

# **Preliminary 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report**

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

Unlike the regular annual compliance reports produced by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA, this report has not been sent to stakeholders for review prior to publication. Scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available that meets the requirements set by the methodology used for monitoring compliance.

**This is therefore a preliminary report  
and we encourage readers to send comments to**

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## 8. Labour and Employment: Job and Income Protection

“We are determined to spare no effort, both individually and collectively, to ... Safeguard people’s jobs and incomes”

*Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+1.00 (100%)	

### Background

Employment has become a key priority of the G20 since its second summit in London in 2009, when the leaders committed to support those affected by the global financial crisis by creating employment opportunities, implementing income support measures and supporting employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and enacting active labour market policies, focusing on the most vulnerable.<sup>1034</sup>

At the Pittsburgh Summit in 2009, G20 leaders committed to implement recovery plans to support decent work, help preserve employment and prioritize job growth. Besides, they pledged to continue to provide income, social protection and training support for the unemployed and those most at risk of unemployment.<sup>1035</sup>

At the Toronto Summit in 2010, G20 leaders welcomed the recommendations of their Labour and Employment Ministers, who had met in April 2010, and the training strategy prepared by the

<sup>1034</sup> London Summit – Leaders’ Statement, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2009london/2009communique0402.pdf>.

<sup>1035</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2009pittsburgh/G20%20Leaders%20Statement.pdf>.

International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. They pledged to implement measures to enhance the growth potential of the G20 economies, including labour market reforms, such as better targeted unemployment benefits and more effective active labour market policies (job retraining, job search and skills development programs, and raising labour mobility), and putting in place the right conditions for wage bargaining systems to support employment.<sup>1036</sup>

At the Seoul Summit in 2010, G20 leaders focused on structural reforms aimed, inter alia, on fostering job creation. They agreed, where needed, to increase employment in quality jobs and boost productivity, including through education and training. They also pledged to improve the development of employable skills matched to employer and labour market needs in order to attract investment, create decent jobs and increase productivity.<sup>1037</sup>

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, leaders put emphasis on employment issues as well. The leaders made decisions on making taxation more employment-friendly, promoting youth employment, stimulating the full respect of the fundamental principles and rights at work, and strengthening the social dimension of globalization.<sup>1038</sup>

Employment was the central issue for the 2012 Mexican G20 presidency. At the Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation in education, skills development and training policies, including internship and on-the-job training, which support a successful school-to-work transition. They also committed to develop travel facilitation initiatives to stimulate job creation, quality work, poverty reduction and global growth.<sup>1039</sup>

At the St. Petersburg in 2013, G20 leaders committed to continue efforts to support inclusive labour markets, with the exchange of country-specific plans or sets of actions, developed as appropriate according to their different constitutional circumstances. The leaders also expressed their intention to stimulate the creation of formal jobs through pro-growth structural reforms in product and labour markets, including by promoting labour market adaptability and efficiency, ensuring adequate labour protection, as well as appropriate tax regimes. Skills development, life-long learning, employment of vulnerable groups, particularly young people, vocational training and other issues were also considered in the summit final documents.<sup>1040</sup>

At the Brisbane Summit in 2014, G20 Leaders' Communique set the goal of reducing the gap in labour force participation rates between women and men in the member economies by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances, to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force significantly increase global growth. In addition, G20 leaders reaffirmed the previous commitment to reduce unemployment among the youth. National employment plans were adopted for the first time, including measures to enhance investments in apprenticeships, education and training; develop incentives for hiring young people and encouraging entrepreneurship; address

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<sup>1036</sup> The G-20 Toronto Summit Declaration, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010toronto/g20\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010toronto/g20_declaration_en.pdf).

<sup>1037</sup> The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders' Declaration, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010%20Korea/g20seoul.pdf>.

<sup>1038</sup> Cannes Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2011cannes/Cannes%20Summit%20Final%20Declaration.pdf>.

<sup>1039</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2012loscabos/G20%20Leaders%20Declaration%20-%20Los%20Cabos%2018-19%20June%202012.pdf>.

<sup>1040</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://en.g20russia.ru/load/782795034>.

informality, as well as structural and long-term unemployment, by strengthening labour markets and having appropriate social protection systems; and improve workplace safety and health.<sup>1041</sup>

At the Antalya Summit in 2015, G20 leaders committed to reduce the share of young people who are most at risk of being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15 per cent by 2025. They also reiterated the need to implement the employment plans adopted in Brisbane.<sup>1042</sup>

At the Hangzhou Summit in 2016 and the Hamburg Summit in 2017 the G20 employment agenda shifted towards matching the workforce skills with the demands of the digital economy. This issue also became the focus the 2018 Argentinian presidency. In Buenos Aires leaders endorsed the G20 Menu of Policy Options for the Future of Work developed by the Framework Working Group and adopted by the Labour and Employment Ministers. It included options to harness technology to strengthen growth and productivity, support people during job transitions and address distributional challenges, secure sustainable tax systems, and ensure that the best possible evidence informs decision-making.<sup>1043</sup> They also reaffirmed the commitment to ensure an inclusive, fair and sustainable future of work by promoting decent work, vocational training and skills development, including reskilling workers and improving labour conditions in all forms of employment. They also pledged to promote increasing labour force participation of underrepresented as well as vulnerable groups and implement policies to improve the employment situation of young people, in line with their Antalya commitment to reduce the share of young people at risk of being left behind in the labour market.<sup>1044</sup>

At the Osaka Summit, in 2019 G20 leaders committed to foster job creation and flexible work arrangements, raise quality of employment and enhance employability of workers through lifelong learning, and strive towards improving the working conditions for all, including long-term care workers in accordance with national circumstances. They also reaffirmed the pledges to promote employment opportunities for and employability of youth and focused on women's economic empowerment and employment in agriculture and tourism.<sup>1045</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit Statement on COVID-19 focused on measures to overcome the pandemic and address its negative consequences. In particular, G20 leaders pledged to spare no effort, both individually and collectively, to safeguard people's jobs and incomes. They also asked the ILO to monitor the pandemic's impact on employment.<sup>1046</sup>

The ILO committed to playing a crucial role in combating the outbreak, ensuring the safety of individuals and the sustainability of businesses and jobs. It has developed a regularly updated assessment of the global impact of COVID-19 on economies, especially labour markets, together

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<sup>1041</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2014brisbane/G20%20Leaders'%20Communique%20Brisbane%20Summit,%2015-16%20November%202014.pdf>.

<sup>1042</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>.

<sup>1043</sup> G20 Menu of Policy Options for Future of Work, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 12 July 2018. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/G20/g20\\_menu\\_of\\_policy\\_options.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/G20/g20_menu_of_policy_options.pdf).

<sup>1044</sup> G20 Leaders' declaration. Building consensus for fair and sustainable development, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/G20/buenos\\_aires\\_leaders\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/G20/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf).

<sup>1045</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/G20/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Osaka\\_Leaders\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/eng/images/CIIR/G20/2019/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf).

<sup>1046</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit Statement on COVID-19, Center for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sauvovskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20\\_Extraordinary%20G20%20Leaders'%20Summit\\_Statement\\_EN%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sauvovskoe-predsedatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinary%20G20%20Leaders'%20Summit_Statement_EN%20(1).pdf).

with policy recommendations for lessening its effects and aiding a fast recovery. The ILO has structured its key policy recommendations for response to the crisis around four pillars. Given the clear focus of this commitment on safeguarding jobs and incomes, as well as inclusion of other commitments from the economic domain that can contribute to improvements in the labour market and social protection, in this report, only measures included in Pillar 2 (Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes) are considered as directly related to this commitment.<sup>1047</sup>

The main working areas included in Pillar 2 are: 1) Provide various types of relief, including financial and tax relief, for enterprises; 2) Implement employment retention measures and 3) Extend social protection to everyone.<sup>1048</sup> Of these, working areas 2) and 3) directly relate to this commitment.

Employment retention measures provide incentives to employers to hold on to workers even if a firm has to close or decrease its activity. The main objective is to keep workers on the payroll so that enterprises are ready to resume activity as soon as the restrictions have been eased or lifted. Such measures may include work sharing and shorter working weeks, wage subsidies, temporary suspensions of tax payments and social security contributions, and making access to various forms of business support conditional on the retention of workers. In some cases, employers may receive subsidies for guaranteeing that laid off employees can return to work for them again once the situation improves. Enterprises with a number of different production lines or subsidiaries may relocate workers to higher-demand lines — for example, as part of the repurposing of production to manufacture medical and other products needed for the response to the pandemic. Such measures are suitable for enterprises of all sizes, and they have already been widely implemented in European countries, helping to preserve employment relationships and facilitating the recovery phase. Employment retention measures should also cover migrants and refugees as providing equal opportunities can increase productivity and reduce societal tensions.<sup>1049</sup>

As for social protection, those who lack it — including part-time and temporary workers, micro-entrepreneurs and the self-employed, many of whom are operating in the informal economy and/or may be migrant workers — have been hit particularly hard by job and income losses during the crisis. According to ILO, more than 100 countries have implemented social protection measures as part of their response to the COVID-19 crisis, especially in the areas of health protection, unemployment protection, sickness benefits and social assistance. This has helped to ensure inclusive and effective access to healthcare and income security, thereby supporting jobs, livelihoods and incomes, notably among those in a vulnerable situation.<sup>1050</sup>

To achieve full compliance, G20 members need to safeguard people's jobs and incomes by taking actions in accordance with both ILO policy recommendations, namely, implementing employment retention measures and extending social protection to everyone. Implementing measures in line with only one of these policy recommendations results in partial compliance.

Actions must have been taken between 27 March 2020 and 26 May 2020 to be counted for compliance.

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<sup>1047</sup> A policy framework for responding to the COVID-19 crisis, ILO (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS\\_739047/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS_739047/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>1048</sup> Pillar 2: Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes, ILO (Geneva). Access Date: 25 May 2020.

[https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS\\_744237/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS_744237/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>1049</sup> Protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, ILO (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS\\_743268/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_743268/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>1050</sup> Social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis: Country responses and policy considerations, ILO (Geneva) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/RessourcePDF.action?id=56044>.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not take any actions in accordance with recommendations by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.
0	G20 member takes actions in accordance with ILO recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by either implementing employment retention measures or seeking to extend social protection to everyone.
+1	G20 member takes actions in accordance with ILO recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes both by implementing employment retention measures and seeking to extend social protection to everyone.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 23 March 2020, the Argentinean government launched the Emergency Family Income, a monetary benefit for citizens between 18 and 65 years, who are unemployed, work in the informal economy or at home. It is paid to a single member of the family and is compatible with the Universal Child Allowance.<sup>1051</sup> Because this was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 27 March 2020, the Argentinean government took a decision to extend the Comprehensive Unemployment Benefits System implementation until end May 2020.<sup>1052</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Argentinean government prohibited to dismiss workers for the reasons of lack or decrease in working hours and force majeure as a result of COVID-19 outbreak until 31 March 2020.<sup>1053</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Argentinean government launched the emergency assistance program for jobs and production. Among the benefits available under the program are postponement of the payment of employer contributions to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System (SIPA); a reduction of up to 95% of employer contributions to the SIPA; and partial coverage of wages by the National Social Security Administration (ANSES). The requirements that must be met to have access to these benefits include the evidence of economic activities that had been "critically affected," of a significant percentage of employees who cannot provide services, and of a substantial reduction in sales after 20 March 2020.<sup>1054</sup>

On 18 April 2020, the list of activities and services considered "critically affected" and eligible for the emergency assistance program for jobs and production was expanded.<sup>1055</sup>

On 19 April 2020, the Argentinean government expanded the list of benefits to protect incomes and jobs, launching zero-rate loans for taxpayers using the simplified tax regime and self-employed and a

<sup>1051</sup> Social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis: Country responses and policy considerations, ILO (Geneva) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227113/20200324>.

<sup>1052</sup> Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social Resolución 260/2020, Bouletin Oficial de la Republica Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227237/20200328>.

<sup>1053</sup> Decreto 329/2020, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/335000-339999/335976/norma.htm>.

<sup>1054</sup> Decreto 332/2020, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos (Buenos Aires) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/335000-339999/336003/norma.htm>.

<sup>1055</sup> Bouletin Oficial de la Republica Argentina Numero 34.359, Bouletin Oficial de la Republica Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/suplementos/2020041801NS.pdf>.

comprehensive system of unemployment benefits. The procedure for the reduction of employer contributions to social funds was simplified. This package of measures may be in force until 30 June or 30 October for those sectors that continue to be affected.<sup>1056</sup> On 8 May 2020, this program was extended until 31 May 2020.<sup>1057</sup>

On 25 April 2020, the Argentinean government expanded its food card program intended for mothers or fathers with children up to six years old who receive the Universal Child Allowance, pregnant women who receive the Pregnancy Allowance and people with disabilities. It is an instrument to guarantee access to the basic food basket.<sup>1058</sup>

On 30 April 2020, ANSES extended the grace period for the payment of credit installments until June 2020 in order to maintain incomes of the most vulnerable sectors during the pandemic.<sup>1059</sup>

Argentina has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 30 March 2020, the Australian government launched the JobKeeper Payment program worth AUD 130 billion. It is a government subsidy to enable businesses significantly impacted by COVID-19 to continue paying employees. It supports businesses and not-for-profit organizations through a payment of AUD 1,500 per fortnight per eligible employee and eligible employees must receive at least this amount.<sup>1060</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Australian government amended the Fair Work Act 2009 to enable employers receiving the JobKeeper Payment to temporarily vary workplace arrangements for relevant employees, which they consider necessary, to counter the impact of COVID-19. Existing rights and protections for employees under Australian labour law are maintained.<sup>1061</sup>

On 21 April 2020, Australian government announced changes to the Career Transition Assistance program. They provide for additional funding for mature-age job seekers aged 45 and over to increase access to training and support, improve their digital literacy and identify their transferable skills.<sup>1062</sup>

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<sup>1056</sup> Decreto 376/2020, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227988/20200420>.

<sup>1057</sup> Decisión Administrativa 747/2020, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/229114/20200512>.

<sup>1058</sup> Argentina contra el Hambre, Administración Pública Nacional de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/argentinacontraelhambre>.

<sup>1059</sup> Resolución 1/2020, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/228512/20200501>.

<sup>1060</sup> JobKeeper Payment, Australian Government (Canberra) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.ato.gov.au/general/jobkeeper-payment/>.

<sup>1061</sup> Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Act 2020, Australian Federal Registry of Legislation (Canberra) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00038>.

<sup>1062</sup> Expanded support for mature aged job seekers, Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.employment.gov.au/news/expanded-support-mature-aged-job-seekers>.

On 27 April 2020, Australian government expanded eligibility to income support payments and launched a new, time-limited, Coronavirus Supplement, paid at a rate of AUD 550 per fortnight on top the current income support of existing and new recipients.<sup>1063</sup> However, because this was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

Australia has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 26 March 2020, the Brazilian parliament established an emergency monthly grant of BRL 600 to the most vulnerable, low-income, informal, self-employed and unemployed citizens. Single parents (especially women) are allowed double the grant. The government estimates that between 70 to 100 million Brazilian citizens may benefit from the emergency monthly grant.<sup>1064</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 1 April 2020, the government published executive order No. 936. It allowed for the suspension of labour contracts or reduction in working hours instead of contract terminations and funding part of the monthly income of workers whose working hours were reduced during the pandemic. The funding is proportional to regular unemployment benefits but does not count as such, allowing the worker to claim unemployment benefits, if needed, in future. Data compiled by the government estimates more than 7 million jobs have already been preserved through measures established by this order.<sup>1065</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Brazilian government published executive order No. 944. It provided for the financing of the payroll obligations of small and medium companies with subsidized interests with the condition these companies do not fire employees.<sup>1066</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the Brazilian government announced BRL 5 billion in financing for the tourism sector. Companies such as tourism agencies, hotels, tourist carriers, guides, convention centres, entertainment and leisure enterprises, water and theme parks, car rental companies, event organizers, as well as restaurants, cafes, and bars, may have access to credit, including for paying to their employees.<sup>1067</sup>

Brazil has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system.

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<sup>1063</sup> More financial support for people affected by coronavirus, Australian Government (Canberra) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/news/more-financial-support-people-affected-coronavirus>.

<sup>1064</sup> Câmara aprova auxílio de R\$ 600 a trabalhadores durante crise da covid-19, UOL Economia (São Paulo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://economia.uol.com.br/noticias/redacao/2020/03/26/camara-aprova-vale-de-r-600-a-trabalhadores-durante-crise-do-coronavirus.htm>.

<sup>1065</sup> MP 936/2020: Economia lança cartilha para esclarecer dúvidas, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/abril/mp-936-2020-economia-lanca-cartilha-para-esclarecer-duvidas>.

<sup>1066</sup> Medida Provisória Ne 944, de 3 de Abril de 2020, Presidência da República (Brasília) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv944.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv944.htm).

<sup>1067</sup> Medida Provisória Ne 944, de 7 de Maio de 2020, Presidência da República (Brasília) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv963.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2019-2022/2020/Mpv/mpv963.htm).

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

**Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 18 March 2020, Canada announced the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. It provides for improved access to employment insurance<sup>1068</sup> and a launch of a new Canada Emergency Support Benefit which will provide a taxable benefit of CAD 2,000 a month for up to four months to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19.<sup>1069</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Canadian government temporarily waived requirements to provide a medical certificate to access existing leaves (medical leave, compassionate care leave and leave related to critical illness) for employees in the federally-regulated private sector.<sup>1070</sup>

Because these announcements were made before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit they do not count toward compliance.

On 27 March 2020, the Canadian government announced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). Eligible Canadian employers who suffer a drop in gross revenues of at least 15 per cent in March, and 30 per cent in April and May, are able to access it for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to 15 March 2020. Generally, it covers 75 per cent of employees' wages, representing a benefit of up to CAD 847 per week, and is available for employers of all sizes and across all sectors who have suffered a drop in gross revenues.<sup>1071</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Canadian government decided to extend the CEWS by an additional 12 weeks to 29 August 2020.<sup>1072</sup> Employers that do not qualify for the CEWS may continue to qualify for the previously announced 10 per cent temporary wage subsidy for remuneration paid from 18 March to before 20 June, which will allow eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency.<sup>1073</sup>

Canada has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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<sup>1068</sup> Employment Insurance Improvements, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/ei-improvements.html>

<sup>1069</sup> Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>.

<sup>1070</sup> Labour Program and federally regulated workplaces – COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/labour/notice-covid-19.html#h2.5.2>.

<sup>1071</sup> Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>.

<sup>1072</sup> Government extends the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-extends-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>.

<sup>1073</sup> FAQ – Temporary wage subsidy for employers: CRA and COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html#h1>.

### **China: +1**

China fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 6 February 2020, the State Taxation Administration unveiled a set of additional measures to support the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. These measures include provisions that exclude temporary work allowances and bonuses obtained by medical personnel and other public health workers participating in the epidemic prevention and control in accordance with the standards set by the government from personal income tax.<sup>1074</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China presented a list of policies to support resumption of production and operation of individual household businesses. From 1 March to 31 May 2020, small taxpayers in Hubei province will be exempted from value-added tax (VAT) if their tax rate is set at 3 per cent. Small taxpayers in other regions will pay a lower tax rate of 1 per cent on taxable sales revenue if their VAT rate is set at 3 per cent.<sup>1075</sup>

On 1 March 2020, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission issued a circular about implementing provisional postponement in principal and interest repayment for loans to SMEs and micro enterprises. Epidemic-hit small, micro and medium-sized enterprises, including individual household businesses, can make applications with banks to defer repayment of principal and interest expenses payable from 25 January to 30 June 2020. According to the circular, overdue loan repayments in the period will not be subject to penalties.<sup>1076</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China issued Circular about fixing industry chains and pushing for coordinated resumption of work and production. The Circular calls for relevant governments to implement favorable policies like offering subsidized loans to agricultural firms and small businesses, exempting social insurance payments and housing provident funds for corporate employers, deferring loan repayment deadlines for SMEs, and instructing local companies to make full use of these policies.<sup>1077</sup>

However, because these actions were taken before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit they do not count toward compliance.

On 7 April 2020, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) and the State Taxation Administration (STA) issued the circular about using banking services to help small and micro enterprises to resume work and production. Banks should develop innovative credit products suitable for small and micro firms, optimize loan approval procedures, speed up response to

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<sup>1074</sup> 关于支持新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎疫情防控有关个人所得税政策的公告 (Announcement on Supporting the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia Epidemic Infected by New Coronavirus), State Taxation Administration (Beijing) 06 February 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/chinatax/n810341/n810755/c5143466/content.html>

<sup>1075</sup> 关于支持个体工商户复工复产增值税政策的公告 (Announcement on Supporting the Value-added Tax Policy for the Reinstatement of Individual Industrial and Commercial Households), Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 February 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. [http://szs.mof.gov.cn/zhengcefabu/202002/t20200228\\_3475718.htm](http://szs.mof.gov.cn/zhengcefabu/202002/t20200228_3475718.htm)

<sup>1076</sup> 银保监会 人民银行 发展改革委 工业和信息化部 财政部关于对中小微企业 贷款实施临时性延期还本付息的通知 (Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission People's Bank Development and Reform Commission Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Ministry of Finance Notice on the temporary deferred principal and interest payment of loans), China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 01 March 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <http://www.cbirc.gov.cn/cn/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=892278&itemId=926>

<sup>1077</sup> 工业和信息化部办公厅关于开展产业链固链行动 推动产业链协同复工复产的通知 (Announcement of the General Office of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on the promotion of the coordinated resumption of industrial chain production), Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 March 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.miit.gov.cn/n1146295/n1652858/n1652930/n3757016/c7836652/content.html>

customers' loan demand, increase credit loan quota and extend repayment period, in a bid to help small businesses ease their capital problems and resume operations as soon as possible.<sup>1078</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Government of China issued the circular about furthering increasing interest subsidies for guaranteed loans to startups and supporting key groups of people to start new business or get employed. For small and micro firms, if 15 percent of their employees are newly hired, they can apply for guaranteed startup loans; for companies with a workforce of more than 100 persons, the ratio of newly hired employees can be lowered to 8 percent. Eligible individual borrowers can borrow up to RMB 200,000 of guaranteed start-up loans. New loans granted before 31 December 2020 should cover individual business owners in the wholesale, retail and catering sectors as well as full-time drivers who have borrowed loans to buy cars for online car-hailing service.<sup>1079</sup>

On 26 April 2020, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security issued the Circular about increasing Employment Support for Labors in and from Hubei. The circular proposed to increase guaranteed loans and interest subsidies to people starting a new business, loan approval procedures should be simplified and streamlined, and loan repayments can be extended by a reasonable period of time. Local governments can consider offering one-time subsidies to new business owners from Hubei if their businesses have smooth operations for at least six months.<sup>1080</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the STA and the Ministry of Finance announced the extension of the preferential value-added tax policy for small-scale taxpayers to 31 December 2020. It means that all the incentives proposed on 28 February 2020 will be prolonged until the end of 2020.<sup>1081</sup>

China has taken steps to safeguard people's jobs in incomes in accordance with two working areas proposed by the International Labour Organization. Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

Decrees no. 2020-371 of 30 March 2020 and no. 2020-394 of 2 April 2020, in combination with ordinance no. 2020-317, set up a solidarity fund for a period of three months, with the purpose of providing financial assistance to persons engaged in an economic activity "particularly affected by the economic, financial and social consequences" of the COVID-19 outbreak. Small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employed workers with an annual turnover of less than EUR 1 million and an annual tax revenue of less than EUR 60,000 who have to close down their premises or register losses

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<sup>1078</sup> 关于发挥“银税互动”作用助力小微企业复工复产的通知 (Notice on the role of “silver tax interaction” to help small and micro enterprises resume work), State Tax Administration (Beijing) 07 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/chinatax/n810341/n810755/c5148057/content.html>

<sup>1079</sup> 关于进一步加大创业担保贷款贴息力度全力支持重点群体创业就业的通知 (Notice on Further Increasing the Interest Discount of Entrepreneurship Guaranteed Loans and Supporting Key Group Entrepreneurship and Employment), Government of China (Beijing) 15 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-04/17/content\\_5503337.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-04/17/content_5503337.htm)

<sup>1080</sup> 人力资源社会保障部办公厅 财政部办公厅 民政部办公厅关于加大湖北地区和湖北籍劳动者就业支持力度的通知 (Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the General Office of the Ministry of Finance, and the General Office of the Ministry of Civil Affairs on increasing employment support for workers from Hubei), Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/gkml/zcfg/gfxwj/202004/t20200430\\_367094.html](http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/gkml/zcfg/gfxwj/202004/t20200430_367094.html)

<sup>1081</sup> China Extends VAT Preferential Policy for Small-Scale Taxpayers to the End of 2020, China Briefing (Hong Kong) 09 May 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-extends-vat-preferential-policy-small-scale-taxpayers-end-2020/>

amounting to 70 per cent for their March 2020 turnover, as compared to their March 2019 turnover, might apply for a special aid from the solidarity fund. As from 1 April 2020, eligible persons can request the payment of EUR 1,500; as from 15 April 2020, eligible persons facing severe economic consequences might request an additional payment amounting to EUR 2,000, granted on a case by case basis.<sup>1082</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the French government announced emergency aid of EUR 150 per family receiving active solidarity income or specific solidarity allowance, to which will be added EUR 100 euros per child. This aid will be paid on 15 May. Families who do not benefit from either but who receive housing assistance, will receive EUR 100. The payment “will be automatic, without any action being necessary” and will concern “more than four million households.”<sup>1083</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced an assistance of EUR 200 to 800,000 young people under the age of 25, namely, students who had lost their job or their internship and to isolated overseas students who had been unable to return home.<sup>1084</sup>

France has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people’s jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people’s jobs and incomes.

On 19 March 2020, the German government revealed its plans to provide grants of up to EUR 15,000 for freelancers and other self-employed over 3 months. A total of EUR 50 billion is planned for this purpose.<sup>1085</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 1 May 2020, the German government altered the conditions to receive short time work benefit (Kurzzeitarbeitergeld). Now 10 per cent of all employees in an enterprise must have a lack of work to get it (previously 30 per cent). Social security contributions are fully compensated to the employer, and temporary workers are included in the scheme.<sup>1086</sup> Short time work benefit is increased from currently 60 per cent (67 per cent with children) of the former net income to 70 per cent (77 per cent) from the fourth month of short time work and 80 per cent (87 per cent) from the seventh

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<sup>1082</sup> Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>.

<sup>1083</sup> Coronavirus en France : des primes pour les soignants et des aides pour les ménages les plus défavorisés, Le Monde (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2020/04/15/coronavirus-emmanuel-macron-souhaite-un-moratoire-sur-la-dette-des-pays-africains\\_6036639\\_823448.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2020/04/15/coronavirus-emmanuel-macron-souhaite-un-moratoire-sur-la-dette-des-pays-africains_6036639_823448.html).

<sup>1084</sup> Discours de M. Édouard Philippe, Premier ministre, Présentation de la stratégie nationale de déconfinement, Government of France (Paris) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2020/05/discours\\_de\\_monsieur\\_edouard\\_philippe\\_premier\\_ministre\\_-\\_presentation\\_de\\_la\\_strategie\\_nationale\\_de\\_deconfinement\\_-\\_senat\\_-\\_04.05.2020.pdf](https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2020/05/discours_de_monsieur_edouard_philippe_premier_ministre_-_presentation_de_la_strategie_nationale_de_deconfinement_-_senat_-_04.05.2020.pdf).

<sup>1085</sup> Bundesregierung will 40 Milliarden Euro für Kleinunternehmen bereitstellen, Der Spiegel (Hamburg) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/corona-krise-bundesregierung-will-40-milliarden-euro-fuer-kleinstunternehmen-bereitstellen-a-ca1f6b3f-8156-4258-a31b-ff335095c9f2>.

<sup>1086</sup> Easier access to short-time work allowance, German Federal Government (Berlin) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/kabinett-kurzzeitarbeitergeld-1729898>.

month until end-2020. Payment of unemployment benefit would be extended for three additional months if it would expire between 1 May 2020 and 31 December 2020.<sup>1087</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the German parliament adopted the Infection Protection Act. According to the Act, anyone who is placed in quarantine because of the pandemic or who is not allowed to work because of his or her own infection can receive compensation for his or her loss of earnings. For the first six weeks the amount provided as sick leave corresponds to the net salary, after which the amount equals to sick leave benefits.<sup>1088</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the German government announced new measures to support parents who lose income due to COVID-19. They can get easier access to child benefits. In addition, simplified process for a child grant (Kinderzuschlag) is put in place, with one-month income proof instead of six months. Payment amount is up to EUR 185 per child per month until September.<sup>1089</sup>

Germany has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **India: +1**

India fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 26 March 2020, the Government of India announced that it would allocate USD 2.23 bln to support the poor amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The package is said to cover 800 mln people or about two-third of the country's population. The allocated funds would be used to provide each family suffering from lack of economic activity due to the coronavirus lockdown with funding during the next three months.<sup>1090</sup> By 5 May 2020, approximately 390 million people have received financial assistance of INR 34800 each.<sup>1091</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 28 April 2020, the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed an agreement on provision of USD 1.5 billion loan to facilitate India's COVID-19 quick response. The allocated funds would be spent for improvement of the country's disease containment and prevention system, social guarantees for the poor and economically vulnerable population groups, especially women and disadvantaged people.<sup>1092</sup>

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<sup>1087</sup> Bundesregierung beschließt umfangreiches Rettungspaket, Der Spiegel (Hamburg) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/coronavirus-bundesregierung-beschliesst-umfangreiches-rettungspaket-a-2e96dfed-b307-4a47-a62b-ca81cf7be4a9>.

<sup>1088</sup> The Federal Government informs about the Corona crisis, Deutschland.de (Berlin) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>1089</sup> Kinderzuschlag, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/kinderzuschlag>.

<sup>1090</sup> Finance Minister announces Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus, Ministry of Finance of India (New Delhi) 26 March 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1608345>

<sup>1091</sup> PM Garib Kalyan Yojana: Around 39 cr people receive financial assistance of Rs 34,800, DNA India (Mumbai) 5 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-pm-garib-kalyan-yojana-around-39-cr-people-receive-financial-assistance-of-rs-34800-2823844>

<sup>1092</sup> India signs \$1.5 billion loan with ADB to support India's COVID-19 immediate response, Ministry of Finance of India (New Delhi) 28 April 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1618955>

On 6 May 2020, the state-run Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) announced the introduction of an online application mechanism for employers facing difficulties in applying for subsidies amid the COVID-19 outbreak. EPFO has decided to accept such requests through email.<sup>1093</sup>

India has taken steps to safeguard people's jobs in incomes in accordance with two working areas proposed by the International Labour Organization. Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 31 March 2020, President Joko Widodo held a press conference before making a televised speech announcing the government's latest actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned, inter alia, the expansion of the country's social safety net programs that came into effect starting 1 April 2020, as well as Ministry of Manpower recommendations to employers on taking alternative measures before laying off workers.<sup>1094</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Indonesian finance ministry issued regulation No. 23/PMK.03/2020. According to this regulation, manufacturers, importers and their employees are exempt from paying their income taxes for six months starting from 1 April 2020.<sup>1095</sup>

On 11 April 2020, registration for the Indonesian government's pre-employment card program was officially opened via the official site [www.prakerja.go.id](http://www.prakerja.go.id). First announced during President Widodo's re-election campaign, the implementation of the program had been sped up due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants of the program are eligible for training subsidies at a value of IDR 3.55 million. A quota of 164,000 participants was opened for the first "wave" of registrations. 30 pre-employment registration waves had been planned in 2020 with the government allocating IDR 200 trillion to the program. Any Indonesian citizen 18 years old or older, who is not enlisted in any formal education, may apply.<sup>1096</sup>

In April 2020, the Minister of Social Affairs Juliari Batubara announced that the government would be distributing direct social aid in the form of staple goods valued at IDR 600,000 per month per family to residents in Jakarta and its greater areas of Bogor, Depok, Tangerang and Bekasi. The social aid was distributed starting from the final week of April for a period of three months. Additionally, in that same period, the ministry decided to distribute direct cash aid of IDR 600,000 per month per family to citizens who are not residents of Jakarta and its greater areas. The recipients for the direct

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<sup>1093</sup> EPFO introduces email mechanism to obtain e-Sign for easing the Process of EPF Compliance by Employers during Lockdown Period as employers were finding difficult to use digital or Aadhaar based e-Sign, Ministry of Labour & Employment of India (New Delhi) 6 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1621380>

<sup>1094</sup> COVID-19 developments in Indonesia, EU-Indonesia Business Network (EIBN) (Jakarta) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.eibn.org/news/25/covid-19-developments-in-indonesia>.

<sup>1095</sup> Kementerian Keuangan Berikan Empat Insentif Terkait Perpajakan Bagi Usaha Terdampak Corona, Ministry of Finance of Indonesia (Jakarta) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/siaran-pers/siaran-pers-kementerian-keuangan-berikan-empat-insentif-terkait-perpajakan-bagi-usaha-terdampak-corona/>.

<sup>1096</sup> Pemerintah Resmi Buka Pendaftaran Kartu Prakerja Tahap Pertama, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://setkab.go.id/pemerintah-resmi-buka-pendaftaran-kartu-prakerja-tahap-pertama/>.

cash aid are those registered in the ministry's database who are not already recipients of a currently running social aid program.<sup>1097</sup>

Indonesia has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepon*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 17 March 2020, Italian government launched the "Cura Italia" stimulus — a package of EUR 25 billion, including EUR 13.5 billion to support families and workers. It offers funds to private-sector workers to pay for babysitters via a childcare voucher of up to EUR 600 for workers with children below the age of 12 who decide not to take parental leave. The voucher can reach up to EUR 1,000 for workers in the health sector. Besides, to discourage layoffs during the crisis, employees of companies that had interrupted their activities were entitled to receive a benefit in the amount of 80 percent of the salary paid by the state. The measure would be valid for up to nine weeks with an end date of 31 August 2020.<sup>1098</sup> Because this was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 29 March 2020, the National Civil Protection transferred EUR 400 million to 7,904 municipalities to purchase food vouchers and/or basic food necessities based on population and income criteria. Mayors are free to decide how to purchase products and how to select beneficiaries. Priority should be given to households that are not beneficiaries of other social assistance programs.<sup>1099</sup>

On 1 April 2020, applications opened in Italy for a one-off EUR 600 bonus to self-employed and professional workers, including agricultural, tourism and cultural sector workers.<sup>1100</sup>

Italy has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepon*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

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<sup>1097</sup> COVID-19 developments in Indonesia, Deutsch-Indonesische Industrie- und Handelskammer (EKONID) (Frankfurt am Main) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://indonesien.ahk.de/en/infocenter/news/news-details/covid-19-developments-in-indonesia>.

<sup>1098</sup> Decreto-legge 17 marzo 2020, n. 18, Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/17/20G00034/sg>.

<sup>1099</sup> Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures, World Bank (Washington) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/958361587405455498/pdf/Social-Protection-and-Jobs-Responses-to-COVID-19-A-Real-Time-Review-of-Country-Measures-April-17-2020.pdf>.

<sup>1100</sup> Banca dati misure dei paesi europei per lavoratori e imprese in risposta alla pandemia del COVID-19, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/rome/centenario/WCMS\\_740676/lang--it/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/rome/centenario/WCMS_740676/lang--it/index.htm).

On 1 April 2020, Japanese government launched the expanded system of Employment Adjustment Subsidies in order to protect employment and secure the stability of people's lives. The scope of the special measures was expanded to all business owners, and decision was made to apply them retroactively back to January 2020. The subsidy rate was increased from 2/3 to 4/5 (9/10 in case of no dismissals) for SMEs and from 1/2 to 2/3 for large enterprises (3/4 in case of no dismissals).<sup>1101</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Japanese government adopted a package of measures to expand social protection. These include: cash payment to all residents in Japan for the purpose of fostering national solidarity against COVID-19 of JPY 100,000 per person, tax exempt, amounting to approximately JPY 12.9 trillion in total; child allowance of JPY 10,000 per child, tax exempt, as an addition to the regular monthly child allowance, tax exempt; emergency microcredit to troubled households of maximum JPY 200,000 with no interest to those who need temporary money, and additional loan with no interest of JPY 450,000-600,000 for three months to those who rebuild their lives; enhanced rent support for low income households to include those who are about to lose their dwelling due to decrease in revenue below certain thresholds; reduction or exemption of social security contribution to healthcare and long-term care insurance.<sup>1102</sup>

Japan has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

#### **Korea: +1**

Korea fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 26 February 2020, Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labour announced that it would simplify the procedures for subsidy for flexible work arrangements. The "flexible work arrangement subsidy" is designed to provide assistance to cover labour costs for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that introduce commuting with time difference, work from home, remote work or selective work hours for their employees. The subsidy amount depends on the number of those flexible work arrangements employees take. Employers will be paid KRW 50,000 per employee taking flexible work arrangements once or twice a week and KRW 100,000 per employee taking them three times a week or more up to a year per employee in aggregate.<sup>1103</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Employment and Labour announced that it would take measures to minimize the employment effects of the spread of COVID-19. The measures include increase in the employee retention subsidies, introduction of customized job security measures tailored to meet the needs of specific regions of the country, promotion of family care leave,

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<sup>1101</sup> 新型コロナウイルス感染症の影響を踏まえ雇用調整助成金の特例を拡充しま, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (Tokyo) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000620879.pdf>.

<sup>1102</sup> Emergency Economic Measures to Cope with COVID-19. Cabinet Decision on April 7, 2020, Amended on April 20, 2020 (Summary), Government of Japan Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420\\_economic\\_measures.pdf](https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420_economic_measures.pdf).

<sup>1103</sup> Government will simplify procedures for subsidy for flexible work arrangements to fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor of South Korea (Seoul) 26 February 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?id=1555](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?id=1555)

provision of livelihood support loans among low-income workers, expansion of the scope of employers eligible for substitute payment and free legal aid support.<sup>1104</sup>

Because these actions took place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit they do not count toward compliance.

On 30 March 2020, the Government of Korea announced a package of additional measures to support population affected with the COVID-19 outbreak. The government announced that it has drawn up interministerial measures to be implemented from April to support the livelihood of vulnerable groups without employment safety net, as workers on unpaid leave and on leave of absence, persons in special types of employment, such as dependent self-employed, freelancers, construction workers and young job seekers would be mostly affected by the economic fallout from COVID-19. Special Regional Employment Support Aid will be given to 100,000 workers, at the rate of KRW 500,000 a month and Emergency Welfare Aid of an average of KRW 650,000 a month will be provided. The dependent self-employed and freelancers who have seen a reduction in work will be eligible to receive a job search promotion subsidy of KRW 500,000 for three months. Some additional payments were announced to support construction workers, small enterprises owners, youth and elderly.<sup>1105</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the Government of Korea held the 4th Crisis Management Meeting where it unveiled its plans to strengthen support for vulnerable debtors amid the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. These measures include a pre-workout program for debtors without multiple debts whose income levels have fallen due to COVID-19 and an adjustment program for debtors with multiple debts. Under the pre-workout program's provisions, a 6- to 12-month deferment of principal payment will be provided by all financial institutions until the end of the year. For those debtors who are burdened with multiple debts the government will provide a deferment period for all principal payments up to one year with support of 5,800 financial institutions and loan companies.<sup>1106</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Government of Korea presented a detailed plan on establishment of a stabilization fund to support the key industries in relieving the economic consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak that was announced on 22 April 2020.<sup>1107</sup> The fund is said to deliver extra funding of KRW 40 trillion (approximately USD 32.3 billion) to industries designated by the enforcement decree of the Korea Development Bank Act to have significant effects on the domestic economy, the stability of the job market and the national security. In order to receive support through the key industry stabilization fund, businesses will be required to retain jobs, share profits from business normalization and work to prevent moral hazard — for example, these businesses are required to maintain at least 90 per cent of the employment level compared to the level observed on 1 May for six months from the first day of receiving support.<sup>1108</sup>

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<sup>1104</sup> Proactive Measures to Support Employment Security in Response to COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor of South Korea (Seoul) 28 February 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1552](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1552)

<sup>1105</sup> Gov't launches additional economic relief measures for vulnerable groups affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 March 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1559](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1559)

<sup>1106</sup> Strengthening Support for Vulnerable Debtors, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 08 April 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <http://www.fsc.go.kr/downManager?bbsid=BBS0048&no=151301>

<sup>1107</sup> Government Announces KRW 40 Trillion Fund to Support Key Industries, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 22 April 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <http://www.fsc.go.kr/downManager?bbsid=BBS0048&no=151742>

<sup>1108</sup> Plans to Create Key Industry Stabilization Fund, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 20 May 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <http://www.fsc.go.kr/downManager?bbsid=BBS0048&no=152915>

Korea has taken steps to safeguard people's jobs and incomes in accordance with two working areas proposed by the International Labour Organization. Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 27 March 2020, the Mexican government decided that universal pensions for elderly people and people with disabilities would be paid for four months in advance.<sup>1109</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Government of Mexico declared COVID-19 a national health emergency. The government reiterated that this declaration should not lead to job losses or to any impact on wages. The government recommends that employers keep their workers' full wages, whenever possible. For companies that find it difficult to follow this recommendation, explanatory procedures are provided for to help reach agreements that benefit both employers and employees.<sup>1110</sup>

In April 2020, the Social Security Institute for Public Sector Workers launched a MXN 35 billion program destined to give personal loans ranging from MXN 20,000 to MXN 56,000 each, which is expected to benefit 670,000 public sector workers.<sup>1111</sup>

On 22 April 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador made a decision on increasing the budget to protect social programs and priority projects on MXN 622,565 billion. The measures will benefit 25 million poor and middle-class households and help create two million jobs.<sup>1112</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the Mexican government revealed its plans to provide 3 million loans of MXN 25,000 each to formal and informal companies. For formal companies, the eligibility requirement is to be "supportive" and do not fire workers or lower their wages in 2020.<sup>1113</sup>

Mexico has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepon*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

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<sup>1109</sup> En apoyo a la economía popular se adelanta pago de pensiones de adultos mayores y personas con discapacidad, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/en-apoyo-a-la-economia-popular-se-adelanta-pago-de-pensiones-de-adultos-mayores-y-personas-con-discapacidad?idiom=es>.

<sup>1110</sup> Juntos por el Trabajo, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/juntosporl trabajo>.

<sup>1111</sup> Asignación de prestamos personales 2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/issste/articulos/asignacion-de-prestamos-personales-2020?idiom=es>.

<sup>1112</sup> Presidente anuncia nuevo decreto para proteger al 70% de las familias mexicanas, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/presidente-anuncia-nuevo-decreto-para-protector-al-70-de-las-familias-mexicanas?idiom=es>.

<sup>1113</sup> Lineamientos para la Operación del Programa de Apoyo Financiero a Microempresas Familiares, Diario Oficial de la Federación (Mexico City) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

[https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5592265&fecha=24/04/2020](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5592265&fecha=24/04/2020).

On 27 March 2020, the Russian government increased the monthly unemployment benefit to a maximum of RUB 12,130, which is equal to the minimum wage.<sup>1114</sup>

On 7 April 2020, President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order providing for support to families with children. Families entitled to maternity capital (grant) will be paid an additional RUB 5,000 a month for each child under the age of three, inclusive, in April-June 2020.<sup>1115</sup>

On 15 April 2020, Vladimir Putin announced new measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises. The amount of support for a particular company is calculated taking into account the total number of its employees, based on the amount of RUB 12,130 per employee per month. These funds can be used by enterprises to address the current most urgent problems, including paying salaries for April and May. The only mandatory requirement to a business is that they should hang on to as many jobs as possible — at least 90 per cent of the number of staff as of 1 April. In addition, he announced the program of interest-free loans for the payment of salaries. Vnesheconombank would guarantee at least 75 per cent of such payroll loans from commercial banks. The loans can help companies not to dismiss their employees.<sup>1116</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Russian government decided that workers who had lost their jobs since 1 March 2020 will get the maximum unemployment benefit. In addition, they will receive RUB 3,000 per month for each child.<sup>1117</sup>

On 11 May 2020, President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order specifying and complementing his decision of 7 April 2020. It introduced additional one-off RUB 10,000 payment for each child aged between 3 and 16.<sup>1118</sup>

Russia has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepov*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 20 March 2020, the Government of Saudi Arabia announced a list of urgent measures to mitigate the impact of coronavirus on the country's economy. The financial stimulus worth SAR 70 bln (approximately USD 1.9 bln) implies allowance to refund the fees of issued working visas that were not used during the ban on entry and exit and postponement of the payments of value-added tax,

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<sup>1114</sup> Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of March 27, 2020 No. 346 "On the size of the minimum and maximum values of unemployment benefits for 2020," Official Internet Portal of the Legal Information (Moscow) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202003300022>.

<sup>1115</sup> Executive Order on additional support measures for families with children, President of Russia (Moscow) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63174>.

<sup>1116</sup> Meeting with Government members, President of Russia (Moscow) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63204>.

<sup>1117</sup> Citizens who have lost their jobs after 1 March will receive the maximum unemployment benefit in April-June, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://rosmintrud.ru/labour/protection/18>.

<sup>1118</sup> Amendments to Executive Order On Additional Measures of Social Support for Families with Children, President of Russia (Moscow) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/63342>.

excise tax, income tax along with several other obligatory payments up to three months.<sup>1119</sup> Because this announcement was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit the actions do not count toward compliance.

On 15 April 2020, the Government of Saudi Arabia announced a package of additional initiatives to tackle the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak. The government plans to subsidize up to 60 per cent of the private sector employees' salaries with a total value of SAR 9 billion (approximately USD 2.4 billion). In addition, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority has initiated an extensive support program for banks, financial institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises with a value of SAR 50 billion (approximately USD 13.3 billion). Additional measures include a 30 per cent discount on the value of electricity bill for consumers in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors for a period of two months from April to May.<sup>1120</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia announced the allocation of 100 billion Saudi rials emergency package (approximately USD 26 billion) to curb the economic outcomes of the COVID-19 outbreak. The package includes cancelling, extending, or postponing some operational and capital expenditures for some government agencies, as well as reducing provisions for initiative of a number of Vision Realization Programs and major projects for the fiscal year.<sup>1121</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken steps to safeguard people's jobs in incomes in accordance with two working areas proposed by the International Labour Organization. Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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

South Africa fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 25 March 2020, the Department of Labour of South Africa issued a notice which set out the COVID-19 Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme. The program provides extraordinary payments to businesses in difficult economic situation amid COVID-19 lockdown. However, it expressly states that in the event where an Employer can pay Employees, they are encouraged to do so.<sup>1122</sup> By 18 May 2020, more than 150000 workers have benefited from the Program's funding.<sup>1123</sup> Because the announcement was made before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 29 March 2020, the Ministry of Finance of South Africa presented a list of tax measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include: the introduction of a tax subsidy to employers of up to ZAR 500 per month (approximately USD 28.70) for the next four months for

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<sup>1119</sup> With More Than SAR 120 bn: Government of Saudi Arabia Implements Urgent Measures to Mitigate the Impact of Coronavirus on Economic Activities and Private Sector, Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 20 March 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. [https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/News\\_20032020.aspx](https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/News_20032020.aspx)

<sup>1120</sup> Saudi Government is taking a number of additional measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on economic activities and the private sector, Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/News\\_15042020\\_1.aspx](https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/News_15042020_1.aspx)

<sup>1121</sup> Ministry of Finance: Additional Measures to Confront the Financial and Economic Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 12 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/News\\_11052020.aspx](https://www.mof.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/news/Pages/News_11052020.aspx)

<sup>1122</sup> COVID -19 temporary employee / employer relief scheme (C19 TERS), 2020, Government Gazette (Johannesburg) 26 March 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202003/43161gen215.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202003/43161gen215.pdf)

<sup>1123</sup> Employment and Labour on 150 000 workers benefitting from Coronavirus Covid-19 UIF Temporary Relief Scheme, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/close-150-000-more-workers-benefit-uif-temporary-relief-scheme-18-may-2020-0000>

those private sector employees earning below ZAR 6,500 (approximately USD 373) under the Employment Tax Incentive; the South African Revenue Service to accelerate the payment of employment tax incentive reimbursements from twice a year to monthly to get cash into the hands of compliant employers as soon as possible; tax compliant businesses with a turnover of ZAR 50 million (approximately USD 2.9 million) or less will be allowed to delay 20 per cent of their employees' tax liabilities over the next four months and a portion of their provisional corporate income tax payments without penalties or interest over the next six months.<sup>1124</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Government of South Africa announced the introduction of the COVID-19 loan guaranteed scheme for businesses suffering from the extraordinary measures put on place amid the virus outbreak. The loan guarantee scheme is an initiative to provide loans, guaranteed by government, to eligible businesses with an annual turnover of less than ZAR 300 million (approximately USD 17 million) to meet some of their operational expenses. Funds borrowed through this scheme can be used for operational expenses such as salaries, rent and lease agreements, contracts with suppliers, etc.<sup>1125</sup>

South Africa has taken steps to safeguard people's jobs and incomes in accordance with two working areas proposed by the International Labour Organization. Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 18 March 2020, Turkish government announced a new economic relief package worth TRY 100 billion called the Economic Stability Shield. The package provided for several social security measures, including: the advanced payment of bonuses for eid-al-fitr for the retired persons; an extra TRY 1,000 payment for 5 million households receiving social benefits; TRY 1,500 payment for 3 million households hit financially by the crisis; an increase in the minimum pension to TRY 1,500; an increase in the monthly amount transferred to Social Benevolent and Solidarity Associations from TRY 135 million to TRY 180 million to protect the most disadvantaged groups; conditional cash transfers for education aimed at primary and secondary school students (TRY 75 for girls, TRY 50 for boys and TRY 150 for orphans).<sup>1126</sup> Because this was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 7 April 2020, Turkish treasury and finance minister Berat Albayrak announced financial support of TRY 1,170 per month for employees forced to take unpaid leave that could not benefit from short-time allowance. This allowance, in turn, is equivalent to 60 per cent of a minimum wage, with an eased application criteria and process during the pandemic.<sup>1127</sup>

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<sup>1124</sup> Tax measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Finance of South Africa (Pretoria) 29 March 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm\\_media/press/2020/20200329%20Media%20statement%20-%20COVID-19%20Tax%20Measures.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2020/20200329%20Media%20statement%20-%20COVID-19%20Tax%20Measures.pdf)

<sup>1125</sup> Loan guarantee scheme opens, National Treasury of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm\\_media/press/2020/20200512%20Media%20statement%20-%20Loan%20guarantee%20scheme%20opens.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2020/20200512%20Media%20statement%20-%20Loan%20guarantee%20scheme%20opens.pdf)

<sup>1126</sup> "Ülkemizin maruz kaldığı virüs tehdidinin en kısa sürede bertaraf edilmesi için devlet olarak tüm imkânlarımızı seferber ettik," Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/haberler/410/117037/-ulkemizin-maruz-kaldigi-virus-tehdidinin-en-kisa-surede-bertaraf-edilmesi-icin-devlet-olarak-tum-imeklarimizi-seferber-ettik->

<sup>1127</sup> COVID-19: Turkey to support workers taking unpaid leave, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/covid-19-turkey-to-support-workers-taking-unpaid-leave/1796315>.

On 16 April 2020, the Turkish government banned layoffs for three months to secure employment and reaffirmed protection to employees who are not eligible for short-time allowance and are put on unpaid leave.<sup>1128</sup>

Turkey has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 31 March 2020, the UK government launched a national voucher scheme for 1.3 million eligible school-aged children. Under the scheme, each school-aged child would receive GBP 15 per week voucher (equivalent to GBP 3 per day) in order to have access to meals during COVID-19-induced school closures. The vouchers are redeemable at all major supermarkets.<sup>1129</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the UK government extended its Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme until October 2020. Under the scheme, the government pays 80 per cent of the wages of furloughed workers, up to GBP 2,500 per month.<sup>1130</sup>

The UK has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

### **United States: +1**

The United States fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 27 March 2020, US President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. It provided for tax free payments — treated as a refundable tax credit — to individuals. Couples earning up to USD 150,000 receive USD 2,400, while individuals earning up to USD 75,000, receive USD 1,200. Families are receiving an additional payment of USD 500 for each dependent child. These payments phase out for those earning higher incomes.<sup>1131</sup> The CARES Act also included measures to expand unemployment insurance, namely, the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which assists individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment compensation and are unable to continue working as a result of COVID-19, such as self-employed

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<sup>1128</sup> Kanun No. 7244, Resmi Gazete (Ankara) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200417-2.htm>.

<sup>1129</sup> Global Monitoring of School Meals During COVID-19 School Closures, World Food Program (Rome) May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>.

<sup>1130</sup> Chancellor extends furlough scheme until October, UK Government (London) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-scheme-until-october>.

<sup>1131</sup> President Donald J. Trump Is Providing Economic Relief to American Workers, Families, and Businesses Impacted by the Coronavirus, The White House (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-providing-economic-relief-american-workers-families-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/>.

workers, independent contractors, and gig workers;<sup>1132</sup> and the provision, as part of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, of an additional USD 600 in weekly payments to certain eligible individuals receiving other benefits.<sup>1133</sup>

The US has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

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

The European Union fully complied with the commitment on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes.

On 2 April 2020, the European Commission presented a new instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE). It will allow for a financial assistance up to EUR 100 billion in the form of loans from the EU to affected member states. Financial assistance provided via the SURE instrument is to support the creation or extension of short time work schemes and other similar measures including for self-employed, in full respect of national competences. This initiative will be underpinned by a system of voluntary national guarantees from EU member states. Under the scheme, the European Commission would borrow from financial markets or with financial institutions in order to provide the loans. The system of national guarantees would ensure that the contingency liability is compatible with the EU budget. SURE is a voluntary instrument and member states must make a request for assistance to the European Commission. After assessing the situation, the European Commission will make a proposal to the Council. The latter will have to agree by qualified majority following which the European Commission and the member states would conclude an implementation agreement. The SURE instrument will become available after all member states have signed the guarantee agreement. The instrument will then be operational until 31 December 2022.<sup>1134</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the European Commission proposed a new recovery instrument, Next Generation EU. The Commission also unveiled its adjusted Work Programme for 2020, which will prioritize the actions needed to propel Europe's recovery and resilience. Next Generation EU will raise money by temporarily lifting the own resources ceiling to 2 per cent of EU Gross National Income, allowing the Commission to use its strong credit rating to borrow EUR 750 billion on the financial markets. This additional funding will be channeled through EU programmes and repaid throughout future EU budgets, not before 2028 and not after 2058. In addition, in order to make funds available as soon as possible to respond to the most pressing needs, the Commission proposed to amend the current multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 to make an additional EUR 11.5 billion in funding available already in 2020. The money raised for Next Generation EU will be invested, inter alia, for financing EUR 55 billion of the current cohesion policy programmes between now and 2022 under

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<sup>1132</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Publishes Guidance on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, US Department of Labor (Washington) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200405>.

<sup>1133</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Publishes Guidance on Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, US Department of Labor (Washington) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200404>.

<sup>1134</sup> SURE, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-financial-assistance/loan-programmes/sure\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-financial-assistance/loan-programmes/sure_en).

the new REACT-EU initiative to be allocated based on the severity of the socio-economic impacts of the crisis, including the level of youth unemployment.<sup>1135</sup>

The EU has taken actions in accordance with International Labour Organization recommendations on safeguarding people's jobs and incomes by both implementing employment retention measures and expanding the social protection system. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

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<sup>1135</sup> Europe's moment: Repair and prepare for the next generation, European Commission (Brussels) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_940](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_940).