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# 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Report

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**Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.**

**We encourage readers to send comments to**

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## 15. Health: Information Sharing

“We reaffirm our commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].”

*G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
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		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

### Background

The G20 members have remained committed to maintaining and improving citizens’ health, however, the focus of health commitments has been centred around general improvement of health systems, universal health care and crisis response (such as antimicrobial resistance). Information sharing is a critical aspect of cooperation in ameliorating global health systems and tackling advancement of overall health and response to global health issues such as antimicrobial resistance and COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 require countries to detect and assess acute public health events, report such events to WHO and respond to any risks and emergencies.<sup>4773</sup>

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members committed to support others in implementing International Health Regulations to “prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases,” implying commitment to sharing of data and information pertaining to such infectious diseases.<sup>4774</sup> Health information sharing was first explicitly mentioned at the 2017 Berlin Summit as a critical component of Global Health Crises Management. Commitment to enhancing the transparency of sharing key information was made to facilitate timely communication and elicit faster

<sup>4773</sup> International Health Regulations, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2005. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations>

<sup>4774</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

responses from the international community. G20 members recognized that information sharing efforts, especially information pertaining to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC), may be thwarted if members would face consequences such as trade/travel bans. Thus, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the reporting obligations outlined in the IHR pertaining to PHEIC and following applicable WHO recommended measures.

From 19-20 May 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time in Berlin, Germany under the theme of “Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow.” In their Berlin Declaration, the health ministers stated that “enhancing transparency facilitates the sharing of key information that can prompt faster responses by the international community. Early communication of disease outbreaks, including those which may constitute a PHEIC, may be discouraged if countries are led to believe they will face negative consequences due to unjustified travel and trade restrictions by other countries. To limit the negative impact on economies and societies and to foster early communication, we reiterate our commitment to adhering to reporting obligations under the IHR concerning a potential or declared Public Health Emergency of International Concern and underline the importance of following relevant WHO recommendations, including those on travel and trade.”<sup>4775</sup> At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized that implementing and complying with IHR is crucial in preventing and responding to the polio crisis.<sup>4776</sup> Furthermore, G20 members also committed to remaining prepared for research and development (R&D) through globally coordinated models directed by WHO R&D blueprint.<sup>4777</sup>

On 4 March 2018, G20 health ministers met in Mar del Plata, Argentina where they stated that “the G20 ministers would like to highlight the work done by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and WHO on this subject regarding data collection and recommendations for best practices and encourage sharing of this information” in reference to people-centered care and increasing the quality of health care delivery systems.<sup>4778</sup> At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to “continue to strengthen core capacities required by International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies, while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard.”<sup>4779</sup>

Prior to the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 health ministers met to discuss universal health coverage, which “builds an essential basis for sustainable and inclusive growth.”<sup>4780</sup> At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced information sharing pertaining to plant and animal health issues to facilitate response to emerging and existing issues. G20 members also committed to supporting countries experiencing the Ebola epidemic through financial and technical assistance.<sup>4781</sup>

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<sup>4775</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>4776</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>4777</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>4778</sup> Declaration: G20 Meeting of Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Mar del Plata) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-10-04-health.html>

<sup>4779</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4780</sup> G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

<sup>4781</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

Prior to the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 finance and health ministers held a joint meeting. They committed to “full compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), to improve their implementation and to the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information including on health measures and the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical interventions.”<sup>4782</sup> At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members took note of gaps in preparedness for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and reaffirmed their commitment to continue sharing of information to advance “global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.”<sup>4783</sup> G20 members specifically commended the proposal towards establishing access to various pandemic tools, including data.<sup>4784</sup>

The IHR “were adopted by the Health Assembly in 1969, having been preceded by the International Sanitary Regulations adopted by the Fourth World Health Assembly in 1951. The 1969 Regulations, which initially covered six “quarantinable diseases” were amended in 1973 and 1981, primarily to reduce the number of covered diseases from six to three (yellow fever, plague and cholera) and to mark the global eradication of smallpox.” The IHR summarise the purpose and scope as: “to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.” It contains “a range of innovations, including: (a) a scope not limited to any specific disease or manner of transmission, but covering “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans”; (b) State Party obligations to develop certain minimum core public health capacities; (c) obligations on States Parties to notify WHO of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern according to defined criteria; (d) provisions authorizing WHO to take into consideration unofficial reports of public health events and to obtain verification from States Parties concerning such events; (e) procedures for the determination by the Director-General of a “public health emergency of international concern” and issuance of corresponding temporary recommendations, after taking into account the views of an Emergency Committee; (f) protection of the human rights of persons and travellers; and (g) the establishment of National IHR Focal Points and WHO IHR Contact Points for urgent communications between States Parties and WHO.”<sup>4785</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G20 commitment is “reaffirm(ing) our commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].” In this commitment, there are two targets: 1) the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and 2) the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information.

To “reaffirm” is understood as “affirm again” whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.<sup>4786</sup> “Continued” is understood as “lasting or enduring without interruption.”<sup>4787</sup> “Continued sharing” will be understood as disseminating all relevant data and information. Thus, a single act of sharing data or information will not count as compliance.

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<sup>4782</sup> Joint Statement: G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-health-0917.html>

<sup>4783</sup> Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

<sup>4784</sup> Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

<sup>4785</sup> International Health Regulations (2005) Third Edition, World Health Organization (Riyadh) 1 January 2016. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241580496>

<sup>4786</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf)

<sup>4787</sup> Continued, dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2020.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/continued?s=t>

Furthermore, a G20 member can share data or information with another country or with an international organization, such as the WHO.

“Timely” is understood as “coming early or at the right time.”<sup>4788</sup> Data that is “timely” should be “recorded as quickly as possible and used within a reasonable time period.”<sup>4789</sup> The WHO recognizes that the “rapid data sharing is critical during an unfolding health emergency. The ethically appropriate and rapid sharing of data can help identify etiological factors, predict disease spread, evaluate existing and novel treatments, symptomatic care and preventive measures, and guide the deployment of limited resources.”<sup>4790</sup>

“Transparency” is understood as “governments making information publicly available so that their actions and decisions are visible and understandable to the public and so they can, therefore, be held to account.”<sup>4791</sup> Examples of compliance include sharing data pertaining to COVID-19 infections and mortality rates through an open access government website.

To achieve compliance, the standardized data and information shared must be relevant to “advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.”<sup>4792</sup> This is generally understood as standardized data and information relevant to COVID-19 pandemic, however, compliance can be achieved if the standardized data and information shared is pertaining to any global pandemic.

### **Part One: the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data**

“Standardized data” is understood as data that is in “a common format that allows for collaborative research, large scale analytics, and sharing of sophisticated tools and methodologies,” according to Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI).<sup>4793</sup> Healthcare data can be found in various formats and the same term may be represented in different contexts. To comply, members should share data that is consistent longitudinally and comparable with other datasets and variables should be precisely defined.<sup>4794</sup> Examples of standardized data in the context of COVID-19 pandemic could include variables such as per cent 7-day average positivity and infection fatality ratio.

### **Part Two: the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information**

“Information” is understood as “knowledge gained through study, communication, research, instruction, etc.”<sup>4795</sup> This includes any knowledge that can have a material impact on a members’ understanding, preparedness, prevention, detection and response to public health issues. Furthermore, “information” will also include analysis generated from standardized data or any other non-standardized data. Examples of information can include understanding of adverse side-effects, effective policy approaches, and best practices. These examples are not meant to be exhaustive.

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<sup>4788</sup> Timely, Merriam Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/timely>

<sup>4789</sup> Quality Health Data, Unite for Sight (New Haven) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.uniteforsight.org/global-health-university/quality-data>

<sup>4790</sup> Guidance for Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2016. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250580/9789241549837-eng.pdf>

<sup>4791</sup> Increasing Transparency and Accountability in National Pharmaceutical Systems, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/11/17-206516/en/>

<sup>4792</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Riyadh Summit, G20 (Riyadh) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

<sup>4793</sup> Data Standardization, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.ohdsi.org/data-standardization/>

<sup>4794</sup> Data Standardization, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.ohdsi.org/data-standardization/>

<sup>4795</sup> Information, dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/information>

To achieve full compliance (+1), a G20 member must share standardized data and information in a timely and transparent manner, that is numerous times over the course of the compliance period and without delay from the time the information is received by the G20 member. If a G20 member does share data and/or information but it is not timely, transparent or standardized, it would only be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member only shares data and/or information once or twice over the compliance period, it would still be considered partial compliance. Furthermore, if a G20 member only takes action to share either timely, transparent and standardized data or information, it would only be considered partial compliance. Non-compliance (-1) will be considered if a G20 member does not continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information, including if members have shared data/information on a single occasion. This commitment requires concrete actions for compliance. If a G20 member reaffirms the commitment or makes verbal statements on sharing data and/or information, it would not count towards compliance.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member does NOT continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information.
0	G20 member continually shares timely, transparent and standardized data in a timely and transparent manner OR continually shares timely, transparent and standardized information.
+1	G20 member continually shares timely, transparent and standardized data in a timely and transparent manner AND continually shares timely, transparent and standardized information.

*Compliance Director: Sonja Dobson  
Lead Analyst: Ingrid Wong*

**Argentina: 0**

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 30 November 2020, President Alberto Fernandez and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro exchanged experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges it posed to their respective countries.<sup>4796</sup>

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the UK organized a virtual seminar discussing vaccine distribution strategy and combating misinformation regarding COVID-19.<sup>4797</sup> It was the third in a series of joint events between Argentina and the UK within the Latin American and Caribbean region. The CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, spoke at the seminar to share information on the progress of COVAX, the global initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>4798</sup>

On 7 January 2021, health officials from Mexico visited Argentina to discuss Argentina’s experience with the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, as to help Mexico in its consideration of acquiring the

<sup>4796</sup> Videoconference between presidents Jair Bolsonaro and Alberto Fernández (Brasilia) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/videoconference-between-presidents-jair-bolsonaro-and-alberto-fernandez>

<sup>4797</sup> Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

<sup>4798</sup> Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

vaccine.<sup>4799</sup> Argentina and Mexico exchanged information about “distinct vaccine initiatives” and “the strategic agreement signed between both countries to produce and distribute the (vaccine) developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, which is produced in Argentina.”<sup>4800</sup>

On 5 February 2021, President Fernandez and French President Emmanuel Macron met virtually where they discussed the epidemiological situations in both of their countries at length.<sup>4801</sup> The discussion included the vaccination process, the need to increase production of vaccines and how to ensure a more equitable production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>4802</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Sola held a videoconference with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad Othman Jerandi. They discussed opportunities to increase exchanges and shared experiences with combating the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4803</sup>

On 16 March 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizotti met with the United Kingdom’s Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19 Nadhim Zahawi to discuss developing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>4804</sup> The ministers discussed postponing second doses to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and prioritizing by age, risk and activity.<sup>4805</sup>

On 31 March 2021, Foreign Minister Guillermo Justo Chaves met with the EU Ambassador to Argentina Audo Maio-Coliche. They discussed enhancing cooperation and multilateralism in the view of a more equitable supply of vaccines among countries, “as well as for the sharing of experiences and knowledge regarding COVID-19.” They also agreed that the vaccine should be a universal public good for all the access, manufacture and distribute at will.<sup>4806</sup>

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<sup>4799</sup> Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (New York City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine> idUKKBN29C2X9

<sup>4800</sup> Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (New York City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine> idUKKBN29C2X9

<sup>4801</sup> The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

<sup>4802</sup> The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

<sup>4803</sup> Videoconference between foreign minister Felipe Solá and his Tunisian counterpart, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/videoconference-between-foreign-minister-felipe-sola-and-his-tunisian-counterpart>

<sup>4804</sup> Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>  
<sup>4805</sup> Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>  
<sup>4806</sup> Argentina and EU agree on need for fairer and more equitable global distribution of vaccines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-eu-agree-need-fairer-and-more-equitable-global-distribution>

On 19 April 2021, Mexico announced that cooperation with Argentina has led to the two countries to coproduce AstraZeneca vaccinations as well as create a network of vaccine projects throughout Central and South America.<sup>4807</sup>

On 29 April 2021, Minister Vizotti and Presidential Advisor Cecilia Nicolini met with the Chargé d’Affaires of the United States Embassy MaryKay Carlsson to discuss joint cooperation on scientific and technological development to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4808</sup> They reviewed actions already taken by the Argentine government to respond to the pandemic.<sup>4809</sup>

In meeting with representatives of the governments of other G20 members to discuss health strategies and outcomes and to cooperate on formulating new ones, Argentina has complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized public health information, although it has not complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized public health data.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dre Daley*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.<sup>4810</sup>

On 4 December 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Women of Australia Marise Payne co-chaired the third Malaysia-Australia Annual Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. The ministers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to further cooperation to combat the pandemic. Furthermore, they “underlined the importance of sharing the benefits of scientific and medical research and development on mutually agreed terms, strengthening public healthcare systems, and improving readiness for future global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and recognised the importance of the World Health Assembly’s independent evaluation into the COVID-19 response in this regard.”<sup>4811</sup>

On 15 December 2020, Australia met with Indonesia and Timor-Leste to discuss strengthening their trilateral cooperation. The first item on the agenda was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the respective countries and region, as well as the challenges faced due to the pandemic. “Ministers discussed the importance of working together in support of the health security, economic

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<sup>4807</sup>Mexico calls on the UN Security Council to guarantee access to vaccines against COVID-19, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-llama-al-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu-a-garantizar-el-acceso-a-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

<sup>4808</sup> Vizzotti and Nicolini met with the Charge d’Affaires of the United States Embassy, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-estados>

<sup>4809</sup> Vizzotti and Nicolini met with the Charge d’Affaires of the United States Embassy, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-estados>

<sup>4810</sup> MIKTA Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321395](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395)

<sup>4811</sup> 3rd Australia-Malaysia Annual Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/3rd-australia-malaysia-annual-foreign-ministers-meeting>

recovery and stability of the region, including to ensure fair and equitable distribution of safe and affordable vaccines, and supporting vulnerable communities. Ministers also discussed ways to combat the rise of threats in cyber space including disinformation and misinformation in the context of the pandemic.”<sup>4812</sup>

On 18 December 2020, Australia participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”<sup>4813</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Australia attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Japan, India and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.<sup>4814</sup>

On 30 March 2021, Australia issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) study on COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”<sup>4815</sup>

Australia has partially complied with its commitment by exchanging experiences and information with other countries, but has failed to taken significant action to share timely, transparent and standardized data with the rest of the world.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Arun Eswaran*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, Brazil attended the 2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum through pre-recorded videos. Topics of the forum included how Korea and

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<sup>4812</sup> Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-indonesia-timor-leste-trilateral-foreign-ministers-meeting>

<sup>4813</sup> Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321466](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466)

<sup>4814</sup> Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

<sup>4815</sup> WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

Latin America would officialise their cooperation in health, medical, and disease control and prevention, and how they would ensure the fair distribution of treatments and vaccines.<sup>4816</sup>

On 30 November 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez exchanged experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges it posed to their respective countries.<sup>4817</sup>

On 25 February 2021, Brazil met with Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay and Peru for the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of the Forum for the Progress and Development of South America. The participants discussed the importance of using the IHR to strengthen health response and collaborate with other multilateral organizations to ensure universal, equitable, and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines, demonstrating the sharing of best practices. They declared to “Exchange best practices in communication and access to information that is timely, correct and easy to understand on public health issues and health emergencies and combat misinformation and misinformation, especially about vaccination against COVID-19.” And “To request the countries of South America to resort to the application of the International Health Regulations, when the management of such an event deserves, through timely communication and exchange of information, and with the support of the Pan American Health Organization.”<sup>4818</sup>

On 7 March 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ernesto Araujo and Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabi Ashkenazi held a dialogue to discuss pressing issues, including potential recovery paths from the COVID-19 pandemic through a public health perspective. They agreed to “support engagements and foster partnerships between research institutes in Israel and Brazil, in the public and private sectors, for the development of vaccines, treatments and medicines for COVID-19.”<sup>4819</sup>

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to regularly and continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information. While Brazil has shared experiences in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic with other countries bilaterally and multilaterally, Brazil has not shared data.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Mehr Mukhtar*

### **Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 29 March 2021, Canada and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) donated computer equipment to Belize. The equipment will support Belize’s ability “the implement health measures such as planning, and surveillance and risk monitoring, the ability to efficiently prevent, detect, and

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<sup>4816</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321380](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380)

<sup>4817</sup> Videoconference between presidents Jair Bolsonaro and Alberto Fernández (Brasilia) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/videoconference-between-presidents-jair-bolsonaro-and-alberto-fernandez>

<sup>4818</sup> Declaration of the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of PROSUR [Portuguese and Spanish] (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/declaration-of-the-5-extraordinary-meeting-of-presidents-of-prosur-portuguese-and-spanish>

<sup>4819</sup> Joint Brazil-Israel Declaration – Jerusalem, March 7, 2021 (Brasilia) 7 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/joint-brazil-israel-declaration-2013-jerusalem-march-7-2021>

respond to health risks and emergencies.” The data and information gathered with this equipment will then be able to be shared with the rest of the world.<sup>4820</sup>

On 30 March 2021, Canada issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Australia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s study on the source of COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”<sup>4821</sup>

On 7 May 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng released a statement on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. Minister Ng stated “The Government of Canada remains committed to working with all international partners to reach a rapid and just end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government firmly believes in the importance of protecting [intellectual property], and recognizes the integral role that industry has played in innovating to develop and deliver life-saving COVID-19 vaccines. Canada is ready to discuss proposals on a waiver for intellectual property protection, in particular for COVID-19 vaccines, under the WTO Agreement on [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights].”<sup>4822</sup>

On 11 May 2021, Canada’s COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) and the Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG) announced ongoing and new studies on the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines authorized in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Research Immunization Network, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the CITF are working together through the VSRG to find and support the necessary studies to contribute to the data and information on vaccine efficacy.<sup>4823</sup>

Canada has partially complied with its commitment by supporting the sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information, and investing in the gathering of data and information to be shared. However, Canada has not taken concrete actions to share data and information.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Shereen Marouf Mourad*

### **China: –1**

China has failed to comply with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

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<sup>4820</sup> PAHO/WHO Belize and the Government of Canada donate computer equipment to strengthen public health surveillance at Belize’s land borders, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/29-3-2021-pahowho-belize-and-government-canada-donate-computer-equipment-strengthen-public>

<sup>4821</sup> WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

<sup>4822</sup> Statement by Minister Ng on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/statement-by-minister-ng-on-intellectual-property-waiver-for-covid-19-vaccines.html>

<sup>4823</sup> Studies being launched to support vaccine effectiveness and safety monitoring across Canada, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (Ottawa) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca/studies-being-launched-to-support-vaccine-effectiveness-and-safety-monitoring-across-canada/>

On 2 January 2021, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed China's efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Yi underlined how China "organized over 100 video meetings with experts from other countries, opened an online knowledge center to share China's experiences with all countries, and published eight updated versions of diagnosis and therapeutic solutions and seven updated versions of prevention and control protocols."<sup>4824</sup>

On 14 February 2021, one of the members of the World Health Organization (WHO) team investigating the source of SARS-CoV-1-19 stated that China refused to hand over key data on early cases and only provided a summary. Specifically, the WHO requested the raw data on the 174 identified cases of the virus from Wuhan in December 2019.<sup>4825</sup>

As of March 2021, mass vaccinations are being administered to the population in China. However, due to the withheld trial data, none of the vaccines developed in China have received full regulatory approval from the WHO and only one out of more than a dozen Chinese vaccines has received an emergency approval from the WHO.<sup>4826</sup>

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine co-hosted the Forum on Traditional Chinese Medicine and International Cooperation to Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic, under the theme of Deepen Traditional Chinese Medicine Exchanges and Cooperation, Build a Global Community of Health for All. Officials and leaders from 28 countries and regions, as well as the WHO, attended the forum to exchange views and share information on tackling the pandemic, including through traditional Chinese medicine.<sup>4827</sup>

On 31 March 2021, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that "Data was withheld from World Health Organization investigators who travelled to China to research the origins of the coronavirus epidemic."<sup>4828</sup>

On 27 April 2021, China hosted a meeting with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to discuss and exchange information on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the concerted and productive efforts made by their countries since the start of COVID-19 to combat the virus and promote economic recovery in the spirit of overcoming challenges through cooperation and mutual assistance."<sup>4829</sup>

China has not complied with its commitment by withholding key information and data on the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic within its borders.

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<sup>4824</sup> Chinese FM pledges continuous efforts in global COVID-19 response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1844082.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1844082.shtml)

<sup>4825</sup> Covid-19 pandemic: China 'refused to give data' to WHO team, BBC News (London) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56054468>

<sup>4826</sup> China's Dangerous Game Around Covid-19 Vaccines, Human Rights Watch (New York) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/04/chinas-dangerous-game-around-covid-19-vaccines>

<sup>4827</sup> Forum on Traditional Chinese Medicine and International Cooperation to Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic Wraps up, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1866235.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1866235.shtml)

<sup>4828</sup> Data withheld from WHO team probing COVID-19 origins in China – Tedros, Reuters (Geneva) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/who-says-covid-19-origins-study-not-extensive-enough-cites-data-access-2021-03-30/>

<sup>4829</sup> Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Joint Response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1872149.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1872149.shtml)

Thus, China receives a score of  $-1$ .

*Analyst: Arina Mnatsakanyan*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 7 December 2020, representatives of the French government virtually convened with World Health Organization officials to further develop their existing partnership and cooperation. The meeting largely focused on France's continued contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator's progress, which the government of France helped fund earlier in 2020.<sup>4830</sup> Other topics discussed were the One Health approach, a concerted effort to inform and prepare countries on a global scale about addressing zoonotic diseases.<sup>4831</sup>

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.<sup>4832</sup> The countries pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.<sup>4833</sup> The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.<sup>4834</sup>

On 1 January 2021, the French government created a new autonomous research agency, National Aids Research Agency (ANRS), merging two previously existing research institutions: the ANRS and REACTing.<sup>4835</sup> This research agency studies infectious and emerging diseases in an effort to better inform the global response to such health-related challenges. France's Minister of Solidarity and Health, Olivier Véran, stated that the ANRS initiative would allow for a link with "the countries of the South" and therefore enable information sharing between nations.<sup>4836</sup>

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<sup>4830</sup> Strengthening vital partnership between WHO and France, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-01-2021-strengthening-vital-partnership-between-who-and-france>

<sup>4831</sup> FAO, OIE, and WHO launch a guide for countries on taking a One Health approach to addressing zoonotic diseases, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/11-03-2019-fao-oie-and-who-launch-a-guide-for-countries-on-taking-a-one-health-approach-to-addressing-zoonotic-diseases>

<sup>4832</sup> Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

<sup>4833</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

<sup>4834</sup> La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

<sup>4835</sup> L'ANRS | Maladies infectieuses émergentes : Sous titre la nouvelle agence de recherche héritière de l'expérience de l'ANRS et de REACTing, Maladies infectieuses émergentes (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.anrs.fr/fr/presse/communiqués-de-presse/775/la-nouvelle-agence-anrs-maladies-infectieuses-emergentes>

<sup>4836</sup> Création d'une nouvelle agence de recherche sur les maladies infectieuses et émergentes, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/creation-nouvelle-agence-de-recherche-maladies-infectieuses-et-emergentes>

On 5 February 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron and Argentinean President Alberto Fernandez met virtually to discuss the epidemiological situations in both their countries at length.<sup>4837</sup> The discussion included the vaccination process, the need to increase production of vaccines and how to ensure a more equitable production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>4838</sup>

On 30 March 2021, President Macron joined other global leaders calling for an international pandemic treaty.<sup>4839</sup> Such a treaty would improve both national and global health systems in order to facilitate cooperation between nations, in the event of another global health crisis. The main goal is to foster pandemic preparedness and response.<sup>4840</sup> France formally backed the idea of a treaty to ensure universal and equitable access to health-related information and data for future pandemics.<sup>4841</sup>

On 6 April 2021, the French Development Agency in collaboration with Expertise France, another public agency, and the Governance Lab at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering announced the seven projects selected to receive the #Data4COVID19 Africa Challenge.<sup>4842</sup> This project, in large part funded and driven by French public agencies, sought to promote “new collaborations around non-traditional, non-statistical datasets,”<sup>4843</sup> informed by the experiences of African nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 6 May 2021, France announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”<sup>4844</sup>

France has taken steps to promote the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information and data by continuing their cooperative efforts with global organizations such as the WHO and with other European countries, as well as by creating a new research institute to complete the gaps in infectious disease research globally.

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<sup>4837</sup> The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

<sup>4838</sup> The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

<sup>4839</sup> Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-global-leaders-unite-in-urgent-call-for-international-pandemic-treaty>

<sup>4840</sup> Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-global-leaders-unite-in-urgent-call-for-international-pandemic-treaty>

<sup>4841</sup> Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

<sup>4842</sup> The GovLab, AFD, and Expertise France fund COVID-19 data projects in Africa, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php)

<sup>4843</sup> The GovLab, AFD, and Expertise France fund COVID-19 data projects in Africa, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php)

<sup>4844</sup> Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ana Djordjijevic*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.<sup>4845</sup> The countries pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.<sup>4846</sup> The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.<sup>4847</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines, the Paul Ehrlich Institute, published a report on the AstraZeneca vaccine. The report stated that the AstraZeneca vaccine is high effective and safe, providing 70 per cent efficacy against the COVID-19 virus.<sup>4848</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel and China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang met for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sino-German government consultations. They discussed several topics, including the respective experiences with the COVID-19 crisis. Chancellor Merkel stated, "We can only contain this pandemic if we work together – China and Germany can play an important part" and "advocated an open and transparent discussion about vaccine production and called for reciprocal recognition of vaccines – at least at the World Health Organization – to help us win the battle against the virus."<sup>4849</sup>

On 30 April 2021, Germany and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donated computer equipment to Belize to support its ability to conduct data entry where internet may not be available, to improve Belize's capacity for monitoring and evaluation. This will allow Belize "to gather and record individual data for reporting and documenting any adverse events following immunizations and respond timely," which then can be shared with other countries and the PAHO/WHO.<sup>4850</sup>

On 5 May 2021, Germany announced that in partnership with the WHO, it would "establish a new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, data, surveillance and analytics innovation" based

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<sup>4845</sup> Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

<sup>4846</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

<sup>4847</sup> La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

<sup>4848</sup> AstraZeneca vaccine – highly effective and safe, The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/efficacy-astrazeneca-1860430>

<sup>4849</sup> Continuing dialogue and expanding cooperation, The Federal Government (Berlin) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/germany-china-1898824>

<sup>4850</sup> PAHO/WHO and the Federal Republic of Germany donate laptops, MiFi devices, and vaccination cards to support Belize's Ministry of Health and Wellness' COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/30-4-2021-pahowho-and-federal-republic-germany-donate-laptops-mifi-devices-and-vaccination>

in Berlin. The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence “will also promote greater access to data and information.”<sup>4851</sup>

On 6 May 2021, Germany announced it opposed the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property protections on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.” However, Germany, which hosts BioNTech, and other countries that oppose the notion state that the removal of intellectual property rights will not solve the problem of inequitable access to vaccines.<sup>4852</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment by taking steps to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information with other European countries and China, as well as publishing a report on the AstraZeneca vaccine. Furthermore, Germany has taken actions to support the sharing of data and information for Belize and in the future through its partnership with the WHO to build the Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ghazaleh Darini*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 18 February 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented at a workshop hosted by India on COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Modi discussed the “creation of COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to meet the immediate costs of fighting the pandemic and sharing of resources – medicines, personal protective equipment, and testing equipment”; “noted sharing of experiences and learning from each other’s best practices in testing, infection control and medical waste management”; “suggested that we can create a regional platform for collating, compiling and studying data about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines among our populations”; and asked “can we similarly create a regional network for promoting technology-assisted epidemiology, for preventing future pandemics?”<sup>4853</sup>

On 19 February 2021, India attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Japan, Australia and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.<sup>4854</sup>

On 22 March 2021, India supplied over 60.4 million vaccine doses to 76 countries through World Health Organization-GAVI’s COVAX alliance. The goal is to share information about vaccine production in India and global distribution of these vaccines.<sup>4855</sup>

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<sup>4851</sup> WHO, Germany launch new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-who-germany-launch-new-global-hub-for-pandemic-and-epidemic-intelligence>

<sup>4852</sup> Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

<sup>4853</sup> Prime Minister addresses a workshop on "Covid-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward" with 10 Neighbouring Countries, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. [https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33542/Prime\\_Minister\\_addresses\\_a\\_workshop\\_on\\_Covid19\\_Management\\_Experience\\_Good\\_Practices\\_and\\_Way\\_Forward\\_with\\_10\\_Neighbouring\\_Countries](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33542/Prime_Minister_addresses_a_workshop_on_Covid19_Management_Experience_Good_Practices_and_Way_Forward_with_10_Neighbouring_Countries)

<sup>4854</sup> Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

On 6 April 2021, Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform. This new digital platform will enhance the current disease surveillance programme to allow for real-time tracking and track an additional 15 diseases. This initiative will improve disease surveillance and the distribution of disease data.<sup>4856</sup>

On 7 May 2021, India met with Colombia for the 9th Foreign Office Consultations. The “two sides also discussed respective national strategies to counter and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible areas of cooperation in exchange of best practices, management strategies and medical research.”<sup>4857</sup>

On 8 May 2021, India attended the India-EU Leaders’ Meeting. India and the 27 member states discussed “forging closer cooperation on combating the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery,” among other topics.<sup>4858</sup>

India has fully complied with its commitment by sharing data and information at a workshop with regional countries, the Quadrilateral, Colombia and the EU. Furthermore, India shared information and data on vaccine production and distribution, as well as launching an Integrated Health Information Platform that will allow for better data and information exchange in the future.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Arun Eswaran*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.<sup>4859</sup>

On 15 December 2020, Indonesia met with Australia and Timor-Leste to discuss strengthening their trilateral cooperation. The first item on the agenda was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the respective countries and region, as well as the challenges faced due to the pandemic. “Ministers discussed the importance of working together in support of the health security, economic recovery and stability of the region, including to ensure fair and equitable distribution of safe and affordable vaccines, and supporting vulnerable communities. Ministers also discussed ways to

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<sup>4855</sup> India’s vaccine diplomacy: made in India, shared with the world, Development Policy Centre (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/indias-vaccine-diplomacy-made-in-india-shared-with-the-world-20210329/>

<sup>4856</sup> Union Health Ministry launches Integrated Health Information Platform to track 33 diseases, The New Indian Express (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/06/union-health-minister-harsh-varadhan-launches-integrated-health-information-platform-2286270.html>

<sup>4857</sup> 9th India-Colombia Foreign Office Consultations, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. [https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33852/9th\\_IndiaColombia\\_Foreign\\_Office\\_Consultations](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33852/9th_IndiaColombia_Foreign_Office_Consultations)

<sup>4858</sup> India-EU Leader’s Meeting, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. [https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33856/IndiaEU\\_Leaders\\_Meeting](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33856/IndiaEU_Leaders_Meeting)

<sup>4859</sup> MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321395](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395)

combat the rise of threats in cyber space including disinformation and misinformation in the context of the pandemic.”<sup>4860</sup>

On 19 January 2021, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin attended a virtual roundtable to discuss the development of value-based healthcare. The discussion, hosted by the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia and the World Economic Forum, focused on the construction and transformation of sustainable health development after the COVID-19 pandemic through value-based healthcare. Value-based healthcare focuses on patient’s health outcome along with the digitalization of health services. The minister emphasized the needed development in information technology.<sup>4861</sup>

On 17 March 2021, Director for Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Dr. Siti Nadia Tarmizi addressed the concerns regarding the COVID-19 AstraZeneca and Sinovac vaccines. Dr. Tarmizi also clarified the worries regarding the connection of blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine where she states that on 11 March 2021, the World Health Organization along with the European Medicine Association clarifying that there is no link to blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine.<sup>4862</sup>

Indonesia has shared timely, transparent, and standardized information in accordance with international health regulations but has not shared timely, transparent, and standardized data. They have discussed information regarding the safety and collection of the vaccines as well as participated in roundtables to further technological innovations in health but have not provided detailed data. Indonesia has taken actions to promote health information and sharing to address one of two key areas.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Shereen Marouf Mourad*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 1 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio participated in the 23rd European Union-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ministerial Meeting, where he shared that Italy’s response to the pandemic was based on the concepts of people, planet, and prosperity. The Minister emphasized that these concepts would bring prosperity through a better distribution of opportunities.<sup>4863</sup>

On 7 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Del Re attended the 12th call for the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, where she shared how Italy was confronting the second wave of the coronavirus by prioritizing citizens’ health while maintaining the national economy, and also by taking precautions. The Vice Minister also

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<sup>4860</sup> Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-indonesia-timor-leste-trilateral-foreign-ministers-meeting>

<sup>4861</sup> Indonesia Supports Value-Based Healthcare in Health Development, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21012100001/indonesia-dukung-konsep-value-based-healthcare-untuk-atasi-masalah-kesehatan-di-tanah-air.html>

<sup>4862</sup> Govt Clarifies Issues Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/feature/2609/govt-clarifies-issues-regarding-covid-19-vaccines>

<sup>4863</sup> Minister Di Maio participates in the 23rd EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in virtual format, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-23-riunione-ministeriale-ue-asean-in-formato-virtuale.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-23-riunione-ministeriale-ue-asean-in-formato-virtuale.html)

emphasized the importance of a coordinated multilateral, global response to mitigate pandemic impacts.<sup>4864</sup>

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.<sup>4865</sup> They pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.<sup>4866</sup> The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.<sup>4867</sup>

On 16 December 2020, Minister Di Maio attended the European Union-Latin American and Caribbean Countries dialogue and shared that a commitment to a multilateral response and promotion of health as a public asset, like Italy has been advocating for, will be key to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4868</sup>

On 8 February 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Sereni announced at the T20 Inception Conference that action towards COVID-19 response should be based on the three pillars of: people, planet, and prosperity. This affirmed Italy's practices towards their response to the pandemic on a national and international level, recognizing the need for equity and sustainability.<sup>4869</sup>

On 25 and 26 March 2021, Italy hosted a two-day group health meeting among G20 members. This meeting was to affirm coordination among G20 members and to share data and ideas. A professor at the Sapienza University of Rome, Moreno Di Marco, noted correlation between the pandemic and environmental health. Additionally, there were presentations held regarding preparedness and antimicrobial resistance.<sup>4870</sup> The meeting detailed using technology to gauge risk and spread of zoonotic diseases, and potentially applying a vaccination campaign on animals to prevent zoonosis.<sup>4871</sup>

On 13 April 2021, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness discussed COVID-19 vaccine development. Both officials

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<sup>4864</sup> Del Re at the ministerial meeting on emergency response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/del-re-a-riunione-ministeriale-su-risposta-a-emergenza-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/del-re-a-riunione-ministeriale-su-risposta-a-emergenza-covid-19.html)

<sup>4865</sup> Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

<sup>4866</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

<sup>4867</sup> La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

<sup>4868</sup> Minister Di Maio at the Informal EU – Latin American and Caribbean Countries Ministers Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-alla-ministeriale-informale-ue-paesi-dell-america-latina-e-caraibi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-alla-ministeriale-informale-ue-paesi-dell-america-latina-e-caraibi.html)

<sup>4869</sup> G20; Vice Minister Sereni, build a future focussing on people, the planet, and prosperity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/g20-sereni-costruire-un-futuro-con-al-centro-persone-pianeta-e-prosperita.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/g20-sereni-costruire-un-futuro-con-al-centro-persone-pianeta-e-prosperita.html)

<sup>4870</sup> Italian Presidency of the G20, second meeting of the Health Working Group, Ministry of Health (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_2\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=nas&id=2196](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_2_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=nas&id=2196)

<sup>4871</sup> Second Health Working Group Meeting, March 25-26, 2021, CONCEPT NOTE, Group of Twenty Italy (Rome), 25 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C\\_17\\_pagineAree\\_5459\\_2\\_file.pdf](http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_5459_2_file.pdf)

discussed establishing a database for all information relating to COVID-19 in order to develop a vaccine that could potentially combat all coronaviruses. This idea was brought up given the rise of new COVID-19 variants.<sup>4872</sup>

On 20 April 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency, in joint with the ruling of the European Medicines Agency, reported that the Johnson & Johnson vaccination was best used for peoples 60 years and older. Additionally, both agencies reported low risk of contracting thrombosis from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.<sup>4873</sup>

On 6 May 2021, Italy announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporary eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”<sup>4874</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment by hosting and actively attending international conferences discussing resolutions for problems exacerbated by the pandemic. Italy has also shared timely, transparent and standardized data by coordinating in conjunction with the European Medicines Agency, over the safety of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and by sharing laboratories for vaccine analysis, displaying Italy’s participation in coordinating with other countries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Phoebe Han*

#### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi shared Japan’s response to developing and ensuring fair access to COVID-19 vaccines with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide.<sup>4875</sup>

On 27 November 2020, Minister Motegi and Swiss Head for Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis discussed the importance of fair access to COVID-19 vaccines and medications, as well as reforms for the WHO due to the coronavirus.<sup>4876</sup>

On 17 December 2020, Minister Motegi and United States State Secretary Mike Pompeo shared their respective countries’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating an exchange of information through communication.<sup>4877</sup>

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<sup>4872</sup> COVID-19; Sereni meets Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/04/covid-19-sereni-incontra-richard-hatchett-ceo-della-coalizione-per-le-innovazioni-nella-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/04/covid-19-sereni-incontra-richard-hatchett-ceo-della-coalizione-per-le-innovazioni-nella-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html)

<sup>4873</sup> Covid-19, safe Janssen vaccine; recommended preferential use to over 60, Ministry of Health (Rome) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

<sup>4874</sup> Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

<sup>4875</sup> Japan-Norway Foreign Ministers’ Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000161.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000161.html)

<sup>4876</sup> Japan-Switzerland Foreign Ministers’ Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e\\_000251.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000251.html)

On 18 December 2020, Japan participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Australia, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”<sup>4878</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Japan attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Australia, India and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.<sup>4879</sup>

On 18 March 2021, the Health Sciences Council expert committee meeting announced their plan to include people with severe mental illnesses or disabilities in the COVID-19 vaccination priority list. The council stressed to the public that this decision comes from research showing that people with mental illnesses or disabilities carry a higher risk of death from COVID-19.<sup>4880</sup>

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the final report of a research project on preventing and responding to outbreaks and spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships, sharing best practices and framework for the international community. The Ministry commissioned the reports after the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 on cruise ships in 2020.<sup>4881</sup>

On 30 March 2021, Japan issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) study on COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease... We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”<sup>4882</sup>

On 1 April 2021, Minister Motegi shared Japan’s best practices in creating countermeasures against the pandemic at the Japan-Arab Political Dialogue. Minister Motegi “explained Japan’s support for the Arab countries on achieving the Universal Health Coverage, including addressing COVID-19 based on the principle of human security, explaining successful examples of Japan’s existing assistance that has contributed to countermeasures against the pandemic.”<sup>4883</sup>

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<sup>4877</sup> Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000164.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000164.html)

<sup>4878</sup> Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321466](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466)

<sup>4879</sup> Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

<sup>4880</sup> Japan COVID-19 vaccine priority list to include people with mental disabilities, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/03/18/national/science-health/covid-19-japan-vaccinations-medicine>

<sup>4881</sup> Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs NAKANISHI Satoshi received the final report of the research project on preventing and responding to the outbreak and the spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002988.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002988.html)

<sup>4882</sup> WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

<sup>4883</sup> The Second Japan-Arab Political Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002991.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002991.html)

Japan fully complied with their commitment to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information through sharing data on COVID-19 outbreaks on cruise ships and also collaborating with other countries in sharing experiences and best practices in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shanice Burton*

**Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, Korea hosted the 2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum. Members from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Korea Drug Development Fund, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the International Vaccine Institute, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, and officials of four Latin American countries were in attendance. Topics of the forum included how Korea and Latin America would officialise their cooperation in health, medical, and disease control and prevention, and how they would ensure the fair distribution of treatments and vaccines.<sup>4884</sup>

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.<sup>4885</sup>

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the second Korea-Middle East (United Arab Emirates [UAE]) Public Health Cooperation Conference. The importance of collaboration among the countries was stressed, as well as the opportunity for Korea's health industry to share its advanced technology, quarantine capabilities and public health regulations with the UAE.<sup>4886</sup>

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety announced that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) adopted the Korean method of COVID-19 screening. Korea discussed the method with ISO members and a special Korean committee developed a plan for the standardization of their screening method to submit to the ISO.<sup>4887</sup>

On 5 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kyung-wha Kang attended the 16th Manama Dialogue's First Plenary Session on "Global Governance in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic," where she shared that advanced technology, trust, and cooperation where the most important

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<sup>4884</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

[http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321380](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380)

<sup>4885</sup> MIKTA Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321395](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395)

<sup>4886</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Korea-Middle East (UAE) Public Health Cooperation Conference Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321404](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321404)

<sup>4887</sup> Korea's COVID-19 Screening Methodology Adopted as International Standard, Korea.net (Sejong) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192507>

factures to overcome the pandemic and in sharing accurate information, demonstrating best practices.<sup>4888</sup>

On 9 December 2020, a convention in Seoul was opened to share the results of Korea's international cooperation. The convention gathered representatives from 150 organizations, including government ministries, publicly funded think tanks, and distinguished figures from around the world. The topics covered included explanations of Korea's quarantine system, medical treatment, and health care.<sup>4889</sup>

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Jong-kun Choi participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam. Korea explained that although Korea's COVID-19 cases were rising, the country was able to respond to the pandemic effectively through the "3T (Testing, Tracing, and Treatment) strategy," alongside social distancing reinforcement and conducting more diagnostic tests.<sup>4890</sup> Furthermore, the participants "exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel."<sup>4891</sup>

On 29 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a virtual meeting among countries in the region with the goal to establish the "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health." This collaborative initiative was held to strengthen the capacity for joint response among regional countries and implement material and technology exchanges, to assist with the response to regional and transboundary health security crises.<sup>4892</sup>

On 15 February 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) approved the Korean version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the pharmaceutical company SK Bioscience. Due to this approval and collaboration, Korea was able to utilize the data and information it had consolidated surrounding COVID-19 to contribute to the distribution of more AstraZeneca vaccines soon.<sup>4893</sup>

On 17 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Information and Communications Technology opened the 2021 Korea- Latin America and the Caribbean Digital Cooperation Forum, with high profile officials from all participating countries in attendance. A goal of the Digital Cooperation Forum was for all the countries to collaborate on the sharing of data and information in the categories of medicine, technology, health and medical services. This was in an effort to strengthen cooperation between Korea and Latin America.<sup>4894</sup>

On 18 March 2021, Korea Health Industry Development Institution and the Ministry of Health and Welfare held the 11th Global Healthcare and Medical Tourism Conference. The event consisted of

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<sup>4888</sup> Minister of Foreign Affairs Delivers Speech at 16th Manama Dialogue's First Plenary Session on "Global Governance in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic," Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321421](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321421)

<sup>4889</sup> Convention in Seoul Shares Korea's Global Cooperation Experience, Korea.net (Sejong) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192640>

<sup>4890</sup> Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321466](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466)

<sup>4891</sup> Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321466](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466)

<sup>4892</sup> Track 1.5 Virtual Meeting to Launch "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health" Take Place on Dec. 29, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321475](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321475)

<sup>4893</sup> WHO Oks AstraZeneca Vaccine Made in Korea for Emergency Use, Korea.net (Sejong) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Society/view?articleId=194956>

<sup>4894</sup> Forum Proposes Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation to Overcome COVID-19, Korea.net (Sejong) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Sci-Tech/view?articleId=196013>

briefing sessions, academic conferences, seminars, business conferences, and public relations events. This conference was a way for the Korean government to analyze global healthcare trends and demonstrate Korean healthcare research, data, policies, and technology.<sup>4895</sup>

On 23 March 2021, Korea announced it was boosting cooperation with Costa Rica to improve the strength of Korea's ties with Latin America. Korea and Costa Rica plan to work together on projects to establish access to vaccines and medical supplies for both countries. This will be done by Korea and Costa Rica collaborating in sharing data and research that will help further the development of health care and pharmaceuticals.<sup>4896</sup>

On 30 March 2021, Korea issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Japan, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO's COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that "With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world's ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks."<sup>4897</sup>

On 31 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the "High-level symposium on Korea's leadership on global health in the COVID-19 era and beyond" with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. At the symposium, Korea shared best practices in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included effective pandemic response policy, public participation, and innovative technologies.<sup>4898</sup>

On 4 and 5 May 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-yong Chung attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting and shared Korea's experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chung urged the necessity of international cooperation to ensure equity in vaccine distribution.<sup>4899</sup>

Korea has taken steps to fully achieve compliance of the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information as outlined by the International Health Regulations. Korea has demonstrated significant leadership in the organization of multilateral conferences where data and research regarding health has been shared, sharing its successful pandemic response, and collaborating globally to share data and research to develop health technology. Through the transparent and timely sharing and collaboration of health data and research, Korea has fully complied with its commitment, while being a leading actor in combating the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Hannah Story-Korman*

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<sup>4895</sup> Medical Korea 2021 Kicks off to Demonstrate K-Healthcare, Korea Biomedical Review (Seoul) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=10719>

<sup>4896</sup> Cooperation with Costa Rica to Boost Korea's Ties with Latin America, Korea.net (Sejong) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=196195>

<sup>4897</sup> WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

<sup>4898</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Holds "High-level symposium on Korea's leadership on global health in the COVID-19 era and beyond," Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321617](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321617)

<sup>4899</sup> Minister of Foreign Affairs Attends G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321665](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321665)

**Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, health and foreign affairs officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.<sup>4900</sup>

On 7 January 2021, Deputy Health Minister Hugo Lopez-Gatell and Foreign Ministry official Efrain Guadarrama discussed COVID-19 vaccine experiences with Argentine President Alberto Fernandez. Mexico and Argentina signed an agreement to produce and distribute the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, which is currently produced in Argentina.<sup>4901</sup>

On 15 April 2021, Mexico hosted a virtual meeting on Technological Development of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States vaccines against COVID-19, bringing together the eight research centers in the region that develop the most advanced vaccines. The participants discussed “strengthening capacities for the production and distribution of vaccines and medicines in the region” and the importance of investing in research and development to stay ahead of the virus.<sup>4902</sup>

On 19 April 2021, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard promoted the economic and health integration between members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as well as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to further promote health in the region. Moreover, Minister Ebrard announced that cooperation has led to Mexico and Argentina to coproduce AstraZeneca vaccinations as well as create a network of vaccine projects throughout Central and South America.<sup>4903</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Minister Ebrard met with the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov. Minister Ebrard reported to Lavrov on the success of the Sputnik V vaccine on the Mexican population, which was developed in Russia. Moreover, both officials plan to register an updated version of the Sputnik V – Sputnik Light – for the Mexican population.<sup>4904</sup>

On 30 April 2021, Minister Ebrard met with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs to review and compare both countries’ COVID-19 measures and progress. Minister Ebrard thanked Spain for their assistance in distributing vaccinations and reaffirmed the importance of coordination and communication between Mexico and Spain.<sup>4905</sup>

Mexico has taken the steps and the initiative to share timely, transparent, and standardized information. Mexico’s participation in the integration of COVID-19 research within the Community

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<sup>4900</sup> MIKTA Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321395](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395)

<sup>4901</sup> Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia’s Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (Mexico City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine-idUKKBN29C2X9>

<sup>4902</sup> Mexico and CELAC promote vaccine self-sufficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-y-celac-impulsan-la-autosuficiencia-de-vacunas-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

<sup>4903</sup> Mexico calls on the UN Security Council to guarantee access to vaccines against COVID-19, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-llama-al-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu-a-garantizar-el-acceso-a-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

<sup>4904</sup> Mexico-Russia collaboration is strengthened, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/se-fortalece-colaboracion-mexico-rusia>

<sup>4905</sup> Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021 <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-y-espana-impulsan-dialogo-y-cooperacion>

of Latin American and Caribbean States show Mexico's commitment to share data for the pursuance of global health. Additionally, frequent diplomatic talks with other countries concerning vaccine distribution shows Mexico's commitment to exchanging timely, standardized, and transparent information.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Phoebe Han*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which is the national sovereign wealth fund, published standardized data and information on the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine with a reported a 95 per cent efficacy of the Sputnik V vaccine on the 42nd day following first injection.<sup>4906</sup>

On 12 December 2020, Russia's Federal State Statistic Service reported that the official total death toll from the virus is 57,000. However, on 28 December 2020, Russia's Federal State Statistic Service reported that the number of deaths from all causes recorded between January 2020 and November 2020 was 229,700 higher than in 2019. At a press conference on the same day of 28 December, Russia's deputy prime minister admitted that "more that 81 per cent of increase in mortality over this period is due to COVID-19" which would put the number of deaths at 186,000 – almost triple of what was originally reported.<sup>4907</sup>

On 5 February 2021, Russia attended the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council Meeting with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Moldova and Uzbekistan. Russia promoted the use of the Travelling Without COVID-19 pilot project, encouraging the expansion beyond Armenia, Belarus and Russia.<sup>4908</sup>

On 8 February 2021, there was a discrepancy recorded between statistics of COVID-19 related deaths stated by the Russia's Ministry of Health and Russia's Federal State Statistic Service (Rosstat). Specifically, the health ministry has been reporting a much lower death toll than Rosstat. While the Ministry of Health reported a total death toll of 78,687 from the beginning of the pandemic up to February 2021, Rosstat reported a total of 162,429 COVID-19 related deaths for 2020 alone.<sup>4909</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Russia met with Tajikistan for its 17th Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation. Russia promoted the Travelling Without COVID-19 application and offered Tajikistan the opportunity to take part. Furthermore, Russia agreed to visit Tajikistan to assess the situation and "prepare a report for the emergency response centre on preventing the import and spread of the coronavirus infection in Russia."<sup>4910</sup> The Travelling Without COVID-19 mobile app :allows users to store the results of their tests and QR codes and "is designed for those with a

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<sup>4906</sup> Briefing by Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. [https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4465803](https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4465803)

<sup>4907</sup> COVID-19: Russia admits to understating deaths by more than two-thirds, The BMJ (London) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4975>

<sup>4908</sup> Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41468/>

<sup>4909</sup> Natural population change among subjects of the Russian Federation for January to December 2020, Federal State Statistic Service (Moscow) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://rosstat.gov.ru/storage/mediabank/TwbjciZH/edn12-2020.html>

<sup>4910</sup> The Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan holds its 17th session, The Russian Government (Moscow) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41503/>

negative result in a coronavirus test while crossing the Russian state border at a number of checkpoint” to help Eurasian Economic Union “citizens move between countries while ensuring compliance with the current requirements.”<sup>4911</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Russia met with Kazakhstan to discuss the bilateral relationship. Among other topics, they discussed the joint COVID-19 response efforts, as well as the joint production of the Sputnik V vaccine at the Karaganda Pharmaceutical Factory in Kazakhstan.<sup>4912</sup>

On 30 April 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin spoke at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council. Prime Minister Mishustin stated that “We need joint systemic measures that will make it possible to contain the infection. As we have repeatedly noted, the user-friendly and reliable mobile app called Travelling without COVID-19 has already been launched. Negative COVID-19 test results are uploaded from certified laboratories. Our citizens can therefore show these test results when entering any specific country. So far, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Russia are actively involved in the project. We hope that Kazakhstan will join us soon. It is important to expand the app by including vaccination data. I believe that its wide-scale use will make it possible to more quickly resume the safe passenger traffic that our citizens need.”<sup>4913</sup>

On 12 May 2021, Russia met with Turkey to discuss strengthening their cooperation on all fronts. Russia invited Turkey to use the Russian supported, Eurasian Economic Union created Travelling without COVID-19 digital platform pilot program. The program will allow citizens of participating states to enter Russia in a simplified and streamlined way, ensuring safety of public travel.<sup>4914</sup>

Russia has partially complied with its commitment through sharing timely and transparent data and information with its regional counterparts.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Arina Mnatsakanyan*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 14 December 2020, Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor engaged in bilateral discussions, including their respective countries’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4915</sup>

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<sup>4911</sup> Government extends the term for entering Russia on the ‘Travel without COVID-19’ application, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41636/>

<sup>4912</sup> Mikhail Mishustin’s conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, The Russian Government (Kazan) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

<sup>4913</sup> Extended meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Kazan) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42102/>

<sup>4914</sup> Tatyana Golikova meets with Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Turkey Ibrahim Kalin and Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mehmet Ersoy, The Russian Government (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42220/>

<sup>4915</sup> Minister Pandor to host the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on working visit to Pretoria – Tomorrow, Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/saud1213.htm>; Opening Remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Working Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, to South Africa on Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand1214a.htm>

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment through its communications with South Africa to share experiences in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but has not taken substantial action to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dre Daley*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 3 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa shared effective policy approaches at the United Nations General Assembly that have helped South Africa delay transmission of COVID-19 and prepared health facilities, including emergency relief measures for individuals, households, and companies. President Ramaphosa also reaffirmed the importance of UN member states in working with the World Health Organization to ensure equity in vaccine access.<sup>4916</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud engaged in bilateral discussions, including their respective countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with South Africa specifically sharing a response from health and economic perspectives.<sup>4917,4918</sup>

On 12 January 2021, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor and Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum exchanged experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and efforts to ensure an effective and efficient response in the continent and also at the national level.<sup>4919</sup>

On 27 January 2021, President Ramaphosa shared that South Africa was able to ensure social distancing by promoting public health measures based on individual behaviour and regulatory strategies, such as lockdowns, at the African Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Financing and Deployment Strategy Webinar.<sup>4920</sup>

On 24 February 2021, the Department of Health announced that the South African government has been working with local scientists from the KwaZulu-Natal Research Informatics and Sequencing Programme (KRISP). KRISP discovered that the 501Y.V2 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus

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<sup>4916</sup> Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of the General Debate of the 31st UN General Assembly Special Session on COVID-19, UN Headquarters, New York, 3 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/cram1203.htm>

<sup>4917</sup> Minister Pandor to host the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on working visit to Pretoria – Tomorrow, Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/saud1213.htm>

<sup>4918</sup> Opening Remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Working Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, to South Africa on Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand1214a.htm>

<sup>4919</sup> Joint Communiqué on the Occasion of the Working Visit by H.E. Mr Sabri Boukadoum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 12 January 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/alge0112.pdf>

<sup>4920</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: Opening remarks at the African Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Financing and Deployment Strategy Webinar, The Presidency, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-opening-remarks-african-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-financing>

has higher efficacy to infect humans, which affects the vaccination process as the variant continues to spread.<sup>4921</sup>

South Africa has taken steps to continually share timely, transparent, and standardized data and information through sharing COVID-19 experiences in bilateral discussions with other countries and debunking false facts with evidence.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shanice Burton*

**Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health ministers of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.<sup>4922</sup>

On 23 March 2021, Head of Health Institutes of Turkey Erhan Akdogan, stated that Turkey currently assists six coronavirus vaccine development research programs. The vaccine studies being implemented in Turkey are published and shared in scientific research studies about the vaccine programs.<sup>4923</sup>

On 6 May 2021, Turkey announced the second inactive vaccine developed by Turkey had been added to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) list of vaccines in development. The director of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey underlined that being added to the WHO's list demonstrates the transparency of the data produced by the project. Furthermore, the director stated that Turkey's COVID-19 Turkey Platform is currently working on seven vaccines.<sup>4924</sup>

Turkey has taken steps to achieve compliance to the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized information by creating vaccine agreements with other countries and has shared data with the WHO with regards to its inactive vaccine development.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mebr Mukhtar*

**United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the UK organized a virtual seminar discussing vaccine distribution strategy and combating misinformation regarding

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<sup>4921</sup> Ministers Blade Nzimande and Zweli Mkhize brief media on latest scientific results on Coronavirus COVID-19 variant, 3 Mar, National Department of Health (Cape Town) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/joint-media-briefing-24-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>4922</sup> MIKTA Holds 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321395](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395)

<sup>4923</sup> Turkey works on 6 coronavirus vaccine candidates, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 23 March 2021. Access date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/turkey-works-on-6-coronavirus-vaccine-candidates/2185493>

<sup>4924</sup> Turkey's inactive COVID-19 vaccine makes it to WHO list, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkeys-inactive-covid-19-vaccine-makes-it-to-who-list/news>

COVID-19.<sup>4925</sup> It was the third in a series of joint events between Argentina and the UK within the Latin American and Caribbean region. Seth Berkley, CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, spoke at the seminar to share information on the progress of COVAX, the global initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>4926</sup>

On 20 December 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that the United Kingdom has been sharing information about the new variant of the COVID-19 virus. The UK has conducted ongoing research about the new mutation and has been sharing the results of its studies. Prime Minister Boris Johnson revealed to the WHO that the mutated virus is 70 per cent more transmissible.<sup>4927</sup>

On 23 December 2020, Public Health England (PHE) confirmed that lateral flow devices used in mass testing are able to detect the new COVID-19 variant. A rapid evaluation with five lateral flow devices was undertaken to test whether the lateral flow devices currently in use in the UK are able to detect the new VUI 202012/01 variant. The experiment found each lateral flow device successfully detected the samples of the new variant.<sup>4928</sup>

On 26 January 2021, the UK announced it would “offer its world-leading genomics expertise to identify new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to countries who do not have the resources to do so.” “Countries will be offered UK capacity to analyse new strains of the virus through the launch of the New Variant Assessment Platform which will be led by [PHE] working with [National Health Service] Test and Trace and academic partners as well as the World Health Organization’s SARS-CoV-2 Global Laboratory Working Group.”<sup>4929</sup>

On 5 February 2021, the UK published data from the UK’s independent medicine regulator on the routine safety monitoring and analysis of the approved COVID-19 vaccines. The report found that the vaccines meet strict regulatory standards and are very safe. The data demonstrated that there was “an overall reporting rate of 3 in 1,000 doses of vaccine administered from 9 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.”<sup>4930</sup>

On 22 February 2021, UK officials published an executive summary report sharing their response to COVID-19. The report outlines how the UK will continue to respond to the pandemic, the roadmap for lifting lockdown measures, the vaccine strategy, the success of the vaccination rollout, and more.<sup>4931</sup>

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<sup>4925</sup> Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

<sup>4926</sup> Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

<sup>4927</sup> Covid: WHO in 'close contact' with UK Over New Virus Variant, BBC News (London) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-55382212>

<sup>4928</sup> Rapid evaluation confirms lateral flow devices effective in detecting new COVID-19 variant, Government of the UK (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rapid-evaluation-confirms-lateral-flow-devices-effective-in-detecting-new-covid-19-variant>

<sup>4929</sup> UK to support rest of the world to find COVID-19 virus variants, Government of the UK (London) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-support-rest-of-the-world-to-find-covid-19-virus-variants>

<sup>4930</sup> Latest monitoring data confirms safety of COVID-19 vaccines, Government of the UK (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-monitoring-data-confirms-safety-of-covid-19-vaccines>

<sup>4931</sup> COVID-19 Response Spring 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

On 22 February 2021, PHE published the first independent analysis in the UK on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine efficacy. The report found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides a 70 per cent reduction in risk of catching COVID-19 after one dose, rising to 85 per cent after a second dose. The Head of Immunisation at PHE stated “This is strong evidence that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is stopping people from getting infected, while also protecting cases against hospitalisation and death. We will see much more data over the coming weeks and months but we should be very encouraged by these initial findings.”<sup>4932</sup> Furthermore, the PHE is monitoring the AstraZeneca and announced a report will be published in good time.<sup>4933</sup>

On 16 March 2021, the Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19 met with the Minister of Health for Argentina to discuss experiences developing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>4934</sup> The ministers exchanged experiences regarding postponing second doses to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and prioritizing by age, risk and activity.<sup>4935</sup> Furthermore, the UK Minister “announced that they will share more information about vaccines and the results of their strategy with Argentina in April, when they obtain more data on efficacy and safety, since they will begin to vaccinate people over 50 years of age.”<sup>4936</sup>

On 25 March 2021, PHE published an analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program on preventing death and infection from SARS-CoV-2. The report found that from 8 December 2020 to end of January 2021, 4 million vaccine doses were administered to adults aged 70 and over which has prevented 6,100 deaths. PHE Head of Immunisation said “We have shown previously that the COVID-19 vaccinations are hugely effective at stopping people from getting the infection. This new analysis calculates how many lives they have saved in the first few months of the vaccine programme, and with every additional day more lives have and will be saved. The vaccines have an excellent safety record and I would encourage anyone who is offered a vaccine to take it as soon as possible. While the vaccines have a striking impact on mortality, we don’t yet know how much these vaccines will reduce the risk of you passing COVID-19 onto others. Even if you have been vaccinated, it is really important that you continue to act like you have the virus, practise good hand hygiene and stay at home.”<sup>4937</sup>

On 30 March 2021, the UK issued a joint statement alongside Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working

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<sup>4932</sup> First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose, Government of the UK (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-real-world-uk-data-shows-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-provides-high-levels-of-protection-from-the-first-dose>

<sup>4933</sup> First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose, Government of the UK (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-real-world-uk-data-shows-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-provides-high-levels-of-protection-from-the-first-dose>

<sup>4934</sup> Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

<sup>4935</sup> Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

<sup>4936</sup> Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

<sup>4937</sup> COVID-19 vaccines have prevented thousands of deaths in older adults, new data shows, Government of the UK (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-have-prevented-thousands-of-deaths-in-older-adults-new-data-shows>

with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”<sup>4938</sup>

On 18 April 2021, the UK announced that a joint hygiene campaign between UK Aid and Unilever has reached 1 billion people. One aspect of the campaign is to “run information campaigns across TV, radio and social media in 37 countries to increase understanding of the benefits of handwashing with soap regularly and disinfecting surfaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”<sup>4939</sup>

On 28 April 2021, PHE published a study on household transmission of COVID-19. The study found that one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine reduced household transmission by up to half.<sup>4940</sup>

On 4 May 2021, the UK published its fourth round of the Schools Infection Survey to study the infections of COVID-19 in schools. The latest report found that there was a significant reduction in those testing positive for COVID-19 in schools, indicating “the importance of public health measures in schools for reducing transmission” and showing that “risk of transmission in schools is low.”<sup>4941</sup>

On 10 May 2021, the UK published an analysis on the impacts of the COVID-19 in protecting against death and hospitalization from COVID-19. The analysis found that those who get a single dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine have 80 per cent lower risk of death from COVID-19 than those who do not get vaccinated. The report also found that protection against death from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 97 per cent after two doses, up from 8- per cent after one dose.<sup>4942</sup>

On 11 May 2021, UK Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Simon Manley spoke at the WTO General Council. Ambassador Manley stated “A balanced and effective intellectual property regime has proved invaluable in this crisis, as in others, in supporting innovation and supporting collaboration, as well as ensuring the results of that innovation, including safe and effective diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics can reach those who need them. The UK stands ready to engage in further evidence-based discussions and is committed to finding solutions to these issues. Meanwhile, we are delighted to see the WTO bringing together key stakeholders to look carefully at all the relevant trade, health and intellectual property elements so that we can support the development, production, and equitable access to these vaccines. We salute the role played by the Director General in this regard.”<sup>4943</sup>

On 14 May 2021, the PHE published its analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program on deaths and hospitalizations. The analysis indicated that in England up to the end of April

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<sup>4938</sup> WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

<sup>4939</sup> UK aid and Unilever reach 1 billion people with global hygiene campaign to tackle COVID-19, Government of the UK (London) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-and-unilever-reach-one-billion-people-with-global-hygiene-campaign-to-tackle-covid-19>

<sup>4940</sup> One dose of COVID-19 vaccine can cut household transmission by up to half, Government of the UK (London) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-can-cut-household-transmission-by-up-to-half>

<sup>4941</sup> COVID-19 in schools: study shows drop in infections, Government of the UK (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-in-schools-study-shows-drop-in-infections-1>

<sup>4942</sup> COVID-19 vaccines: further evidence of success, Government of the UK (London) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-further-evidence-of-success>

<sup>4943</sup> World Trade Organization General Council, May 2021: UK statements, Government of the UK (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/wto-general-council-uk-statements--2>

the vaccine program prevented 11,700 deaths in those 60 and older and at least 33,000 hospitalizations in those 65 and older. The PHE stated that “There is now clear and increasing evidence that vaccines help to reduce transmission, therefore it is likely that an even higher number of deaths and hospitalisations have been prevented by the vaccination programme.”<sup>4944</sup>

On 15 May 2021, the UK announced it would host the world’s first Global Vaccine Confidence Summit on 2 June 2021. The purpose of the summit will be to “look at innovative solutions to tackle misinformation and support confidence in life-saving COVID-19 vaccines around the world.”<sup>4945</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken significant steps for the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information by constantly publishing reports on the efficacy and impacts of the Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines. Furthermore, the United Kingdom has worked with other countries to share data and information, as well as exchange experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ghazaleh Darini*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 18 December 2020, the US participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”<sup>4946</sup>

On 15 January 2021, the US announced it would be “sharing new information concerning the activities inside China’s government laboratories in 2019” with the World Health Organization (WHO), in light of WHO investigative team’s arrival in China.<sup>4947</sup>

On 20 January 2021, the Integrated Health Services Agency, led by Management Sciences for Health, with support from the United States Agency for International Development through the United States Government’s Malaria Initiative, provided financial and technical support to Benin’s health zones when COVID-19 began to hit Benin. The goal of this initiative was to ensure that Benin had continued access to malaria interventions and essential health services throughout the pandemic.<sup>4948</sup>

On 20 January 2021, the United States sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to inform of the President’s decision to reverse the withdrawal of the country from the

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<sup>4944</sup> COVID-19 vaccines: 11,700 deaths prevented, Government of the UK (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-11-700-deaths-prevented>

<sup>4945</sup> Summit to build global confidence in vaccines to be convened by the UK Government, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summit-to-build-global-confidence-in-vaccines-to-be-convened-by-the-uk-government>

<sup>4946</sup> Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=321466](https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466)

<sup>4947</sup> Ensuring a Transparent, Thorough Investigation of COVID-19’s Origin, Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/ensuring-a-transparent-thorough-investigation-of-covid-19s-origin/index.html>

<sup>4948</sup> Strengthening Malaria Interventions in Benin During the COVID-19 Pandemic, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/benin/news/strengthening-malaria-interventions-benin-during-covid-19-pandemic>

WHO. This decision ensures that the United States will be able to continue to support global vaccination, research, and development for tests, treatments and vaccines.<sup>4949</sup>

On 21 January 2021, the United States Congress enacted the Global Health Security Act of 2021. This bill directed the president to form a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council to implement the Global Health Security Agenda. This review council will implement the Global Health Security Agenda, an international initiative to address global infectious disease threats.<sup>4950</sup>

On 11 February 2021, the United States Congress passed the Robust International Response to Pandemic Act. This act outlined how the United States would aid in the international response to a pandemic. This document is aimed at outlining how wealthier countries will provide aid to developing countries through implementing protocols and transparency mechanisms to ensure allocations are used for public good.<sup>4951</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the US participated in the 3rd Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Japan, India and Australia. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.<sup>4952</sup>

On 30 March 2021, the US issued a joint statement alongside Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”<sup>4953</sup>

On 2 April 2021, the planning of the President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) Country/Regional Operation Plan 2021 resumed. PEPFAR is committed to supporting every PEPFAR country and region by ensuring transparent, data-driven and collaborative plans. By collaborating with partners and communities around the globe, PEPFAR will ensure there is no disruption in HIV services to PEPFAR-supported countries.<sup>4954</sup>

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<sup>4949</sup> National Security Memorandum on United States Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security and Biological Preparedness, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/21/national-security-directive-united-states-global-leadership-to-strengthen-the-international-covid-19-response-and-to-advance-global-health-security-and-biological-preparedness/>

<sup>4950</sup> Global Health Security Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/391>

<sup>4951</sup> Robust International Response to Pandemic Act, United States Congress (Washington, D.C.) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/986/text>

<sup>4952</sup> Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

<sup>4953</sup> WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

<sup>4954</sup> PEPFAR COP/ROP 2021 Planning Process, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.state.gov/pepfar-cop-rop-2021-planning/>

On 5 May 2021, the US announced it would “support the temporary waiver of intellectual property on COVID-19 vaccines...and work with the private sector and other partners to expand vaccine manufacturing and distribution.”<sup>4955</sup>

The United States has taken some steps to achieve compliance of the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information as outlined by the International Health Regulations. The United States has done this by helping implement the Global Health Security Agenda, reversing withdrawal from the WHO, and providing health care aid to foreign countries. However, the United States has not made a significant effort to share its health data and research, globally, and has not participated in any significant collaborations with other countries in this respect.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Hannah Story-Korman*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) partnered with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), which marked the beginning of the EU’s four-year project: “EU for health and security in Africa: ECDC for Africa CDC.”<sup>4956</sup> The project came into effect on 1 January 2021. Cooperation between the EU and the Africa CDC serves to bolster both Europe and Africa’s respective global health responses in the event of future crises. Through the sharing of health information and data, both the ECDC and Africa CDC are working to bolster their “surveillance of infectious diseases, data sharing, and early detection of threats” in order to build up their preparedness for other global health emergencies.<sup>4957</sup> The project is funded through the European Development Fund, with the ECDC contributing EUR9 million, as well as a EUR1 million grant to the Africa CDC.<sup>4958</sup>

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission launched the Re-open EU app, which provides regular, comprehensive and continual updates on COVID-19 related issues and other health and safety measures in EU member countries.<sup>4959</sup> The free app offers information in all 24 official EU languages and shares data collected by the ECDC.<sup>4960</sup>

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<sup>4955</sup> WHO Director-General commends United States decision to support temporary waiver on intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-who-director-general-commends-united-states-decision-to-support-temporary-waiver-on-intellectual-property-rights-for-covid-19-vaccines>

<sup>4956</sup> European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

<sup>4957</sup> European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

<sup>4958</sup> European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

<sup>4959</sup> Commission launches Re-open EU mobile app with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<sup>4960</sup> Commission launches Re-open EU mobile app with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/september-december-2020\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/september-december-2020_en)

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On 23 December 2020, the European Commission released an impact assessment concerning the establishment of a European Health Data Space. It is part of a broader EU “Data Strategy” initiative, allowing governments, public authorities and other sectors to access centralized data and facilitate data sharing across the EU. This initiative focuses on the accessibility and sharing of health data in order to improve national healthcare efforts.<sup>4961</sup>

On 1 January 2021, the EU and UK’s Trade and Cooperation Agreement went into effect, following the UK’s formal exit from the EU. This agreement included several provisions pertaining to information sharing, particularly during times of serious cross-border health risks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In such an event, the UK and EU are able to exchange health information and data as well as coordinate public health responses. The agreement also allows for collaboration between the UK and the ECDC to share relevant scientific information.<sup>4962</sup>

On 20 January 2021, the EU and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donated computer and electronic equipment to Belize. The equipment will be used for better data and information collection, which then can be shared with other countries and the PAHO/WHO.<sup>4963</sup>

On 19 March 2021, the ECDC and WHO/Europe launched the first joint COVID-19 weekly bulletin, compiling COVID-19 surveillance and vaccination data. This cooperative effort between ECDC and WHO/Europe publicizes case, death, vaccination and hospitalization data from individual countries in a centralized manner.<sup>4964</sup>

On 26 March 2021, the EU4Health program came into force, in an effort to support the EU’s COVID-19 recovery and pandemic preparedness plans.<sup>4965</sup> EU4Health provides unprecedented funding to EU member governments, health organizations as well as non-governmental organizations for the 2021-2027 period.<sup>4966</sup> The program seeks to promote collaboration between member states concerning both prevention and response to healthcare crises. EU4Health allows the EU to monitor health threats and share information gathered through this surveillance with member states.<sup>4967</sup> It also seeks to stimulate the digital transformation of health systems in order to facilitate cross-border flows of information and data.<sup>4968</sup> In total, the program aims to invest EUR5.1 billion to

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<sup>4961</sup> European Commission Conducts Open Consultation on the European Health Data Space Initiative, Covinton and Burling LLP (Washington, D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.covingtondigitalhealth.com/2021/01/european-commission-conducts-open-consultation-on-the-european-health-data-space-initiative/>

<sup>4962</sup> UK and EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the government’s preparation for end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, UK Government (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-the-health-and-care-sector-about-the-uk-eu-trade-and-cooperation-agreement/uk-and-eu-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-and-the-governments-preparation-for-end-of-the-transition-period-on-31-december-2020>

<sup>4963</sup> The European Union (EU) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donate consumables and reagents to enhance lab capacity for COVID-19 testing in Belize, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/20-1-2021-european-union-eu-and-pan-american-health-organizationworld-health-organization>

<sup>4964</sup> WHO/Europe and ECDC launch the first joint COVID-19 Surveillance Bulletin, WHO Europe (Copenhagen) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/news/news/2021/3/whoeurope-and-ecdc-launch-the-first-joint-covid-19-surveillance-bulletin>

<sup>4965</sup> €5.1 billion EU4Health enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021_en)

<sup>4966</sup> €5.1 billion EU4Health enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021_en)

<sup>4967</sup> EU4Health 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en)

<sup>4968</sup> EU4Health 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en)

promote secure data access and sharing and prevent another global crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4969</sup>

On 30 March 2021, President of the European Council Charles Michel joined other global leaders in calling for an international treaty on pandemic prevention and preparedness. Such a treaty would allow for equitable and universal access to healthcare related solutions, information and data by enhancing global cooperation.<sup>4970</sup>

On 6 May 2021, the EU announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporary eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”<sup>4971</sup>

The European Union has taken steps to promote the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information by implementing new initiatives to better prepare countries’ global health responses.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ana Djordjijevic*

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<sup>4969</sup> New EU health programme comes into force, The Lancet (Amsterdam) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00772-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00772-8/fulltext)

<sup>4970</sup> An international treaty on pandemic prevention and preparedness, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/pandemic-treaty/>

<sup>4971</sup> Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>