 2: Women’s Empowerment in Sports; Panel Discussion 3: What is Women, Peace and Security?”²⁹⁶ The goal of the webinar was to commemorate “the memorial year of gender equality and women’s empowerment.”²⁹⁷

On 23 April 2021, METI released the 2021 White Paper on SMEs in Japan, which outlined the key challenges these businesses have faced through COVID-19.²⁹⁸ The ministry outlined three areas of reform that would need to be addressed in order to overcome their financial difficulties faced: “developing management strategies that are aligned with the changes in the business environment,” “cultivating a proactive organizational culture toward digitalization,” and taking on “new opportunities under new management after business succession.”²⁹⁹

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

²⁹¹ Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

²⁹² Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html

²⁹³ Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html

²⁹⁴ Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

²⁹⁵ Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

²⁹⁶ Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html

²⁹⁷ Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html

²⁹⁸ 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html

²⁹⁹ 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html

due to pregnancy, childbirth and menopause, as well as “increase the diversity of human resources at companies.”³⁰⁰

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

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jenny Liu

Korea: +1

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

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family hosted the 2020 Korea-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Summit.³⁰¹ The summit provides a platform for youths to discuss the role of youths for Korea-ASEAN cooperation.³⁰² The discussions included promotion of a “Korea-ASEAN passport” and “financial support with a focus on sharing.”³⁰³

On 9 December 2020, the National Assembly passed amendments for the Special Act on the Promotion of Youth Employment.³⁰⁴ The amendments for the act increase the commission of Youth work in public organizations.³⁰⁵ The renovated act has included new features to promote

³⁰⁰ Assistance for Initiatives to Create Femtech-driven Systems to Support the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0428_001.html

³⁰¹ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

³⁰² 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

³⁰³ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

³⁰⁴ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

³⁰⁵ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

digitalization, including “commissioning of maintenance of computer network related to global [Human Resources Development] projects to specialist agencies.”³⁰⁶

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups Park Youngsun announced the COMEUP 2020 Plan.³⁰⁷ The project plans to help startups and SMEs by providing opportunities to promote selected businesses.³⁰⁸ A total of 1,076 startups worldwide have participated.³⁰⁹

On 25 February 2021, the National Institute for Lifelong Education announced the 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project to “promote pre-employment and post-employment learning through the establishment of a university’s adult learner-friendly academic system.”³¹⁰ The project will operate from 2021 to 2022 and the budget of the project is approximately KRW24.3 billion.³¹¹

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) published the 2021 Work Report. In the report, the MOEL promises to help youth employment by offering more opportunities and vocational training.³¹² This policy is to “minimize the number of young people ending up in the category of economically inactive population.” In the Work Report, the MOEL also promises to create a training system for non-majors to find jobs in the new technology sector. Furthermore, the MOEL will create a program to build future oriented talent. The program will be training 17,000 persons and will be cooperating with businesses and educational institutions.

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced to concentrate on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment.³¹³ The specific policies include “creation of 780,000-plus women’s jobs to cope with the employment crisis through supplementary budget; strengthening support for the maintenance of employment such as extension of emergency support for family care expense and support for those affected by transfer; strengthening support for female students majoring in science/engineering; enhancement of their digital capability through vocational training; strengthening the expertise of those engaging in childcare and housework; improving working

³⁰⁶ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

³⁰⁷ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

³⁰⁸ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

³⁰⁹ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

³¹⁰ 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

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

³¹¹ 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

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

³¹² 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³¹³ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

conditions; promotion of status survey for women platform workers; putting an end to the gender stereotyping of jobs through the adoption of absolute evaluation factors in Affirmative Action.”³¹⁴

On 25 March 2021, Vice Chair Doh Kyu-sang “discussed the progress in the implementation of the COVID-19 financial support for small merchants and SMEs” at the 37th financial risk assessment meeting.³¹⁵ He recognized the progress of the emergency financial support package to small merchants and SMEs and promised to keep close monitoring of the situation and be available to provide aid to the vulnerable.³¹⁶

On 6 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of Korea passed amendments to the support for single parents raising children.³¹⁷ The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family made amendments to the Enforcement Ordinance of the Single-Parent Family Support Act, whereby the amendment provides “expansion of support for single parents in multicultural households and the procedure for the establishment of an annual execution plan for supporting single-parent families and management of its execution.”³¹⁸ Non-Korean single parents raising Korean children will receive support under the amendment once it comes into effect in May 2021.³¹⁹

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family jointly held a panel discussion with the Embassy of Finland in Seoul on the subject of Women in Tech.³²⁰ Noting that international cooperation would be needed to achieve all countries’ goals of gender equality, the panel discussion focused on the inclusivity of women in STEM fields and improving company policies for hiring practices.

Korea has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through promoting inclusive and gender-based hiring practices, providing increased scholarship and funding for higher level education, providing grants and subsidies to improve competitiveness in the COVID economy, and establishing renovated and targeted vocational education programs, Korea has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jenny Liu

³¹⁴ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³¹⁵ FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

³¹⁶ FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March, 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

³¹⁷ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

³¹⁸ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

³¹⁹ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

³²⁰ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707767

Mexico: +1

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

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Welfare announced new social policies aimed at supporting youth and fostering greater inclusivity of women in the workforce.³²¹ In particular, the Support Programs for Girls and Boys, Children of Working Mothers programs is targeted towards women in rural areas, with the expectation that they “form a community, exchange knowledge, in addition to promoting their autonomy and access to a well-paid job.”³²²

On 27 January 2021, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare Luisa Alcade and Secretary of Tourism Miguel Torruco announced funding of MXN2.5 billion to support scholarships for youth seeking employment in the tourism sector.³²³ Approximately 50,000 youth would be eligible for this program, which would be overseen by the Youth Building the Future Program, working in conjunction with companies to hire and train those between the ages of 18 and 29.³²⁴ As of 2020, tourism accounted for nearly 17 per cent of Mexico’s gross domestic product, and has taken a strong hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁵

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Welfare allocated more than MXN143 billion worth of investment towards vulnerable groups, including working mothers.³²⁶ Over 190,000 women were beneficiaries of social investment totaling MXN2 billion, with approximately MXN3,600 provided on a bimonthly basis for working mothers with children, with a focus on those with disabled children.³²⁷

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced a grant of MXN1.5 billion to support 60,000 microenterprises.³²⁸ The support is divided among family micro-businesses, “completed”

³²¹ The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

³²² The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

³²³ Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

³²⁴ Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

³²⁵ Coronavirus hits Mexico’s economy where it hurts most: Oil, tourism, remittances and trade, Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/coronavirus-mexico-economy-oil-tourism-remittance-trade-amlo/2020/04/22/ed4b7532-7f68-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911_story.html

³²⁶ The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/aplica-secretaria-de-bienestar-inversion-social-historica-en-2020-mas-de-143-mil-mdp-para-grupos-vulnerables?idiom=es>

³²⁷ The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/aplica-secretaria-de-bienestar-inversion-social-historica-en-2020-mas-de-143-mil-mdp-para-grupos-vulnerables?idiom=es>

³²⁸ The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

microbusinesses and those facilitating women's solidarity, whereby each business would receive a loan of MXN25,000.³²⁹

On 21 February 2021, the Superior Audit of the Federation concluded that the Ministry of Welfare had fully complied with its social program goals, with its total budget of MXN150 billion having been distributed to all target demographics, including working mothers.³³⁰

On 2 March 2021, the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents and the General Directorate of Open Institutions of the Decentralized Administrative Body for Prevention and Social Readaptation rolled out a pilot "Needs Identification Card."³³¹ This card is an instrument that will allow the government to better monitor and assist children with parents deprived of liberty to "live in a favorable family context, grow and develop free of all discrimination, violence, access education, health and receive timely support for their basic needs from federal and state authorities."³³²

On 2 March 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano launched the first meeting of the Gender Links Network.³³³ This three-day symposium aimed to encourage discussion about gender violence to promote "international cooperation on substantive equality, girls' empowerment, and inclusion of a gender perspective" in society.³³⁴

On 8 March 2021, the National Migration Institute signed the Labour Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy.³³⁵ This policy aims to eliminate workplace violence and institutionalize equal opportunities for all public servants, with particular focus on approaching the problem from a gender perspective.³³⁶

On 9 March 2021, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Arturo Herrera, Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier and President of the National Institute of Women Nadine Gasman co-signed an agreement titled "Women in digital transformation" as part of its program to promote economic

³²⁹ The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

³³⁰ ASF concludes that in 2019 the Ministry of Welfare complied with its social programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/concluye-asf-que-en-2019-secretaria-de-bienestar-cumplio-en-sus-programas-sociales?idiom=es>

³³¹ Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/avanza-mecanismo-de-atencion-a-necesidades-de-ninez-y-adolescencia-con-madre-o-padre-privados-de-la-libertad?idiom=es>

³³² Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/avanza-mecanismo-de-atencion-a-necesidades-de-ninez-y-adolescencia-con-madre-o-padre-privados-de-la-libertad?idiom=es>

³³³ First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

³³⁴ First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

³³⁵ INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

³³⁶ INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

growth “with a gender perspective.”³³⁷ The program focuses on micro-enterprises led by women, and expands upon the “Digital Transformation in Electronic Commerce” business training program, which offers courses on developing “digital and financial skills in entrepreneurs.”³³⁸ Data from the project demonstrated that women who participated in the program had increased their income by 270 per cent.³³⁹

On 22 March 2021, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard and Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez co-chaired the second inter-institutional meeting.³⁴⁰ Their discussion brought together the Ministries of Finance, Education and Labor, and the heads of the Mexican Social Security Institute, Bank of Wellbeing and Infonavit, who together announced specific actions relating to the migrant population.³⁴¹ In the meeting, Labor Secretary Luisa María Alcalde furthered assistance for migrants. In particular, she stated that the Youths Building the Future program will expand to train 18 to 29 years-old migrants.³⁴² Furthermore, Education Secretary Delfina Gómez stated that the Education Ministry will expand its commitment to revalidating the studies and certifications of Mexicans returning from abroad.³⁴³ The Labour Mobility Program and National Employment Service will also assist in ensuring that these migrants can find jobs in the fields and locations in which they wish to work.³⁴⁴

On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of the Interior presented the National Protocol for Inter-institutional Coordination for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence.³⁴⁵ This guideline will serve as a reference for territorial governments such as authorities in the state of

³³⁷ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

³³⁸ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

³³⁹ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

³⁴⁰ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴¹ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴² The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴³ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴⁴ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴⁵ Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

Campeche to develop their own protocol in protecting the below 17-years-old population from violence.³⁴⁶

On 13 April 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador led a press conference on how the Government of Mexico is responding to the rise of unaccompanied minor migrants from Central America.³⁴⁷ Secretary Ebrard stated that the government has increased the number of state workers involved with immigration to approximately 12,000 people.³⁴⁸ Secretary Ebrard also stated that the National System for Integral Family Development will be expanding its capacity to care for more children since minors cannot stay in immigration stations.³⁴⁹

On 28 April 2021, Director of Institutional Coordination of the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Francisco Castellanos García proposed several measures to benefit adolescents in conflict with the law during the Permanent Session of the Commission of Executive Secretaries of Integral Protection of the National Systems and the Federative Entities.³⁵⁰ Director García's recommendations included a directory to catalog effective programs for social reintegration between organizations and state authorities and reinforcement of sanitary protection measures for women.³⁵¹

On 28 April 2021, Mexico led a virtual meeting on the "Economic empowerment of women in the Pacific Alliance: Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusive recovery."³⁵² There were over 200 participants at the meeting, including female leaders and representatives from the public sector, international organizations, civil society organizations and academia.³⁵³ Senior officials from the Pacific Alliance countries were also in attendance.³⁵⁴ Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Luz María de la Mora Sánchez moderated a discussion on the impact of the coronavirus on women and received recommendations on tools and policies that may help reactivate women-led companies in the Pacific.³⁵⁵ Gender Affairs Director Ana Güzmes from the United Nations Economic Commission

³⁴⁶ Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

³⁴⁷ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

³⁴⁸ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

³⁴⁹ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

³⁵⁰ Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

³⁵¹ Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

³⁵² Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵³ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵⁴ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵⁵ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

for Latin America and the Caribbean also offered suggestions on how countries can support women's economic autonomy.³⁵⁶

On 30 April 2021, Secretary Ebrard spoke with Spain's Minister of Science and Innovation Pedro Duque in Madrid.³⁵⁷ During the meeting, the ministers reached a consensus on the importance of promoting cooperation in scientific research and professional training.³⁵⁸ They also noted that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular would benefit from training and increased access to technology for production and trade.³⁵⁹

Mexico has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, and increasing access to opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurs by taking concrete action to prevent violence against youth, rehabilitate youth in detention centres, and increasing assistance for migrant minors, multiple symposiums and conferences on the status of women and youth in the Mexican economy, more inclusive regulations and collaboration on labour policy with international partners such as Spain. Mexico has taken partial action in the area of upskilling and reskilling workers through some regulations designed to enhance vocational training.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tammy Cheng

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Education announced the success of its specialized educational research centre, partnered with various Russian universities, providing students with grants and subsidies for specialized education and research as well as training initiatives.³⁶⁰

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Education noted that more than 600,000 youth took part in the XIV International Congress [of] Young Professionals to discuss issues on improving and developing college education further in the country.³⁶¹ First Deputy Minister of Education Dmitry Glushko "recalled the need to involve business representatives in the secondary vocational educational system so that the enterprises [and] customers [could participate] in assessing the quality

³⁵⁶ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵⁷ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

³⁵⁸ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

³⁵⁹ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

³⁶⁰ Specialized educational research center at SFedU: first successes, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Date Accessed: 1 May 2021. <https://sfedu.ru/www2/web/press-center/news/65503>

³⁶¹ More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

of training,” and prepare college students for the workforce.³⁶² Furthermore, Director of WorldSkills Russia Academy Svetlana Kraichinskaya stressed the need for greater vocational training programs that could adapt to the modern economy.³⁶³

On 16 January 2021, the Russian Institute for Development of Vocational Education and Center for Advanced Vocational Training announced a joint agreement with Uzbekistan to facilitate greater interaction and cooperation among vocational institutes in both countries.³⁶⁴ “In particular, the parties discussed convergence of approaches to formation of professional standards and content of vocational education, development of cooperation within ...World Skills International ...[and organizing] early vocational guidance for schoolchildren.”³⁶⁵

On 24 February 2021, the Ministry of Education announced the creation of the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, intended to “become a platform uniting students and alumni, as well as teachers and employers in the system of vocational education and training for persons with disabilities and health limitations.”³⁶⁶

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Education announced that Russian teachers would resume full-time teaching at schools in Kyrgyzstan.³⁶⁷ Around 29 teachers were sent to Kyrgyzstan in 2021 to teach schoolchildren Russian and other general subjects as part of the Russian Teacher Abroad program.³⁶⁸ The program, which was started in 2019, has seen local children “improve their reading skills, show interest in literature and participate in Russian Olympiads.”³⁶⁹

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Education Sergey Kravtsov announced that more than 60 centres for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021.³⁷⁰ He said, “Such centres will inform about the opportunities for advanced training in the region and provide methodological

³⁶² More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

³⁶³ More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

³⁶⁴ Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

³⁶⁵ Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

³⁶⁶ Ministry of Education of Russia created the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2261/ministry-of-education-of-russia-created-the-federal-methodological-center-for-inclusive-education/>

³⁶⁷ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

³⁶⁸ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

³⁶⁹ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

³⁷⁰ More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

support for supplementary education programs for teachers.³⁷¹ The centres are aimed at analyzing the existing system of supplementary education in the country.³⁷²

On 22 March 2021, Deputy Minister Glushko met with Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyzstan Nadira Dzhusupbekova.³⁷³ During the meeting, they announced that the two countries will continue their collaborative efforts in the field of education, including the implementation of the joint project “Russian Teacher Abroad.”³⁷⁴ The project requires Russia to share in the organization of hot school meals and creation of educational infrastructure.³⁷⁵ Deputy Minister Glushko reiterated Russia’s commitment by pledging to send more Russian teachers to Kyrgyzstan.³⁷⁶

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin met with the President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades.³⁷⁷ He supported the continued bilateral relations between the two countries and called for a strengthening of ties.³⁷⁸ Further, he reaffirmed expanding cooperation in education and youth exchanges and stressed that many Cypriot students are attending Russian Universities with financial aid granted by the federal government.³⁷⁹

On 29 March 2021, during a meeting with deputy prime ministers, Prime Minister Mishustin remarked that loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be fast tracked.³⁸⁰ This initiative comes off the back of last year’s reduction in preferential rates for SMEs and the self-employed.³⁸¹ Prime Minister Mishustin concluded, “small businesses will be able to simply apply for preferential leasing support which will make it possible for them to expand or upgrade their production at no extra cost.”³⁸²

Russia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers through working with regional partners to improve education opportunities, renovating and expanding training programs for discouraged workers, and providing extensive financial support for SMEs and

³⁷¹ More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

³⁷² More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

³⁷³ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁴ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁵ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁶ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁷ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

³⁷⁸ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

³⁷⁹ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

³⁸⁰ Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

³⁸¹ Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

³⁸² Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

entrepreneurships to promote innovation. Russia has taken no action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for women.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 5 January 2021, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman signed several legal reforms as a part of the Saudi Vision 2030 that are designed to diversify the economy away from oil and achieve justice, especially for women, and accountability in a move towards codified law.³⁸³ The announcement of the reforms made special mention of women who have long held an inferior status to men.³⁸⁴ Prince bin Salman stated, “discrepancies in court rulings have led to a lack of clarity in the rules governing the incidents and practices, and has hurt many, mostly women.”³⁸⁵ The reforms are expected to bring clarity to the legal system and spur women’s rights in the countries.³⁸⁶

On 10 February 2021, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) General Authority announced the launch of the fourth edition of the Intelligence Pioneers Program.³⁸⁷ The goal of the program is to help SMEs “reduce operational costs, raise efficiency and find new sources of income.”³⁸⁸ The SMEs that sign up for the program will be assigned a mentor for each facility to aid in adoption of technology and achievement of the Kingdom’s 2030 vision.³⁸⁹

On 7 March 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) launched the Professional Verification program.³⁹⁰ The program will introduce examinations in specialized fields to assess workers’ skills and improve the quality of labor in the country.³⁹¹ It is expected that the new

³⁸³ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁴ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁵ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁶ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁷ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

³⁸⁸ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

³⁸⁹ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

³⁹⁰ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

³⁹¹ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

regulation will create job opportunities in the private sector and in SMEs.³⁹² Further, young Saudis have been encouraged to join newly created professional centres to enhance their capabilities.³⁹³

On 9 March 2021, HRSD held a meeting for the Under Secretary for Empowerment of Women Hind Al Zahid who spoke about efforts to empower women and the role of women in economic development.³⁹⁴

On 29 March 2021, SMEs General Authority launched the SME Bank.³⁹⁵ The bank focuses on providing for all of SMEs financial needs through the digital platform, ensuring quick and easy access.³⁹⁶ The initiative is in line with the national strategy for SMEs and will act as an umbrella for all financing solution including lending.³⁹⁷ It is hoped that the bank will increase opportunities for growth and prosperity for SMEs.³⁹⁸

On 4 April 2021, the King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba) announced the discovery of more than 11,000 students from its National Program for Gifted Students.³⁹⁹ The recognized students received access to the specialized services of Mawhiba, facilitating greater exposure of these youth to world-class educational opportunities.⁴⁰⁰

On 12 April 2021, the Digital Cooperation Organization met for the first time, appointing Saudi national Deemah Alyahya as its first secretary general.⁴⁰¹ The meeting passed five initiatives regarding women empowerment and the promotion of SMEs, focusing on digital transformation.⁴⁰²

On 20 April 2021, the Future Women Society (FWS), which was founded under the HRSD, launched a research, innovation and development unit to further advance the position of women and their

³⁹² Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

³⁹³ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

³⁹⁴ The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development celebrates the International Women's Day, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://hrsd.gov.sa/ar/node/810122>

³⁹⁵ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁶ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁷ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁸ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁹ Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁰ Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰¹ Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

⁴⁰² Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

inclusion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.⁴⁰³ This unit was launched in recognition of the fact that the role of women in technology still remains low, and forms a part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030's goals.⁴⁰⁴ Chairperson of the FWS Gareebah Al-Twaiher noted that "FWS is working on building its own financial model to achieve financial sustainability that relies on inventing knowledge-based products generating a capital for investment."⁴⁰⁵

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs through robust financial support for improving women's participation in the labour market, establishing and encouraging greater competitiveness among SMEs in the international economy. Saudi Arabia has taken partial action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth through promoting university scholarships. Saudi Arabia has taken no action in the area of upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sara Mostafa

South Africa: +1

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

On 29 November 2020, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane led the South African youth delegates to the 6th BRICS Summit.⁴⁰⁶ The BRICS Youth Summit aims to increase youth participation in programmes and address policies to empower young people.⁴⁰⁷ The specific goal of South Africa at the summit was to provide youth with skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields.⁴⁰⁸ South Africa's priorities included "creating employment in areas with high absorption capacity such as the fourth industrial revolution, ocean economy, green economy, mineral resources and energy, tourism, manufacturing; supporting young entrepreneurs; promoting market access as well as free and fair trade amongst the BRICS nations; and youth volunteer exchange promotion."⁴⁰⁹

On 18 December 2020, the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs partnered with Standard Bank to announce the launch of the Yes4Youth

⁴⁰³ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁴ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁵ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁶ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁰⁷ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁰⁸ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁰⁹ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

Programme.⁴¹⁰ This programme provides unemployed youth with work experience and introduces them to business and entrepreneurship by placing them in micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the province.⁴¹¹

On 18 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with the China National Academy of Governance to offer courses to middle and senior managers in public service on governance and emergency management.⁴¹² This partnership aims to train public servants in governance and emergency response.⁴¹³ The course will cover China's governance model for development outcomes, the capacity of the state to deal with emergencies and the Chinese model of disaster management and the management of Covid-19.⁴¹⁴

On 19 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France to offer courses on Public Affairs Management in the Digital Era and Leadership in Times of Crisis and Complexity to public servants.⁴¹⁵ This partnership aims to train public servants in leadership management and digital transformation in order to reduce the gap between public administration and the changing digital world.⁴¹⁶

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Small Business Development along with its agency Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) partnered with the Department of Tourism to launch the Tourism Equity Fund.⁴¹⁷ The SEFA will provide up to ZAR15 million per enterprise. MSMEs will also receive mentorship support, market access, and investment monitoring.⁴¹⁸ The Tourism Equity

⁴¹⁰ Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

⁴¹¹ Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

⁴¹² School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴¹³ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴¹⁴ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴¹⁵ School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-high-level-training-public-servants-crisis-leadership-management-and>

⁴¹⁶ School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-high-level-training-public-servants-crisis-leadership-management-and>

⁴¹⁷ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

⁴¹⁸ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

Fund seeks to provide both financial and non-financial support for MSMEs in the growing tourism industry.⁴¹⁹

On 9 February 2021, Minister for Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni and the National Youth Development Agency hosted a webinar to follow up on the MSME and cooperative commitments made in the 2020 State of the National Address.⁴²⁰ The goal is to update the public on the progress of the 1,000 small, micro and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives that participated in the programme supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa.⁴²¹

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni presented the 2021 budget.⁴²² The budget includes a ZAR11 billion increase devoted to public employment programs to fund the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative.⁴²³ The budget also includes an allocation of ZAR4 billion over the medium term to township and rural enterprises.⁴²⁴ These budget allocations aim to create jobs for young people, as well as increased funding for MSMEs.⁴²⁵

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the virtual engagement MSMEs and Cooperatives to follow up on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan presented in October 2020.⁴²⁶ President Ramaphosa acknowledged the success of the actions taken to aid MSMEs and cooperatives as well as specified further action that will be taken to aid these enterprises.⁴²⁷

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa held a virtual discussion with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to discuss commitments to advancing economic inclusion for women in Africa.⁴²⁸ The

⁴¹⁹ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

⁴²⁰ Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

⁴²¹ Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

⁴²² Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²³ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁴ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁵ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁶ Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁷ Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

goal was to address the challenges of empowerment for African women and to develop tangible action for economic and digital liberation.⁴²⁹

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane hosted a webinar to commemorate International Women Day.⁴³⁰ The webinar provided a platform for the Women in Tourism Programme to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and mitigation methods.⁴³¹

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza announced the commitment to improving opportunities for youth post-COVID-19.⁴³² This commitment aims to develop strategies to deal with poverty and inequality and achieve social cohesion by targeting women, youth, and people with disabilities.⁴³³

On 25 March 2021, President Ramaphosa chaired the 30th African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).⁴³⁴ The goal of the APRM is to “promote the African Union’s shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development.”⁴³⁵ The APRM has developed workshops and training programmes focused on vocational education in order to meet the goals of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.⁴³⁶

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande welcomed the partnership of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA), Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun at the PSETA-Microsoft-Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa

⁴²⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁰ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

⁴³¹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

⁴³² Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

⁴³³ Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

⁴³⁴ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁴³⁵ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁴³⁶ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

(GSISA) Launch.⁴³⁷ The GSISA is a public-private partnership between the PSETA, Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun to provide digital skills to youth in South Africa.⁴³⁸

South Africa has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the 16 Days Campaign of No-Violence Against Women and Children, the domestic and international partnerships to upskill youth and workers as well as the development of the tourism industry for SMEs, South Africa has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rebecca Jones

Turkey: +1

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

On October 8, 2020, Turkey introduced the “My Digital Job Project,” to be run from January 2020 to June 2021 by the Turkish Vodafone Foundation and Turkish Occupation Institution.⁴³⁹ The aim of the project is to increase the literacy and digital vocational competencies of women to increase their employability through training in digital and technology education as well as boosting social media and marketing literacy skills.⁴⁴⁰

On 28 January 2021, Youth and Sports Minister Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoglu met with Sivas Mayor Hilmi Bilgin, Sivas Governor Salih Ayhan and others to discuss protocols regarding youth and sports investment.⁴⁴¹ Kasapoglu said, “Our youth investments show a serious development all over our country. We have to move higher within the framework of the cooperation I have just mentioned. We strengthen this with investments. so far, there is a youth and sports investment of over TRY1 billion.”⁴⁴²

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a memorandum with secondary education institutions to provide 100 per cent scholarship opportunities to national athletes.⁴⁴³

⁴³⁷ Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁸ Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁹ National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en

⁴⁴⁰ National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en

⁴⁴¹ Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

⁴⁴² Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

⁴⁴³ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

Minister Kasapoglu remarked that this agreement paves the way for free education of and offers youth both a sporting and an academic career.⁴⁴⁴ He added that the goal going forward is to implement this practice in all levels of education.⁴⁴⁵

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology announced it would support 30,000 entrepreneurs and 132 SMEs “to improve their knowledge and skills in starting and running a business” by assisting them in opening up to international markets and facilitating production and manufacturing.⁴⁴⁶

On 3 April 2021, Minister of Family, Labor and Social Services Zehra Selçuk announced that the “Turkey’s Daughters Engineer Project” has reached 22,500 high school students.⁴⁴⁷ She said, “we launched in support of girls who want to be engineers’ Turkey’s Project Engineer in the form of two daughters are continuing program, including high school and college.” According to the program, 150 volunteer teachers will introduce Engineering activities to female students through training, games, virtual reality and role model meetings.

On 4 April 2021, Minister Kasapoğlu delivered remarks at the 7th International Young Businessmen Congress, noting that “Today, young entrepreneurs are the locomotive of the world economy.”⁴⁴⁸ Minister Kasapoğlu outlined several initiatives Turkey has implemented, including providing “comprehensive services to young people in all fields, with workshops [for] coding, robotics, software studies and support for initiative project,” through “youth centers, youth camps, academies and youth clubs.”⁴⁴⁹

On 6 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced that the Female Entrepreneurship Rate had increased to 19.3 per cent upwards from 15 per cent as of the last count.⁴⁵⁰ Through the establishment of “women’s cooperatives” that take into account Turkey’s cultural and religious values, approximately 216 thousand women were involved, with plans to expand the number of cooperatives across the country over the coming year through the novel “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives.”⁴⁵¹

⁴⁴⁴ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁴⁴⁵ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁴⁴⁶ KOSGEB Will Support 30 Thousand Entrepreneurs This Year, KOSGEB (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.kosgeb.gov.tr/site/tr/genel/detay/7745/kosgeb-bu-yil-30-bin-girisimciyi-destekleyecek>

⁴⁴⁷ Selcuk Minister: "Turkey's Daughters Project Engineer 22,500 75 high school students Reaching", Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 3 April 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/tr-tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-turkiye-nin-muhendis-kizlari-projesi-ile-75-lisede-22-500-ogrenciye-ulastik/>

⁴⁴⁸ Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

⁴⁴⁹ Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

⁴⁵⁰ Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

⁴⁵¹ Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced the implementation of the “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives,” aiming “to provide awareness training to eight thousand people in order to increase women’s employment and strengthen women’s cooperatives.” Approximately 3,500 cooperatives are expected to be established in conjunction with non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, unions and universities, along with new provisions for consultant groups for women’s entrepreneurship.⁴⁵²

Turkey has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers through highly interconnected initiatives that involve training and facilitating women’s entrepreneurship, ensuring effective representation of women in SMEs and improving their competitiveness in the international economy and strong investments in reinforcing the knowledge economy. Turkey has taken partial action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for youth through increased funding of scholarships and offering specialized camps for youth. Through these initiatives, Turkey has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj and Malhaar Mobarir

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 8 February 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions increased the number of “retraining places on the Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) to 80,000 for the next financial year – building on the 40,000 already successfully delivered over the last eight months.”⁴⁵³ The program is a six-week program which enables participants to “learn new skills, gain hands-on work experience and build their contacts in a new line of work.”⁴⁵⁴ At the end of the program, “every SWAP participant is guaranteed an interview at the end of their course for a live job vacancy.”⁴⁵⁵

On 10 February 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced the Assistive Technology Impact Fund funded through UK Aid and led by the Global Disability Innovation Hub.⁴⁵⁶ Over five years, the fund will Assistive Technology ventures in Africa with up to

⁴⁵² Minister Selçuk: “We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People to Increase Female Employment,” Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmasi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁴⁵³ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁴⁵⁴ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁴⁵⁵ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁴⁵⁶ Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

GPB200,000 in grant capital, enabling “innovative technology solutions to better reach people with disabilities in Africa.”⁴⁵⁷

On 10 February 2021, UK Aid provided 14 charities based in the UK with Small Charities Challenge Fund grants of up to GPB50,000.⁴⁵⁸ These grants will support projects that support disability inclusion, education, health, and prosperity in 10 developing countries across Africa and Asia.⁴⁵⁹

On 11 February 2021, the UK and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove announced GPB20 million in funding for the SME Brexit Support Fund.⁴⁶⁰ The new fund will “support businesses prepare for the new import controls coming into force from April and July.”⁴⁶¹ Chancellor Gove stated that the “new targeted funding will see small businesses get more of the practical support they need to adjust to the new processes and prepare for future changes.”⁴⁶²

On 3 March 2021, the United Kingdom announced as part of its 2021 budget a new UK-wide program to upskill over 30,000 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) over 3 years and will be 90 per cent subsidized by the government.⁴⁶³ Furthermore, the government announced it will launch a new initiative to help 100,000 SMEs save time and money by adopting productivity-enhancing software, featuring a combined voucher of GBP5,000 that covers up to half the costs of software.⁴⁶⁴

On 3 March 2021, the UK published the 2021 budget which expands and increases “the intensive support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain to young jobseekers, providing a guaranteed foundation of support to all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit.”⁴⁶⁵

On 11 March 2021, Deputy Head of the UK Delegation to the Organization for Safety and Cooperation in Europe Nicola Murray stated that empowering “women and girls, and preventing violence against them, is a UK priority.”⁴⁶⁶ She reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to “to ensuring every girl receives at least 12 years of quality education, and to ending the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030.”⁴⁶⁷ She stated that, during the UK’s COP26

⁴⁵⁷ Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

⁴⁵⁸ 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

⁴⁵⁹ 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

⁴⁶⁰ Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁴⁶¹ Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁴⁶² Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁴⁶³ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁴⁶⁴ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁴⁶⁵ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁴⁶⁶ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

⁴⁶⁷ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

presidency, they would “champion diversity,” encouraging other countries in “stepping up their commitments to center gender equality in climate action and finance.”⁴⁶⁸

On 19 March 2021, the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Support launched a GBP5 billion government infrastructure project to build Gigabit broadband that will support high growth tech sectors, creative industries, and job creation across rural areas.⁴⁶⁹ Additionally, the government launched GBP210 million in speed increasing vouchers and GBP110m to connect up to 7,000 rural public buildings such as GP surgeries, libraries and schools.⁴⁷⁰

On 19 March 2021, the Department of Education announced the awarding of over GBP500,000 “to expand successful work programs to help more people gain in demand sector-specific skills.”⁴⁷¹ The money will be directed towards two regions to “expand the delivery of the successful construction skills bootcamps,” which “offer free, flexible courses lasting up to 16 weeks covering areas including construction, digital and technical.”⁴⁷² Minister for Apprenticeships Gillian Keegan said “Skills bootcamps are unique, giving people the chance to upskill or retrain for free over a short period of time, with a clear line of sight to a job at the end.”⁴⁷³

On 25 March 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women, Elizabeth Rose Berridge spoke of the appointment of Helen Grant to the role of Special Envoy on Girl’s Education, in which she will “champion the UK’s global expertise on education and secure backing for ambitious initiatives to achieve our global objectives.”⁴⁷⁴ Furthermore, she announced that in the capacity of the 2021 UN climate change conference (COP26) host, the UK will host a conference that “advances gender-responsive climate action and finance” and “will amplify the voices of women, girls and marginalized people and empower them to act as decision-makers, advocates and leaders.”⁴⁷⁵

On 26 March 2021, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick and Minister for Housing and Rough Sleeping Eddie Hughes announced the next phase of a GBP165 million program for vulnerable families, now known as the Supporting Families program.⁴⁷⁶ The program has supported over 400,000 vulnerable families in the United Kingdom, including supporting people leaving abusive relationships, ensuring people with mental health issues get the support they need and helping people find employment

⁴⁶⁸ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

⁴⁶⁹ Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

⁴⁷⁰ Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

⁴⁷¹ Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁴⁷² Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁴⁷³ Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁴⁷⁴ Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

⁴⁷⁵ Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

⁴⁷⁶ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

through a “whole family” approach.⁴⁷⁷ The new phase will provide more funding to tackle the UK’s “moral mission to tackle intergenerational unemployment, crime, domestic abuse and family breakdown.”⁴⁷⁸

On 8 April 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Mims Davies announced that the Department would recruit “an extra 150 specialist Youth Employability Coaches across the UK,” enabling thousands of more young people to “benefit from six-month intensive employment support packages.”⁴⁷⁹ Youth Employability Coaches “are specially trained to support young jobseekers facing significant barriers to get on the first rung of the jobs ladder.”⁴⁸⁰

On 9 April 2021, Minister for the School System Vicky Berridge announced that children “with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or requiring alternative provision in England will benefit from” a GBP280 million investment.⁴⁸¹ She stated that “Every child or young person with SEND should go to school feeling confident that they will get the tailored support they need at school, and every teacher should be equipped with the right facilities to teach those pupils.”⁴⁸²

On 29 April 2021, the Trade Act was granted Royal Assent and officially became law, which “bestows powers necessary to bring new trade deals into being” and “allows the UK to put the agreements it strikes as a newly independent 21-century trading nation on to the statute books.”⁴⁸³ The new law allows for “British householders’ and businesses’ interests to be put first in future agreements” and “will provide a platform for UK businesses to access new fast-growing markets, which in turn will help create jobs, encourage investment and aid the recovery from COVID-19.”⁴⁸⁴

The United Kingdom has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through new domestic job and upskilling opportunities for youth, extensive financial support and initiatives to increase the competitiveness of UK SMEs in the global economy, and its promotion of gender equality policies in the workforce domestically and internationally, the UK has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

⁴⁷⁷ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁴⁷⁸ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁴⁷⁹ Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

⁴⁸⁰ Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

⁴⁸¹ £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

⁴⁸² £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

⁴⁸³ Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

⁴⁸⁴ Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Derek Thiele

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden announced the American Rescue Plan.⁴⁸⁵ Part of this plan allocates USD10 billion to state and tribal governments which will be used to fund small business credit expansion initiatives.⁴⁸⁶ The plan also includes support for businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people, as well as support for businesses with fewer than 10 employees.⁴⁸⁷ In addition, the American Rescue Plan outlines an expansion of the Child Tax Credit aimed at reducing child poverty.⁴⁸⁸

On 9 February 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced the second extension of a rule to allow certain bank directors and shareholders to apply to their banks for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for their small businesses.⁴⁸⁹ This extension aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.⁴⁹⁰

On 17 February 2021, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with a group of labor leaders to discuss the American Rescue Plan and President Biden's plan for infrastructure. At this meeting, President Biden endorsed Congressman Bobby Scott's bipartisan National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 to expand registered apprenticeships which is estimated to create nearly one million apprenticeship opportunities.⁴⁹¹ President Biden also planned to reinstate the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships which appoints diverse stakeholders to develop registered apprenticeships in all communities.⁴⁹² Finally, President Biden rescinded Executive Order 13801 to

⁴⁸⁵ President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, The White House (Washington) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>

⁴⁸⁶ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁴⁸⁷ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁴⁸⁸ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁴⁸⁹ Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

⁴⁹⁰ Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

⁴⁹¹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

⁴⁹² Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

reverse industry-recognized apprenticeship programs, which is claimed to have fewer quality standards than registered apprenticeship programs.⁴⁹³

On 18 February 2021, Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice and White House Public Engagement Director and Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond hosted a virtual meeting with various youth advocates to discuss community violence prevention.⁴⁹⁴ The discussion prioritized having youth present for violence prevention policy making in their communities.⁴⁹⁵

On 22 February 2021, President Biden announced further changes to the PPP.⁴⁹⁶ Among these changes were a 14-day PPP loan application period exclusively for small business and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees, removal of barriers to apply for these loans and ease of access to forgivable loans for one person businesses.⁴⁹⁷

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau outlined the Roadmap for a renewed partnership between the United States and Canada.⁴⁹⁸ The Roadmap outlined the general joint efforts of the United States and Canada including action to combat COVID-19 and accelerate economic recovery for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), develop sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and underrepresented groups, and advance diversity and inclusion to promote gender equality and women empowerment.⁴⁹⁹

On 17 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD25 million for grants to “provide education and employment training to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who left high school before graduation, or are currently or have been involved previously with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system.”⁵⁰⁰ The Young Adult Reentry Partnership Grants would “support partnerships with community colleges, the criminal justice system and employers, employer associations, unions providing training, or labor-management partnerships and focus on occupations”

⁴⁹³ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

⁴⁹⁴ Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

⁴⁹⁵ Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

⁴⁹⁶ Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

⁴⁹⁷ Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

⁴⁹⁸ Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington, DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

⁴⁹⁹ Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

⁵⁰⁰ US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

to offer apprenticeships, accelerated learning and work-specific skills training.”⁵⁰¹ Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Suzi LeVine highlighted that business partners associated with these programs “will create the best possible pathways for participants to succeed.”⁵⁰²

On 18 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD87.5 million for grants to expand apprenticeship programs across the state, “with up to [USD40] million of those funds in grants awarded to states that implement required diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.”⁵⁰³

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD31 million in funding to “support the expansion and modernization of technical assistance” for apprenticeships programs.⁵⁰⁴ Specifically, the funding would go towards establishing Registered Apprenticeship Technical Centers of Excellence” and focus on diversity and inclusion as well as forging strategic partnerships with local and national stakeholders.⁵⁰⁵

On 24 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 24 March 2021 as National Equal Pay Day.⁵⁰⁶ National Equal Pay Day aims to acknowledge the value of women’s skills and their contributions to the labor force.⁵⁰⁷ President Biden stated that he and Vice President Harris are committed to building back the economy better for everyone and recognizes the role that equal pay plays in this goal.⁵⁰⁸

On 31 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 31 March 2021 as Transgender Day of Visibility.⁵⁰⁹ Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the importance of full equality for all transgender people.⁵¹⁰

⁵⁰¹ US Department of Labor announces \$25M in funding to support education, employment training for workforce entry by justice-involved young adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

⁵⁰² US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

⁵⁰³ US Department of Labor announces availability of \$87.5M in Funding to states to expand, diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210318-0>

⁵⁰⁴ US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>

⁵⁰⁵ US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>.

⁵⁰⁶ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁵⁰⁷ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁵⁰⁸ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁵⁰⁹ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

⁵¹⁰ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

President Joe Biden urged for the passing of the Equality Act and that Federal civil rights protections be provided on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.⁵¹¹

On 31 March 2021, President Biden released the American Jobs Plan.⁵¹² The American Jobs Plan aims to create jobs and improve the country's infrastructure by investing in transportation infrastructure, rebuilding drinking water infrastructure, modernizing schools, residential, commercial and federal buildings, raising wages and benefits for homecare workers, investing in innovation to stimulate American manufacturing, creating union jobs and upskilling workers.⁵¹³ The plan also aims to help small businesses by improving access to federal contracts and investing over USD110 billion in financing and technical assistance programs.⁵¹⁴ Part of the plan also includes an investment of USD5 billion in evidence-based community violence intervention programs over eight years to train at-risk individuals for jobs.⁵¹⁵

On 15 April 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act.⁵¹⁶ The goals of the Paycheck Fairness Act are to “[address] wage gaps by closing loopholes that have allowed employers to justify gender pay disparities, [strengthen] provisions for holding employers accountable for systemic pay discrimination [and help] level the playing field for women and people of color by making it easier for workers to challenge pay disparities as a group.”⁵¹⁷ President Biden urged the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to meet these goals.⁵¹⁸

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in funding to increase the number of women in its apprenticeships programs and better facilitate their inclusion in “nontraditional” occupations including “manufacturing, infrastructure, cybersecurity and healthcare industries.”⁵¹⁹

On 28 April 2021, President Biden announced the American Families Plan.⁵²⁰ The American Families Plan aims to make education more affordable, provide economic security for families and expand tax

⁵¹¹ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

⁵¹² FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

⁵¹³ American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-jobs-plan/>

⁵¹⁴ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Supports Small Businesses, The White House (Washington) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/13/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-supports-small-businesses/>

⁵¹⁵ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Will Support Women's Employment, The White House (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/21/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-will-support-womens-employment/>

⁵¹⁶ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁵¹⁷ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁵¹⁸ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁵¹⁹ US Department of Labor announces \$3.5M funding opportunity to place more women in Registered Apprenticeships, nontraditional occupations, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>.

⁵²⁰ Fact Sheet: The American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan/>

credits to help families and workers.⁵²¹ The plan includes free universal preschool to three-year-old and four-year-old children, two free years of community college and over USD80 billion invested in the Pell Grant award for students.⁵²²

The United States has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the Memorandum on Protecting Women’s Health at Home and Abroad, proposal of the American Rescue Plan, the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, the proclamation of numerous days of awareness and acknowledgement for women and youth and adjustments to the PPP, the United States has fully complied with its commitment to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Rebecca Jones and Malhaar Mobarir

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament announced its blueprint for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the post-pandemic recovery.⁵²³ The blueprint advocates for measures to help SMEs deal with the “twin challenges of digitalization and decarbonization.”⁵²⁴ Furthermore, the report “highlights the need to update the European Commission’s SME strategy in the light of the COVID crisis while keeping the focus on advancing the transition toward a socially, economically, and environmentally resilient society and a competitive economy.”⁵²⁵ Among the recommendations included ensuring liquidity and funding for SMEs and developing initiatives to support SMEs in adopting new digital and e-commerce solutions.⁵²⁶

On 30 December 2020, the European Union’s Delegation to Cambodia announced a joint investment with Germany and France to finance the development of rural infrastructure in Cambodia.⁵²⁷ Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project received USD115 million to

⁵²¹American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-families-plan/>

⁵²² FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Will Support Children, Teachers, and Working Families in Rural America, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-will-support-children-teachers-and-working-families-in-rural-america/>

⁵²³ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁴ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁵ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁶ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁷ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

improve the road network in the country's central plains and construct complementary infrastructure in the drinking water and sanitation, agriculture, health and education sectors.⁵²⁸ The EU Ambassador to Cambodia Carmen Moreno stated that a “better connectivity to access markets and services is key to reduce poverty and economic disparities as well as to create new job opportunities,” particularly in the pandemic recovery process.⁵²⁹

On 18 February 2021, High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell convened the Global Tech Panel for the first time, bringing together diplomatic, technology, and civil society leaders together to “reflect on how to join forces to deal with the opportunities and risks that the world faces as it emerges from the pandemic.”⁵³⁰ The Panel will work together to “explore potential areas of engagement ranging from pandemic recovery to education and security to working with partners in Africa on digital transformation, among others.”⁵³¹

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis.⁵³² The recommendation outlined a strategic action plan to transition from emergency economic measures to new measures to support a “job-rich recovery.”⁵³³ The Commission provided guidance to Member States on labour market policies, which includes three components: hiring incentives and entrepreneurial support, upskilling and reskilling opportunities and enhanced support by employment services, especially for youth and sectors most impacted.⁵³⁴ The Commission calls on Member States “to make full use of support available at EU level.”⁵³⁵

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission affirmed their commitment to ensuring gender equality will “be at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery.”⁵³⁶ The Commission announced that

⁵²⁸ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁵²⁹ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁵³⁰ Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en

⁵³¹ Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en

⁵³² Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³³ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³⁴ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³⁵ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³⁶ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

later in 2021, they will “present a new proposal to combat gender-based violence in the EU.”⁵³⁷ Furthermore, the Commission published its 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, which reaffirmed the European Union’s commitment to its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and its new Gender Action Plan for 2021-2025.⁵³⁸

On 18 March 2021, the European Commission announced the launch of the European Innovation Council. The Council will have a budget of EUR10 billion for 2021-2027 to “develop and expand breakthrough innovations.”⁵³⁹ Executive Vice President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager stated that the European Union now has a fund “to support small and medium sized companies that do breakthrough innovation, access equity and scale up innovative start-ups.”⁵⁴⁰ This is a way to convert research results into business and to develop visions for technological and innovation breakthroughs.”⁵⁴¹ European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said the Council is “Europe’s most ambitious initiative to support the breakthroughs Europe needs to recover from the economic crisis and accelerate the transition to a green and digital economy.”⁵⁴²

On 25 March 2021, the European Commission adopted the first annual work program of Erasmus+ 2021-2027, which provides EUR26.2 billion to “fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million Europeans of all ages and backgrounds,” will “seek to be even more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions,” and will “support the resilience of education and training systems in the face of the pandemic.”⁵⁴³ The new program “provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport.”⁵⁴⁴

On 9 April 2021, the European Commission opened its first European Innovation Council (EIC) calls worth over EUR1 billion in funding.⁵⁴⁵ The program includes EIC Accelerator funding which “aims to help scale up start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses that have the potential to

⁵³⁷ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁵³⁸ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁵³⁹ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴⁰ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴¹ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴² Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴³ Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326

⁵⁴⁴ Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326

⁵⁴⁵ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

achieve high impact,” with EUR495 million “earmarked for innovations that support the European Green Deal as well as digital and health technologies.”⁵⁴⁶ Through the EIC Pathfinder, researchers can apply for “research and innovation grants” which range from EUR3 to 4 million.⁵⁴⁷

On 15 April 2021, the European Commission launched its first call for proposals under its new European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027, which “supports young people wishing to engage in volunteering activities in a variety of areas.”⁵⁴⁸ The program has a dedicated budget of over EUR1 billion for 2021-2027 and will offer “opportunities to some 275,000 young people to help address societal and humanitarian challenges through volunteering or by setting up their own solidarity projects.”⁵⁴⁹ One of the main political priorities the European Solidarity Corps supports is supporting “the digital transition through projects and activities that boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and develop understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.”⁵⁵⁰

On 28 April 2021, the European Union announced that the European Investment Fund and European Institute of Innovation of Technology (EIT) Digital will be teaming up to support the European Union’s digital transformation by offering “deferred payment schemes for students and learners participating in its courses, thus improving access to education.”⁵⁵¹ The new scheme is expected to benefit around 500 future EIT Digital students.⁵⁵² Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas said “The digital transition profoundly changes the way we live, study and work. We must equip people with the right skills to master this transition and make the most out of the opportunities the future brings.”⁵⁵³

The European Union has taken strong action in all four areas of promoting increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for SMEs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through developing plans to support SMEs and create opportunities for youth and skills development, particularly in the areas of post-pandemic recovery, digital transformation, and tackling environmental challenges, plans to support gender equality and promote the role of women in the economy, and fostering inclusive growth in these areas internationally, the EU has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Derek Thiele

⁵⁴⁶ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁵⁴⁷ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁵⁴⁸ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴⁹ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁵⁰ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁵¹ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁵⁵² European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁵⁵³ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001