

The G20 Research Group  
at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy  
in the University of Toronto  
presents the

## **2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance Report**

2 December 2018 to 10 May 2019

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26 June 2019

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

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

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## 10. Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth

“We are steadfast in our commitment to ensure that growth is inclusive and that the benefits are shared widely amongst our citizens.”

*Buenos Aires Action Plan*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.70	

### Background

The G20 leaders first committed to addressing the challenge of generating inclusive economic growth at the 2014 Brisbane Summit. The “ambitious goal” made at that summit to ensure 2 per cent economic growth by 2018 was made in part to “support development and inclusive growth and help to reduce inequality and poverty.”<sup>2448</sup> Despite their ambitious target, the G20 fell short in meeting their goal by 2018.<sup>2449</sup>

At the Antalya Summit on 14-15 November 2015, the G20 leaders “recognize[d] that advancing inclusive growth ... require[s] the use of all policy tools and strong engagement with all stakeholders.”<sup>2450</sup> Additionally, the G20 made commitments relating to inclusive growth, stating their commitment to “ensure that growth is inclusive, job-rich and benefits all segments of our societies,”

<sup>2448</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Brisbane, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>.

<sup>2449</sup> Europe admits G20 economies will miss extra growth target, Reuters (Valletta) 8 April 2017. Access Date: 3 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-growth-europe-idUSKBN17A0GA>.

<sup>2450</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>.

with special emphasis placed on promoting labour market inclusion and reducing inequalities through balanced and multifaceted policies.<sup>2451</sup>

On 4-5 September 2016, the G20 leaders at the Hangzhou Summit made further commitments relating to inclusive growth. The G20 committed to spearheading “sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth,” which was to be based on the policies and actions outlined in the Hangzhou Consensus.<sup>2452</sup> These policies and actions included the principles of: Vision, exploring new avenues for growth, Integration, increasing synergy between different policy realms, Openness, embracing an open world economy, and Inclusiveness, working to ensure that the benefits of growth are widely distributed.<sup>2453</sup>

At the Hamburg Summit on 7-8 July 2017, the G20 leaders made more ambitious commitments regarding the importance of inclusive growth stating that “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth ... remains our highest priority.”<sup>2454</sup> In particular, the *Leader’s Declaration* included a commitment to use “all policy tools,” including “monetary, fiscal and structure” in pursuit of inclusive growth.<sup>2455</sup> The importance of international investment and digitalization in achieving inclusive growth was also highlighted, as well as the necessity of empowering women and fostering equal access to the financial system and the formal economy.<sup>2456</sup> In the area of international cooperation, the G20 Africa Partnership, one of the principal new initiatives of the Hamburg Summit, was framed as an opportunity to promote inclusive economic growth in emerging African economies.<sup>2457</sup>

The G20 continued to address the importance of inclusive growth at the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit. Leaders committed to “use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth” in the *Leaders’ Declaration*.<sup>2458</sup> Inclusive growth was also tied to the Argentinian Presidency’s priority area of infrastructure, which was acknowledged as a “key driver” of inclusive growth.<sup>2459</sup> Leaders additionally recognized the importance of making growth inclusive and distributing the benefits of growth widely in the *Buenos Aires Action Plan*.<sup>2460</sup> The action plan recognized the need to better understand the drivers of inclusive growth and inequality, and also listed a variety of examples of successful and relevant measures by G20 members to promote inclusive growth, including in tax, education, social security reform, financial regulation, and labour.<sup>2461</sup>

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<sup>2451</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>.

<sup>2452</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 24 May 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>.

<sup>2453</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 24 May 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>.

<sup>2454</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>2455</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>2456</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>2457</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>2458</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>2459</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>2460</sup> Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenos-aires-action-plan.html>.

<sup>2461</sup> Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenos-aires-action-plan.html>.

## Commitment Features

The G20 has stated that “in recent decades, economic growth has significantly improved living standards around the world and, at the same time, has helped reduce extreme poverty and inequality between countries. Nevertheless, income inequality and poverty levels remain high and more effort is needed.”<sup>2462</sup> Thus, the G20 emphasized: “we are steadfast in our commitment to ensure that growth is inclusive and that the benefits are shared widely amongst our citizens.”<sup>2463</sup>

“Steadfast” is defined as “resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.”<sup>2464</sup>

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) defines inclusive growth as “economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all.”<sup>2465</sup> Similarly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) views inclusive growth as consisting of both participation and benefit-sharing, where everyone can participate in the growth process and can equally share the benefits of this growth.<sup>2466</sup>

There are three broad components to this commitment, which are based on the OECD’s framework for policy action on inclusive growth. These include: investing in people and places that are left behind, promoting business dynamism and supportive labour markets, and building responsive institutions.<sup>2467</sup>

## Investing in People and Places

The first component of this commitment entails investing in people and regions that are considered vulnerable. Some ways to achieve this goal includes promoting life-long learning and acquisition of skills, increasing social mobility, supporting vulnerable regions, and investing in social capital.<sup>2468</sup>

For example, G20 members can promote life-long learning and the acquisition of skills by enhancing education and training systems to help prepare workers for the labour force and improve their competencies, fostering youth skills and reskilling and skill adaptation for current workers.<sup>2469</sup> To increase social mobility, members can work to lower barriers to labour mobility, promote equal opportunities for youth and women, and support the less fortunate through the tax and benefit system.<sup>2470</sup> Recognizing also that there are regional disparities, the G20 can work to attract and maintain investment in regions that are lagging behind economically in their given territory. G20

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<sup>2462</sup> Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenos-aires-action-plan.html>.

<sup>2463</sup> Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenos-aires-action-plan.html>.

<sup>2464</sup> Steadfast, Oxford Dictionaries (London). Access Date: 3 February 2019. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/steadfast>.

<sup>2465</sup> What is Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris). Access Date: 20 January 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/>.

<sup>2466</sup> Report on the OECD Framework for Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 25 January 2019. [https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG\\_MCM\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG_MCM_ENG.pdf).

<sup>2467</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2468</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2469</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2470</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

members can invest in social capital by increasing and improving equal access to public services for citizens, including services like health care, housing and education, and stimulating and incentivizing private investment in social capital and public goods.<sup>2471</sup>

This component is primarily focused on the domestic sphere, although international actions could include sharing best practices, increasing funding abroad, and engaging in global partnerships also counts towards compliance.

### **Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets**

To achieve the second component of this commitment, members can work towards boosting productivity in the labour market and promoting business dynamism, while also ensuring new technologies are adapted to foster economic growth.<sup>2472</sup>

Members can achieve this through a number of ways. In the realm of structural and regulatory policies, members can focus on improving business environments to foster entrepreneurship, including providing equal access to the labour market as entrepreneurs and reducing barriers to entrepreneurship.<sup>2473</sup> Members can also take action to strengthen competition and foster investment. Creating regulatory policies that foster positive environments for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is also considered a positive action.<sup>2474</sup> Furthermore, members can work towards creating an environment that is conducive to fostering a smooth reallocation process of workers and capital.<sup>2475</sup>

In addition, members can work towards adapting labour market policies that foster employment protections. Members can also strengthen and adapt labour market institutions, like policies, regulations and their enforcement, and social protection systems for workers in emerging industries. Action that strengthens and coordinates social dialogue amongst citizens and other parties in the realm of labour market policies also counts towards compliance.<sup>2476</sup> Furthermore, enacting new policies that enable technological innovations and productivity also count towards compliance.<sup>2477</sup>

Adapting tax policies to ensure that growth is inclusive and to deliver sustainable revenues also count towards compliance, especially if it incorporates the impact on skills development and use on

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<sup>2471</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2472</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2473</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2474</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2475</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2476</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2477</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

business dynamism.<sup>2478</sup> For example, enhancing the redistributive capacity of tax and benefit systems including those for low- and middle-income earners counts towards compliance.<sup>2479</sup>

This component is primarily domestic focused, though sharing of best practices, information sharing, engaging in global partnerships and participating in international initiatives also count towards compliance.

### **Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions**

The third component is building efficient, resilient and responsive institutions.

In order to achieve inclusive growth, G20 members can work towards including excluded populations in decision-making processes and other initiatives of public interest. For example, in policymaking, members can take coordinated action to “strengthen institutional frameworks for mainstreaming and budgeting of gender diversity” and to increase greater stakeholder engagement in order to strengthen policies that affect the general public.<sup>2480</sup>

Furthermore, members can take action towards making policies more inclusive and accountable to the public through improving budget transparency, ensuring sound financial management, and strengthening the capacity to deal with adverse shocks, financially, socially or politically.<sup>2481</sup>

This component is both domestic and international in scope. International actions would include building resilient and responsive multilateral institutions and though sharing of best practices, information sharing, engaging in global partnerships and participating in international initiatives.

To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take action in all three areas. Partial compliance entails members taking action in one or two of the three areas, while a member achieves negative compliance by failing to take action in any of the three areas.

### **Scoring Guidelines**

–1	G20 member has failed to take action in any three of the key areas of investing in people and places that are left behind, promoting business dynamism and supportive labour markets, and building responsive institutions.
0	G20 member has taken action in one OR two of the three areas of investing in people and places that are left behind, promoting business dynamism and supportive labour markets, and building responsive institutions.
+1	G20 member has taken action in all three areas of investing in people and places that are left behind, promoting business dynamism and supportive labour markets, and building responsive institutions.

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<sup>2478</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2479</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2480</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

<sup>2481</sup> Opportunities for All: A Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2019. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth\\_9789264301665-4-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/opportunities-for-all/the-framework-for-policy-action-on-inclusive-growth_9789264301665-4-en).

## Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 4 December 2018, President Mauricio Macri agreed to cooperate more closely with China in 30 fields after meeting with President Xi Jinping.<sup>2482</sup> The deals will expand the countries' currency swap program, increase Chinese collaboration in Argentine infrastructure, and expand Argentine food exports to China.<sup>2483</sup>

On 12 December 2018, the Government of Argentina announced that starting on 1 January 2019, provincial jurisdictions will assume the responsibility of providing health benefits to people with disabilities.<sup>2484</sup> This will be implemented through a federal health program, beneficiaries of the non-contributory pensions may receive medical coverage.<sup>2485</sup>

On 21 December 2018, the National Disability Agency signed an agreement with Banco de la Nación Argentina to increase accessibility in branches throughout Argentina and increase the number of disabled individuals employed at the bank.<sup>2486</sup>

On 17 January 2019, the Government of Argentina announced that there will be tax deductions made to encourage higher saving for retirement plans, incentivize the efficient operation of capital markets, and ensure stable life amongst its citizens after retirement.<sup>2487</sup>

On 29 January 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship updated the Argentina Trade Net, which is a website developed to provide a platform for Argentine exporters and the public on market information regarding trade.<sup>2488</sup>

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<sup>2482</sup> China deepens economic cooperation with Argentina, Nikkei Asian Review (Buenos Aires) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/China-deepens-economic-cooperation-with-Argentina>.

<sup>2483</sup> China deepens economic cooperation with Argentina, Nikkei Asian Review (Buenos Aires) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/China-deepens-economic-cooperation-with-Argentina>.

<sup>2484</sup> El Gobierno Nacional descentraliza la administracion del Programa Federal Incluir Salud para agilizar los tramites de prestaciones medicas en las provincias, Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-descentraliza-la-administracion-del-programa-federal-incluir-salud>.

<sup>2485</sup> El Gobierno Nacional descentraliza la administracion del Programa Federal Incluir Salud para agilizar los tramites de prestaciones medicas en las provincias, Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-descentraliza-la-administracion-del-programa-federal-incluir-salud>.

<sup>2486</sup> La Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad firmo un convenio con el Banco Nacion para mejorar la accesibilidad en las sucursales de todo el pais, Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad (Buenos Aires) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-agencia-nacional-de-discapacidad-firmo-un-convenio-con-el-banco-nacion-para-mejorar-la>.

<sup>2487</sup> El Gobierno incentive los seguros de vida y retiro para generar ahorro e inversion en PyMes, Ministerio de Hacienda (Buenos Aires) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-incentiva-los-seguros-de-vida-y-retiro-para-generar-ahorro-e-inversion-en-pymes>.

<sup>2488</sup> News-Argentina Trade Net updated: A support website for exports that is a key instrument for the internationalization of SMesde las PyMES, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires). 29 January 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-trade-net-updated-support-website-exports-key-instrument>.



On 19 February 2019, the Government of Argentina hosted a workshop session in La Plata for prison staff in order to increase communication and exchange of information regarding foreigners being held in Argentine prisons between migrants and the Buenos Aires Penitentiary Service.<sup>2489</sup>

On 27 February 2019, the Government of Argentina announced the creation of a new National Vocational Training Center for professional training for teachers, students, and professionals in the energy sector, under an agreement signed between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology and the Embassy of France.<sup>2490</sup>

On 28 February 2019, the Government of Argentina hosted a workshop session to officials from the Ministries of Education of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, officials from the University of the West Indies' Department of Languages, Linguistics and Literatures, and officials of the national education portfolio and the Language Laboratory of the UBA.<sup>2491</sup> The purpose of this workshop was to teach Argentine officials better technique of teaching Spanish as a second language and to consolidate the relationship between Argentina and English-speaking Caribbean states.<sup>2492</sup>

On 6 March 2019, Argentina and Peru began the first round of Negotiations for the Bilateral Expansion and Strengthening of the Economic Complementarity Agreement to facilitate bilateral trade relations and improve business opportunities between both countries.<sup>2493</sup>

On 9 April 2019, the Ministry of Production and Labour held the first meeting for the Commission of Social Dialogue to facilitate communication between the private and public sector on challenges and opportunities existing in the labor market to help the government in creating an inclusive business environment.<sup>2494</sup>

On 10 April 2019, the Government of Argentina announced that Exporta Simple, a program to facilitate easier export licensing, was introducing new logistical partners to eliminate weight limits and

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<sup>2489</sup> Capacitacion judicial migratoria a personal penitenciario bonaerense, Ministerio del Interior (La Plata) 19 February 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. [http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/indexA.php?mostrar\\_novedad=4508](http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/indexA.php?mostrar_novedad=4508).

<sup>2490</sup> Se creara un Centro Nacional de Formacion Profesional en eficiencia energetica y energias renovables, Ministerio de Educacion, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnologia (Buenos Aires) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-creara-un-centro-nacional-de-formacion-profesional-en-eficiencia-energetica-y-energias>.

<sup>2491</sup> Taller de trabajo con paises del Caribe para la ensenanza del espanol, Ministerio de Educacion, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnologia (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/taller-de-trabajo-con-paises-del-caribe-para-la-ensenanza-del-espanol>.

<sup>2492</sup> Taller de trabajo con paises del Caribe para la ensenanza del espanol, Ministerio de Educacion, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnologia (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/taller-de-trabajo-con-paises-del-caribe-para-la-ensenanza-del-espanol>.

<sup>2493</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Argentina-Peru Trade Negotiations begins in Buenos Aires , Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship Argentine Republic (6 March 2019). Access Date: 22 April 2019.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/1st-round-argentina-peru-trade-negotiations-begins-buenos-aires>.

<sup>2494</sup> Se creó la Comisión de Diálogo Social para el Futuro del Trabajo, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (9 April 2019). Access Date: 22 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-creo-la-comision-de-dialogo-social-para-el-futuro-del-trabajo>.

lower costs for local exporters.<sup>2495</sup> Exporta Simple is part of the larger Buy Argentina program, which is an online platform to connect local exporters and importers of the world.<sup>2496</sup>

On 16 April 2019, the Ministry of Production and Labour launched a new version of the Small and Medium Ssized Enterprises (SME) Training Program to help small and medium sized enterprises to train their management staff by offering 100 per cent reimbursements on the training costs.<sup>2497</sup>

On 16 April 2019, the National Registry of Persons began the New Documentation Operation in the province of La Rioja to help people obtain their national identity documents in the most extensive operation of its type that has yet been conducted.<sup>2498</sup>

Argentina has taken action in all three key areas by improving accessibility services and healthcare program to people with disabilities and helping people in rural areas, to obtain their national identity documentation; in supporting business and inclusive labour markets by strengthening economic ties with China, building Vocational Training Center and organizing skill training workshops, and creating opportunity for dialogue between the private and public sectors on challenges in the labour market; and in building resilient and responsive institutions by launching the Argentina Trade Net to provide information on export trade for Argentine exporters and updating Export Simple to help local exporters reduce their cost in doing business. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jijun Meng*

### **Australia: + 1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 7 December 2018, the Government of Australia provided an ASD4.9 million grant to 12 businesses to help support innovative products and services into the domestic and international market.<sup>2499</sup> This grant was provided by the Accelerating Commercialisation element of the

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<sup>2495</sup> El Gobierno anunció mejoras en Exporta Simple para que más PyMEs puedan salir a venderle al mundo, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (10 April 2019). Access Date: 22 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-anuncio-mejoras-en-exporta-simple-para-que-mas-pymes-puedan-salir-venderle-al>.

<sup>2496</sup> El Gobierno anunció mejoras en Exporta Simple para que más PyMEs puedan salir a venderle al mundo, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (10 April 2019). Access Date: 22 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-anuncio-mejoras-en-exporta-simple-para-que-mas-pymes-puedan-salir-venderle-al>.

<sup>2497</sup> Producción relanza el programa Capacitación PyME para seguir mejorando la productividad empresarial, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (16 April 2019). Access Date: 22 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/produccion-relanza-el-programa-capacitacion-pyme-para-seguir-mejorando-la-productividad>.

<sup>2498</sup> Comienzan nuevos operativos de Renaper en La Rioja para que más argentinos puedan tener su DNI por primera vez, , Ministerio del Interior, Obras Públicas y Vivienda (16 April 2019). Access Date: 22 April 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comienzan-nuevos-operativos-de-renaper-en-la-rioja-para-que-mas-argentinos-puedan-tener-su>.

<sup>2499</sup> 12 businesses get \$4.9m to help support their innovative idea, Australian Government (Canberra). 7 December 2018. Access date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.business.gov.au/news/12-businesses-get-4-9m-to-help-support-their-innovate-idea>.

Entrepreneurs Program and will help business realize their ideas, expand and connect with new international markets.<sup>2500</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews announced a new government digital technology strategy to replace the existing strategy last updated in 2016.<sup>2501</sup> The new strategy will focus on the four key areas of people, services, digital assets and the enabling environment and highlights the need to improve labour market information and upgrade the technology used by small businesses.<sup>2502</sup>

On 23 January 2019, the Australian government offered a fund of ASD9.7 million to support innovative products and services into the domestic and international market.<sup>2503</sup> This grant was provided by the Accelerating Commercialisation element of the Entrepreneurs Program and will help business realize their ideas, expand and connect with new international markets.<sup>2504</sup>

On 29 January 2019, the Government of Australia vowed to build a better tax system in order to provide tax relief more than three million small businesses.<sup>2505</sup> Measures include tax cuts for incorporated small and medium enterprises, increasing the tax discount rate for unincorporated small businesses, and increasing access to various tax concessions.<sup>2506</sup>

On 14 February 2019, the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Arab Emirates Space Agency in order to have a closer working relationship. This will help Australia grow in the global space economy, and generate ASD12 billion a year and create 20,000 jobs in the sector.<sup>2507</sup> Commenting about the memorandum, Deputy Head of the Australian Space Agency Anthony Murfett stated that “the agreement will facilitate cooperation across shared areas of interest, including exchange of best practice, and support academic and research capability.”<sup>2508</sup>

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<sup>2500</sup> 12 businesses get \$4.9m to help support their innovative idea, Australian Government (Canberra) 7 December 2018. Access date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.business.gov.au/news/12-businesses-get-4-9m-to-help-support-their-innovate-idea>.

<sup>2501</sup> Australia finally gets a new technology strategy, ITNews (Canberra) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/australia-finally-gets-a-new-digital-economy-strategy-517102>.

<sup>2502</sup> Australia finally gets a new technology strategy, ITNews (Canberra) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.itnews.com.au/news/australia-finally-gets-a-new-digital-economy-strategy-517102>.

<sup>2503</sup> 16 businesses share \$9.7m to help support their great ideas, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 January 2019. Access date: 1 March 2019. [https://www.business.gov.au/news/16-businesses-share-\\$9-7m-to-help-support-their-great-ideas](https://www.business.gov.au/news/16-businesses-share-$9-7m-to-help-support-their-great-ideas).

<sup>2504</sup> 16 businesses share \$9.7m to help support their great ideas, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 January 2019. Access date: 1 March 2019. [https://www.business.gov.au/news/16-businesses-share-\\$9-7m-to-help-support-their-great-ideas](https://www.business.gov.au/news/16-businesses-share-$9-7m-to-help-support-their-great-ideas).

<sup>2505</sup> Building a better tax system for Australian businesses, Australian Government (Canberra) 29 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.business.gov.au/news/building-a-better-tax-system-for-australian-businesses>.

<sup>2506</sup> Building a better tax system for Australian businesses, Australian Government GOV.AU (Canberra). 29 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.business.gov.au/news/building-a-better-tax-system-for-australian-businesses>.

<sup>2507</sup> Australia and United Arab Emirates partner in space, Australian Government GOV.AU (Canberra). 14 February 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australian-space-agency-news/australia-and-united-arab-emirates-partner-in-space>.

<sup>2508</sup> Australia and United Arab Emirates partner in space, Australian Government GOV.AU (Canberra). 14 February 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australian-space-agency-news/australia-and-united-arab-emirates-partner-in-space>.

On 25 February 2019, the Government of Australia gave funds to 12 businesses totaling to ASD5.4 million.<sup>2509</sup> This grant was provided by the Accelerating Commercialisation element of the Entrepreneurs Program and will help business realize their ideas, expand and connect with new international markets.<sup>2510</sup>

On 28 March 2019, the Government of Australia provided ASD5.3 million in funding to 15 businesses to help their products go into international and domestic markets.<sup>2511</sup>

On 28 March 2019, the Government of Australia released a “Critical Minerals Strategy” which sets out a vision for Australia to lead in terms of extracting, producing and processing critical minerals in a variety of industries.<sup>2512</sup> The strategy makes more plans for future investments, innovations and developments in infrastructure.<sup>2513</sup>

On 3 April 2019, the Government of Australia released a report on “Advancing Space: Australian Civil Space Strategy 2019-28.”<sup>2514</sup> The strategy is built on four pillars: to be international, national, responsible and inspirational, as well as focusing on seven priorities that are informed by Australia’s current strengths such as in communication, earth observation and R&D.<sup>2515</sup> To fund these projects, the government has spent over ASD72 million on establishing the Australian Space Agency, Space Infrastructure Fund, and related expenditures.<sup>2516</sup>

On 7 April 2019, the Government of Australia released a report called “Advancing Women in STEM” which creates more initiatives to have more gender equality in STEM.<sup>2517</sup> There will be funding of ASD6 million to support these initiatives, including ASD1.8 million over three years to bolster the Science in Australia Gender Equity program and another ASD1.5 million will create a “digital awareness initiative,” which will showcase female leaders in Australian STEM.<sup>2518</sup>

Australia has taken action in Investing in People and Places by promoting gender equalization in STEM fields; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by supporting innovative small

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<sup>2509</sup> 12 businesses share in \$5.4m of grants, Australian Government (Canberra) 26 February 2019. Access date: 1 March 2019. [https://www.business.gov.au/news/12-businesses-share-in-\\$5-4m-of-grants](https://www.business.gov.au/news/12-businesses-share-in-$5-4m-of-grants).

<sup>2510</sup> 12 businesses share in \$5.4m of grants, Australian Government (Canberra) 26 February 2019. Access date: 1 March 2019. [https://www.business.gov.au/news/12-businesses-share-in-\\$5-4m-of-grants](https://www.business.gov.au/news/12-businesses-share-in-$5-4m-of-grants).

<sup>2511</sup> 15 businesses share in \$5.3m of Accelerating Commercialisation grants, Australian Government Gov.Au (Canberra), 28 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. [https://www.business.gov.au/news/15-businesses-share-in-\\$5-3m-of-accelerating-commercialisation-grants](https://www.business.gov.au/news/15-businesses-share-in-$5-3m-of-accelerating-commercialisation-grants).

<sup>2512</sup> Australia’s Critical Minerals Strategy Released, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 28 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australias-critical-minerals-strategy-released>.

<sup>2513</sup> Australia’s Critical Minerals Strategy Released, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 28 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australias-critical-minerals-strategy-released>.

<sup>2514</sup> Australian Civil Space Strategy: A message from Head, Dr Megan Clark AC, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 3 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australian-space-agency-news/australian-civil-space-strategy-a-message-from-head-dr-megan-clark-ac>.

<sup>2515</sup> Australian Civil Space Strategy: A message from Head, Dr Megan Clark AC, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 3 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australian-space-agency-news/australian-civil-space-strategy-a-message-from-head-dr-megan-clark-ac>.

<sup>2516</sup> Australian Civil Space Strategy: A message from Head, Dr Megan Clark AC, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 3 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/australian-space-agency-news/australian-civil-space-strategy-a-message-from-head-dr-megan-clark-ac>.

<sup>2517</sup> New strategy for advancing women in STEM, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 7 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/science-news/new-strategy-for-advancing-women-in-stem>.

<sup>2518</sup> New strategy for advancing women in STEM, Government of Australia Gov.au (Canberra), 7 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/science-news/new-strategy-for-advancing-women-in-stem>.

businesses, providing small business tax relief, and releasing strategies on minerals and space; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by announcing a new digital technology strategy. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Isha Chaudhuri*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 2 January 2019, Economy Minister Paulo Guedes announced broad reforms of Brazil's government and business environment in an inaugural speech.<sup>2519</sup> Measures include cutting pensions, reducing state involvement in the economy, reducing the size of the civil service and simplifying the taxation system.<sup>2520</sup>

On 1 February 2019, the National Monetary Council announced the Government of Brazil will grant approximately BRL6 billion for small and medium farmers in the current harvest cycle to finance for the cost of agriculture and livestock.<sup>2521</sup> The council also adjusted agricultural financing rules to loosen restrictions on access to rural credit.<sup>2522</sup>

On 14 February 2019, the Government of Brazil began to simplify the licensing process for exporters in order to facilitate export trade between Brazil to European Union and Colombia in livestock and vehicles.<sup>2523</sup>

On 15 February 2019, the Government of Brazil held the "Oval Table" meeting, which approximately 400 business owners along with government officials attended to discuss opportunities within the private sector.<sup>2524</sup> Special Secretary for Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness

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<sup>2519</sup> Brazil's Economy Chief Vows to Drain the Swamp of Government Waste, Bloomberg (Brasília) 2 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-02/brazil-economy-chief-vows-to-drain-the-swamp-of-government-waste>.

<sup>2520</sup> Brazil's Economy Chief Vows to Drain the Swamp of Government Waste, Bloomberg (Brasília) 2 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-02/brazil-economy-chief-vows-to-drain-the-swamp-of-government-waste>.

<sup>2521</sup> Pequenos e médios agricultores terão mais R\$ 6 bilhões para financiamento, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/economia-e-financas/2019/02/pequenos-e-medios-agricultores-terao-mais-r-6-bilhoes-para-financiamento>.

<sup>2522</sup> Pequenos e médios agricultores terão mais R\$ 6 bilhões para financiamento, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/economia-e-financas/2019/02/pequenos-e-medios-agricultores-terao-mais-r-6-bilhoes-para-financiamento>.

<sup>2523</sup> Governo simplifica concessão de licenças para uso de cotas de exportação, Ministério de Economia (Brasília) 2 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/governo-simplifica-concessao-de-licencas-para-uso-de-cotas-de-exportacao>.

<sup>2524</sup> Nós estamos de portas abertas para dialogar com o setor privado, Ministério de Economia (Brasília) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/201cnos-estamos-de-portas-abertas-para-dialogar-com-o-setor-privado201d>.

Carlos Da Costa stated the importance of the three priority initiatives of Social Security Reform, cutting government expenditure, and reducing the tax burden.<sup>2525</sup>

On 20 February 2019, Minister of Health Luis Henrique Mandetta announced BRL30.4 million in additional funds for the public healthcare system in the southern state of Santa Catarina, where 43 municipalities will benefit from this funding.<sup>2526</sup>

On 20 February 2019, the Ministry of Economy sent a proposal for a new pension plan to Congress and presented the proposal to the president.<sup>2527</sup> The new pension plan proposal intends to raise the retirement age among women by two years (from 60 to 62, compared to 65 for men), increasing the contribution rate for high-income earners and decreasing it for low-income earners, and rules to prevent fraud.<sup>2528</sup>

On 26 February 2019, the Ministry of Economy and the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic hosted the Doing Business Brazil 2020 event in São Paulo, which approximately 100 small and medium-sized entrepreneurs (SMEs) attended along with municipal government officials to discuss how to improve the business environment in Brazil.<sup>2529</sup>

On 26 February 2019, the Ministry of Infrastructure held a public hearing to present to the Senate's plans for highways, railways, airports, and public infrastructures, which the Ministry intends to finance with private investment along with public funding.<sup>2530</sup>

On 27 February 2019, the National Monetary Council announced that it authorized financial institutions to extend the maturity date of rural credit operations to 1 July 2019, so that people affected by the collapse of the Corrego do Feijao Mine Dam would not default because of the collapse.<sup>2531</sup>

On 27 February 2019, the Ministry of Economy presented a new strategy called Novo SINE, which is a database that will help job seekers to explore employment opportunities and allow employers to

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<sup>2525</sup> Nós estamos de portas abertas para dialogar com o setor privado, Ministério de Economia (Brasília) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/201cnos-estamos-de-portas-abertas-para-dialogar-com-o-setor-privado201d>.

<sup>2526</sup> Governo repassa R\$ 30,4 milhões para ações de saúde em Santa Catarina, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/saude/2019/02/governo--repassa-r-30-4-milhoes-para-acoes-em-santa-catarina>.

<sup>2527</sup> Nova Previdência reduz desigualdades e assegura aposentadoria das futuras gerações, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/nova-previdencia-reduz-desigualdades-e-assegura-aposentadoria-das-futuras-geracoes>.

<sup>2528</sup> Nova Previdência reduz desigualdades e assegura aposentadoria das futuras gerações, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/nova-previdencia-reduz-desigualdades-e-assegura-aposentadoria-das-futuras-geracoes>.

<sup>2529</sup> Event in Sao Paulo discusses improvements in the business environment, Ministry of Economy (Brasília) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/evento-em-sao-paulo-debate-melhorias-no-ambiente-de-negocios>.

<sup>2530</sup> Castro, Augusto. Ministro da Infraestrutura expõe planos para rodovias, ferrovias e aeroportos, Senado Notícias (Brasília). 26 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2019/02/26/ministro-da-infraestrutura-expoe-planos-para-rodovias-ferrovias-e-aeroportos>.

<sup>2531</sup> CMN prorroga vencimento de operações de crédito de agricultores de Brumadinho, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/cmn-autoriza-prorrogacao-de-vencimento-de-operacoes-de-credito-de-produtores-rurais-de-brumadinho>.

search for qualified candidates directly through the database.<sup>2532</sup> Further plans include the standardization of data on employers and employees.<sup>2533</sup>

On 28 February 2019, the National Secretariat for Civil Protection and Defense announced that it will offer financial assistance of BRL1.1 million to several cities affected by natural disasters for them to rebuild basic infrastructure.<sup>2534</sup>

On 14 March 2019, the Ministry of Regional Development announced that it will increase its supports to families affected by the storm in São Paulo state by allowing withdrawals from the Fundo de Garantia do Tempo e Serviço, a government indemnity fund and increasing funding for housing reconstruction.<sup>2535</sup> The Ministry also plans to complete at BRL400 million project to mitigate the impact of future floods in São Paulo state.<sup>2536</sup>

On 10 April 2019, the Ministry of Health began the National Influenza Vaccination Campaign to help people get vaccinated.<sup>2537</sup> The federal government increased the age range of children able to benefit from the campaign and has also included health workers, indigenous groups, the elderly and pregnant women among beneficiaries of the campaign.<sup>2538</sup>

On 11 April 2019, the federal government began to regulate Article 51 and 52 of the Brazilian Inclusion Law to help people with disabilities have increased access to disability-compatible taxis and rental cars.<sup>2539</sup>

On 11 April 2019, President Jair Bolsonaro announced that the Brazilian government will establish a unique portal “gov.br” starting on 1 July 2019, which will combine online federal government

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<sup>2532</sup> Governo apresenta medidas para acelerar recolocação profissional, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/governo-apresenta-medidas-para-acelerar-recolocacao-profissional>.

<sup>2533</sup> Governo apresenta medidas para acelerar recolocação profissional, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 27 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/02/governo-apresenta-medidas-para-acelerar-recolocacao-profissional>.

<sup>2534</sup> Governo federal repassa R\$ 1,1 milhão para cidades atingidas por desastres, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/infraestrutura/2019/02/governo-federal-repassa-r-1-1-milhao-para-cidades-atingidas-por-desastres>.

<sup>2535</sup> Governo Federal viabiliza apoio para famílias afetadas por fortes chuvas em São Paulo, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/governo-federal-viabiliza-apoio-para-familias-afetadas-por-fortes-chuvas-em-sao-paulo>.

<sup>2536</sup> Governo Federal viabiliza apoio para famílias afetadas por fortes chuvas em São Paulo, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/governo-federal-viabiliza-apoio-para-familias-afetadas-por-fortes-chuvas-em-sao-paulo>.

<sup>2537</sup> Ministério da Saúde lança Campanha Nacional de Vacinação contra a Gripe, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/saude/2019/04/ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-nacional-de-vacinacao-contra-a-gripe>.

<sup>2538</sup> Ministério da Saúde lança Campanha Nacional de Vacinação contra a Gripe, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/saude/2019/04/ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-nacional-de-vacinacao-contra-a-gripe>.

<sup>2539</sup> Regulamentação de Estatuto facilitará a vida de pessoas com deficiência, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/100dias/noticias/regulamentacao-de-estatuto-facilitara-a-vida-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia>.

services and information for the first time.<sup>2540</sup> Starting in 2020, the “gov.br” portal will allow all actions of social communication and public utility services.<sup>2541</sup>

On 15 April 2019, the Special Secretary of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness Carlos Da Costa announced the government’s four plans to generate employment and increase productivity.<sup>2542</sup> The four plans are “Simplify” (reducing time of opening of new companies), “Pro-market” (reviewing regulations that impede the development of companies and amending them), Brazil 4.0 (encouraging startups, technology innovations, and services and processes digitalization through government incentives), and “Employs +” (using artificial intelligence to accelerate employment market).<sup>2543</sup>

On 17 April 2019, the Ministry of Health announced that it will fund BRL1.3 billion in helping patients diagnosed with hemorrhagic diseases such as hemophilia to purchase medicines.<sup>2544</sup>

Brazil has taken action in Investing in People and Places by providing financial assistance to people affected by natural disasters, providing financial assistance to municipalities to increase health welfare, providing funding to help people affected by natural disasters and mitigating the impact of future natural disasters; in Supporting Business and Inclusive Labour Markets by introducing government strategy in helping job seekers in their job hunting process, facilitating dialogue between public and private sectors to discuss the current business environment and future plans for improvement, and simplifying the process of company registration; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by having financial institutions to extend debt maturity for people being affected by natural disasters and creating a simplified one-stop government website for information and public services. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jijun Meng*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

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<sup>2540</sup> Brasileiros terão portal único “gov.br” para acessar informações e serviços públicos, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019.  
<http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/04/brasileiros-terao-portal-unico-201cgov-br201d-para-acessar-informacoes-e-servicos-publicos>.

<sup>2541</sup> Brasileiros terão portal único “gov.br” para acessar informações e serviços públicos, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019.  
<http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/04/brasileiros-terao-portal-unico-201cgov-br201d-para-acessar-informacoes-e-servicos-publicos>.

<sup>2542</sup> Ministério anuncia medidas para retomada da produtividade e geração de emprego, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019.  
<http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/04/ministerio-anuncia-medidas-para-retomada-da-produtividade-e-geracao-de-emprego>.

<sup>2543</sup> Ministério anuncia medidas para retomada da produtividade e geração de emprego, Ministério da Economia (Brasília) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019.  
<http://editor.economia.gov.br:8080/Economia/noticias/2019/04/ministerio-anuncia-medidas-para-retomada-da-produtividade-e-geracao-de-emprego>.

<sup>2544</sup> Ministério da Saúde garante R\$ 1,3 bilhão para tratamento de hemofílicos, Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 17 April 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2019. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/noticias/saude/ministerio-da-saude-garante-r-1-3-bilhao-para-tratamento-de-hemofilicos>.



On 5 December 2018, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains announced CAD6.3 million in funding for artificial intelligence businesses in the Montréal region to scale up and expand their firms.<sup>2545</sup>

On 13 December 2018, a proactive pay equity legislation received Royal Assent.<sup>2546</sup> Under the new law, employers in federally regulated workplaces will be required to examine their compensation practices to ensure equal pay for work of equal value between women and men, and a Pay Equity Commissioner will be appointed to play both educational and enforcement roles with respect to the legislation.<sup>2547</sup>

On 13 December 2018, legislation for increased federal labour standards received Royal Assent, becoming law in Canada.<sup>2548</sup> Changes include greater employee eligibility for entitlements such as holiday pay and personal leave, equal pay for employees in temporary positions compared to full-time employees, and increased financial support for workers employed by insolvent employers under the Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP).<sup>2549</sup> The legislation will be implemented over the next 18 months, with CAD50.7 million over five years allocated to supporting implementation and enforcement of the new amendments.<sup>2550</sup>

On 20 December 2018, the Government of Canada cut the small business tax rate from 10 per cent to 9 per cent effective 1 January 2019.<sup>2551</sup> This reduction will result in up to CAD7,500 in federal tax savings for small businesses compared to 2017.<sup>2552</sup>

On 1 January 2019, Phase 1 of the new Canada Pension Plan (CPP) enhancement was implemented, in which the maximum CPP contribution is increased from 4.95 per cent to 5.1 per cent, and the CPP retirement pension increased from replacing one quarter to one third of average work

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<sup>2545</sup> Government of Canada invests in artificial intelligence and creates close to 1,000 middle-class jobs, Newswire (Montreal) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-artificial-intelligence-and-creates-close-to-1000-middle-class-jobs-701981461.html>.

<sup>2546</sup> Historic proactive pay equity legislation receives Royal Assent, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation-receives-royal-assent.html>.

<sup>2547</sup> Historic proactive pay equity legislation receives Royal Assent, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation-receives-royal-assent.html>.

<sup>2548</sup> Legislation to better protect workers and support good quality jobs receives Royal Assent, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/legislation-to-better-protect-workers-and-support-good-quality-jobs-receives-royal-assent.html>.

<sup>2549</sup> Legislation to better protect workers and support good quality jobs receives Royal Assent, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/legislation-to-better-protect-workers-and-support-good-quality-jobs-receives-royal-assent.html>.

<sup>2550</sup> Legislation to better protect workers and support good quality jobs receives Royal Assent, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/legislation-to-better-protect-workers-and-support-good-quality-jobs-receives-royal-assent.html>.

<sup>2551</sup> 2019 Brings Lower Taxes for Small Businesses and More Help for Canadian Workers, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-123-eng.asp>.

<sup>2552</sup> 2019 Brings Lower Taxes for Small Businesses and More Help for Canadian Workers, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-123-eng.asp>.

earnings.<sup>2553</sup> The rate will continue to gradually rise until the contribution rate is raised to 5.95 per cent in 2023, with the intention of helping Canadians save for retirement.<sup>2554</sup>

On 10 January 2019, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna announced that Enwave Energy Corporation is the first recipient of CAD10 million from the Low Carbon Economy Challenge's Champions stream.<sup>2555</sup> The Champion stream of the Low Carbon Economy Fund is designed to fund business ventures that directly reduce Canada's emissions.<sup>2556</sup>

On 28 January 2019, Canada invested CAD50 million in venture capital for Canadian clean technology companies through the new Clean Technology Stream of the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative (VCCI).<sup>2557</sup> Intended to help clean technology companies scale and compete, the new stream is in addition to the existing CAD400 million indicated in Budget 2017 for the VCCI.<sup>2558</sup>

On 11 February 2019, Minister of National Revenue Diane Lebovitch opened three Canada Revenue Agency Northern Service Centres in Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit, the capitals of Canada's three territories.<sup>2559</sup> These centres offer year-round tax support and free income tax filing services for modest income individuals and raise awareness through outreach information sessions.<sup>2560</sup>

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<sup>2553</sup> The Canada Pension Plan enhancement – Businesses, individuals and self-employed: what it means for you, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 1 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2018/10/the-canada-pension-plan-enhancement--businesses-individuals-and-self-employed-what-it-means-for-you.html>.

<sup>2554</sup> The Canada Pension Plan enhancement – Businesses, individuals and self-employed: what it means for you, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 1 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2018/10/the-canada-pension-plan-enhancement--businesses-individuals-and-self-employed-what-it-means-for-you.html>.

<sup>2555</sup> Government of Canada supporting Canadian innovation through the Low Carbon Economy Challenge - First recipient under the Champions stream announced, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supporting-canadian-innovation-through-the-low-carbon-economy-challenge-first-recipient-under-the-champions-stream-announced-868220751.html>.

<sup>2556</sup> Government of Canada supporting Canadian innovation through the Low Carbon Economy Challenge - First recipient under the Champions stream announced, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supporting-canadian-innovation-through-the-low-carbon-economy-challenge-first-recipient-under-the-champions-stream-announced-868220751.html>.

<sup>2557</sup> Minister Ng announces investment in venture capital for Canadian clean tech companies, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/01/minister-ng-announces-investment-in-venture-capital-for-canadian-clean-tech-companies.html>.

<sup>2558</sup> Minister Ng announces investment in venture capital for Canadian clean tech companies, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/01/minister-ng-announces-investment-in-venture-capital-for-canadian-clean-tech-companies.html>.

<sup>2559</sup> Minister Lebovitch opens three Canada Revenue Agency Northern Service Centres, Canada Revenue Agency (Yellowknife) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2019/02/minister-lebovitch-opens-three-canada-revenue-agency-northern-service-centres.html>.

<sup>2560</sup> Minister Lebovitch opens three Canada Revenue Agency Northern Service Centres, Canada Revenue Agency (Yellowknife) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2019/02/minister-lebovitch-opens-three-canada-revenue-agency-northern-service-centres.html>.

On 12 February 2019, Minister of Natural Resources Amarjeet Sohi announced an investment of nearly CAD13 million in Calgary-based clean technology companies, to help create jobs in Alberta as well as develop and commercialize their products.<sup>2561</sup>

On 14 February 2019, Minister of Finance Bill Morneau and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Patty Hadju announced the new Future Skills Centre and Future Skills Council.<sup>2562</sup> Its purpose is to fund projects to develop, test and measure new approaches to skills assessment and development, and advise the Minister of Employment on emerging skills and workforce trends.<sup>2563</sup> The Government of Canada is investing CAD225 million over four years, and CAD75 million per year thereafter in the initiative.<sup>2564</sup>

On 19 March 2019, CAD1.7 billion over five years in funding was proposed in the 2019 federal budget to implement the Canada Training Benefit.<sup>2565</sup> It includes the Canada Training Credit, which allows eligible workers to accumulate up to CAD5000 to supplement training fees, as well as new leave provisions and the Employment Insurance Training Support Benefit to provide workers with protections and up to four weeks of income support to take time off from work to pursue training.<sup>2566</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the 2019 federal budget proposed to enhance the Guaranteed Income Supplement earnings exemption for low-income seniors.<sup>2567</sup> The exemption would provide full or partial exemptions of up to CAD15000 of annual employment income, allowing pension recipients to earn a higher income before benefits are reduced.<sup>2568</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the 2019 federal budget proposed to provide the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) with an additional CAD150.8 million over five years to combat tax evasion and avoidance.<sup>2569</sup> A

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<sup>2561</sup> Government of Canada invests in clean technology across the oil and gas value chain, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Calgary) 12 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-invests-in-clean-technology-across-the-oil-and-gas-value-chain.html>.

<sup>2562</sup> Government of Canada takes action to ensure Canadian workers are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-ensure-canadian-workers-are-prepared-for-the-jobs-of-tomorrow.html>.

<sup>2563</sup> Government of Canada takes action to ensure Canadian workers are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-ensure-canadian-workers-are-prepared-for-the-jobs-of-tomorrow.html>.

<sup>2564</sup> Government of Canada takes action to ensure Canadian workers are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-ensure-canadian-workers-are-prepared-for-the-jobs-of-tomorrow.html>.

<sup>2565</sup> The Canada Training Benefit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/themes/good-jobs-de-bons-emplois-en.html>.

<sup>2566</sup> The Canada Training Benefit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/themes/good-jobs-de-bons-emplois-en.html>.

<sup>2567</sup> A Secure and Dignified Retirement for Canadians, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/themes/seniors-aines-en.html>.

<sup>2568</sup> A Secure and Dignified Retirement for Canadians, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/themes/seniors-aines-en.html>.

<sup>2569</sup> Part 7: A Fair Tax System for All Canadians, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-04-en.html#Part-7-A-Fair-Tax-System-for-All-Canadians>.

separate fund of CAD65.8 million over five years will also be invested to improve the ability of the CRA's information technology systems to combat technology-driven tax evasion schemes.<sup>2570</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the 2019 federal budget proposed a number of measures to make post-secondary education more affordable and accessible.<sup>2571</sup> CAD1.7 billion in forgone revenue over five years and CAD375.9 million after will be invested to lower student loan interest rates and implement a new interest-free grace period.<sup>2572</sup> Additional proposals include expanding disability benefits and parental leave, offering graduate scholarships, and increasing funding support for indigenous students.<sup>2573</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the 2019 federal budget proposed an investment of CAD219.1 million over five years to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada and Transport Canada to modernize regulatory frameworks, accommodate emerging technologies and facilitate cooperation across jurisdictions.<sup>2574</sup> These regulatory roadmaps were designed using over 140 responses from businesses and Canadians across the country.<sup>2575</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the 2019 federal budget proposed to invest in a number of measures to improve indigenous governance tools.<sup>2576</sup> They include a new co-developed collaborative self-government fiscal policy with self-governing indigenous groups, CAD78.9 million over seven years to fund data collection for improved policy decision-making, and CAD48 million over two years to financially support governance capacity.<sup>2577</sup>

Canada has taken action in Investing in People and Places by increasing funding for raising labour standards, cutting small business tax rates and increasing accessibility to job training and education; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by investing in new technological industries and innovation and diversification programs; and Building More Resilient and Responsive Institutions by strengthening tax compliance enforcement, collaboratively re-designing government-indigenous governance models, and modernizing regulatory frameworks. These actions fulfill three out of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, Canada. receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Denise Lee*

## **China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

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<sup>2570</sup> Part 7: A Fair Tax System for All Canadians, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-04-en.html#Part-7-A-Fair-Tax-System-for-All-Canadians>.

<sup>2571</sup> Preparing Young Canadians for Good Jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-01-en.html#Affordable-and-Accessible-Education>.

<sup>2572</sup> Gender Equality Statement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#Economic-Participation-and-Prosperity>.

<sup>2573</sup> Preparing Young Canadians for Good Jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-01-en.html#Affordable-and-Accessible-Education>.

<sup>2574</sup> Bringing Innovation to Regulations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-02-en.html#Bringing-Innovation-to-Regulations>.

<sup>2575</sup> Bringing Innovation to Regulations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-02-en.html#Bringing-Innovation-to-Regulations>.

<sup>2576</sup> Part 2: Strengthening Governance Tools, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html#Part-2-Strengthening-Governance-Tools>.

<sup>2577</sup> Part 2: Strengthening Governance Tools, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html#Part-2-Strengthening-Governance-Tools>.

On 19 December 2018, the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission announced the approval of a series of urban rail projects in Shanghai worth of approximately CNY298.35 billion, 45 per cent of which will come from local government's financial funds.<sup>2578</sup> These projects will further connect the existing transportation network in Shanghai and facilitate movements among the subways, train stations and airports.<sup>2579</sup>

On 30 January 2019, the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced future efforts to commercialize 5G communication technology.<sup>2580</sup> It also welcomed foreign enterprises to participate in the process as the country sought to expand opening-up policies.<sup>2581</sup>

On 14 February 2019, General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued "Opinions on Strengthening Financial Services for Private Enterprises" to provide guidance and call upon enforcement by local governments and regional departments.<sup>2582</sup> The document promoted financial support for privately owned medium, small and micro businesses through policies such as more adequate credit evaluation, less reliance on collateral securities, and speedier approval of loans.<sup>2583</sup>

On 25 February 2019, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) demanded more than 30 per cent increase in loans from large state-owned lenders to small and micro businesses.<sup>2584</sup> This is an effort to provide better financial support to private firms.<sup>2585</sup> The CBIRC also ordered commercial banks to present their annual targets on financing private firms by the end of March as it would monitor their progresses quarterly.<sup>2586</sup> Vice Chairman of the commission Wang Zhaoxing said that the annual increase of over 21 per cent in such loans has already outpaced the overall bank loan growth in the country.<sup>2587</sup>

On 15 March 2019, Premier Li Keqiang announced a reduction of the value-added tax (VAT) in the manufacturing, transport, and construction sectors starting on 1 April.<sup>2588</sup> Social security fees for

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<sup>2578</sup> China approves urban rail projects worth US\$43.3B for Shanghai, China Internal Information Centre (Beijing) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2018-12/20/content\\_74295208.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2018-12/20/content_74295208.htm).

<sup>2579</sup> 国家发改委关于上海市城市轨道交通第三期建设规划的批复, Bendibao (Shanghai) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <http://sh.bendibao.com/traffic/20181219/200735.shtm>.

<sup>2580</sup> Nation to ratchet up efforts on 5G technology development, China Daily (Beijing) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201901/30/WS5c50dc51a3106c65c34e72e8.html>.

<sup>2581</sup> Nation to ratchet up efforts on 5G technology development, China Daily (Beijing) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201901/30/WS5c50dc51a3106c65c34e72e8.html>.

<sup>2582</sup> 中共中央办公厅 国务院办公厅印发《关于加强金融服务民营企业的若干意见》, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-02/14/c\\_1124116039.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-02/14/c_1124116039.htm).

<sup>2583</sup> 中共中央办公厅 国务院办公厅印发《关于加强金融服务民营企业的若干意见》, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-02/14/c\\_1124116039.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-02/14/c_1124116039.htm).

<sup>2584</sup> China to increase bank loans to private firms, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c\\_137849420.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c_137849420.htm).

<sup>2585</sup> China to increase bank loans to private firms, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c\\_137849420.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c_137849420.htm).

<sup>2586</sup> China to increase bank loans to private firms, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c\\_137849420.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c_137849420.htm).

<sup>2587</sup> China to increase bank loans to private firms, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c\\_137849420.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/25/c_137849420.htm).

<sup>2588</sup> China will cut value-added tax for manufacturers on Apr 1 - premier, CNBC (Beijing) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/14/reuters-america-china-will-cut-value-added-tax-for-manufacturers-on-apr-1-premier.html>.

companies will also be reduced as of 1 May.<sup>2589</sup> The estimated total reduction in taxes and fees this year for all companies in the three sectors is approximately CNY2 trillion.<sup>2590</sup>

On 7 March 2019, Finance Minister Liu Kun and Vice Finance Minister Liu Wei announced a CNY60 billion budget with a 35.9 per cent increase from last year in environmental protection funds to address pollution, with an additional CNY5 billion to prevent air pollution.<sup>2591</sup>

On 15 March 2019, the National People's Congress passed a new foreign investment law that would come into force on the 1 January 2020.<sup>2592</sup> The law would replace three foreign capital laws, including the Law on Sino-Foreign Equity Joint Ventures, the Law on Sino-Foreign Contractual Joint Ventures and the Law on Foreign-Capital Enterprises, aiming to address outstanding concerns from foreign investors about unfair treatment in market access and government procurement, forced technology transfer and theft of commercial secrets by Chinese businesses.<sup>2593</sup> Premier Li Keqiang announced the government's plan to prioritize employment and to create more than 11 million new urban jobs in 2019 through various policies, including lowering tax and fee and lowering real interest rates.<sup>2594</sup>

On 23 March 2019, President Xi and Italian Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio announced that Italy will join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's global investment programme as the first G7 member to sign on the programme.<sup>2595</sup> Deputy Prime Minister Di Miao and President Xi signed 29 deals that amounted to EUR2.5 billion which will enable Italian firms access to the Chinese market and Chinese firms access to Italian ports and infrastructure among other agreements.<sup>2596</sup>

On 25 March 2019, President Xi visited France and signed 15 business contracts with French President Emmanuel Macron, including a multi-plane order with Airbus and a EUR1 billion contract for Électricité de France to build an offshore wind farm in China.<sup>2597</sup>

On 19 April 2019, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee discussed the country's current economic situation and poverty alleviation work in the past year.<sup>2598</sup> It called on further efforts in deepening economic reform, stimulating economic vitality and eradicating

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<sup>2589</sup> China will cut value-added tax for manufacturers on Apr 1 - premier, CNBC (Beijing) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/14/reuters-america-china-will-cut-value-added-tax-for-manufacturers-on-apr-1--premier.html>.

<sup>2590</sup> China will cut value-added tax for manufacturers on Apr 1 - premier, CNBC (Beijing) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/14/reuters-america-china-will-cut-value-added-tax-for-manufacturers-on-apr-1--premier.html>.

<sup>2591</sup> 财政部…今年安排为制造业减税600亿 大气方面增加50亿 利率平25%, National Business Daily (Chengdu) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <http://www.nbd.com.cn/articles/2019-03-07/1307631.html>.

<sup>2592</sup> China approves new foreign investment law designed to level domestic playing field for overseas investors, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3001780/china-approves-new-foreign-investment-law-designed-level>.

<sup>2593</sup> China approves new foreign investment law designed to level domestic playing field for overseas investors, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3001780/china-approves-new-foreign-investment-law-designed-level>.

<sup>2594</sup> China to ensure creation of over 11 million new urban jobs in 2019, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/15/c\\_137897684.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-03/15/c_137897684.htm).

<sup>2595</sup> Italy joins China's New Silk Road project (Rome) 23 March 2019. Access date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47679760>.

<sup>2596</sup> Italy joins China's New Silk Road project (Rome) 23 March 2019. Access date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47679760>.

<sup>2597</sup> France, China sign multibillion trade deals as Xi Jinping meets Macron, France 24 (Paris) 25 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190325-france-china-sign-multibillion-trade-deals-xi-jinping-meets-macron>.

<sup>2598</sup> Economy and poverty alleviation discussed at CPC meeting, CGTN (Beijing) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d774d3249544d34457a6333566d54/index.html>.

poverty.<sup>2599</sup> It also illustrated the importance to promote high-quality development of manufacture industry, to expand emerging industries for supporting steady growth and to provide financial supports to private and small and medium-sized companies and lift them to upgrade.<sup>2600</sup>

China has taken action in Investing in People and Places by putting efforts in poverty alleviation; and in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by working towards the commercialization of 5G communication technology and providing better support for private enterprises; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by addressing concerns from foreign investors through new legislation. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wenny Jin*

## France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 4 December 2018 Prime Minister Édouard Philippe announced that a temporary suspension of the carbon tax as a result of the “Yellow Jacket” protests.<sup>2601</sup> Furthermore, President Emmanuel Macron has proposed to hike the minimum wage in order to raise France’s budget deficit above three per cent of gross domestic product.<sup>2602</sup> It was also declared that between 15 January 2019 to 1 March 2019, France will have a debate at a national level on both taxes and public spending to address the future of public services.<sup>2603</sup> Lastly, President Macron announced that France would cancel a tax rise for low-income pensioners, as well as introducing a EUR100 pay increase for minimum wage workers through a state-funded income supplement.<sup>2604</sup>

On 17 December 2018, Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire announced that France would introduce a tax on internet giants Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon starting on 1 January 2019.<sup>2605</sup> The tax is hoped to raise EUR500 million in revenue in 2019 and comes after an EU-wide tax failed to gain traction.<sup>2606</sup> The tax was implemented on 6 March 2019.<sup>2607</sup>

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<sup>2599</sup> Economy and poverty alleviation discussed at CPC meeting, CGTN (Beijing) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d774d3249544d34457a6333566d54/index.html>.

<sup>2600</sup> Economy and poverty alleviation discussed at CPC meeting, CGTN (Beijing) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d774d3249544d34457a6333566d54/index.html>.

<sup>2601</sup> France suspends fuel tax after weeks of unrest (Paris) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/france-suspends-controversial-fuel-tax-after-weeks-of-unrest/2018/12/04/d32577a6-f7b6-11e8-8d64-4e79db33382f\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.4f0f051f8e8f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/france-suspends-controversial-fuel-tax-after-weeks-of-unrest/2018/12/04/d32577a6-f7b6-11e8-8d64-4e79db33382f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4f0f051f8e8f).

<sup>2602</sup> Will EU treat Italy more leniently as France’s Macron risks breaching fiscal rules? (Paris) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/will-eu-treat-italy-more-leniently-as-frances-macron-risks-breaching-fiscal-rules-2018-12-11>.

<sup>2603</sup> France suspends fuel tax after weeks of unrest (Paris) 4 December 2018. Access Date: 15 February 2019. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/france-suspends-controversial-fuel-tax-after-weeks-of-unrest/2018/12/04/d32577a6-f7b6-11e8-8d64-4e79db33382f\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.54ad734561d5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/france-suspends-controversial-fuel-tax-after-weeks-of-unrest/2018/12/04/d32577a6-f7b6-11e8-8d64-4e79db33382f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.54ad734561d5).

<sup>2604</sup> French deficit will increase to finance social measures, says PM (Paris) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/french-deficit-will-increase-to-finance-social-measures-says-pm/>.

<sup>2605</sup> France to tax tech giants from 2019 as EU fails to act, Deutsche Welle (Paris) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-to-tax-tech-giants-from-2019-as-eu-fails-to-act/a-46618258>.

<sup>2606</sup> France to tax tech giants from 2019 as EU fails to act, Deutsche Welle (Paris) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-to-tax-tech-giants-from-2019-as-eu-fails-to-act/a-46618258>.

<sup>2607</sup> France targets Google, Amazon, and Facebook with 3% digital tax (Paris) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/06/france-3-percent-digital-tax-targets-google-amazon-and-facebook.html>.

On 24 December 2018, the French government adopted a set of emergency measures in response to the “Yellow Jacket” protests.<sup>2608</sup> The measures include forcing employees to give a EUR1000 bonus to employees earning less than three times the minimum wage, exempting overtime pay from certain taxes and deductions, and an increase of the tax that funds social security and unemployment insurance.<sup>2609</sup>

On 15 January 2019, the French government confirmed that Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) will take place in Paris, to provide a chance for the members of the EITI to discuss how to promote sustainable growth in extractive industries worldwide.<sup>2610</sup>

On 31 January 2019, the French government partnered with the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom to create a payment system to allow European businesses to trade with Iran, as well as allow French banks to make direct payments to Iran without risking US sanctions.<sup>2611</sup> The Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges (INSETX) includes the trade of food, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods, although not oil.<sup>2612</sup>

On 25 February 2019, the French government with the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers in Paris pledged EUR700 million to the manufacturing of battery cells necessary for electric vehicles within new battery cell factories in Germany and France.<sup>2613</sup>

On 13 March 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron pledged EUR2.5 billion that will finance 10,000 African startups by providing them credit, technical support, and equity financing.<sup>2614</sup>

France has taken action in Investing in People and Places by temporarily suspending the carbon tax, beginning a debate about tax and public spending in order to address the future of public services, cancelling a tax rise for low-income pensioners; and in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by introducing a EUR100 pay increase for minimum wage workers, supporting battery cell manufacturing, investing in African startups, and partnering with Germany and the UK to develop a payment system for Iran. These actions fulfill two out of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nicole Vucemilo*

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<sup>2608</sup> France Adopts Emergency Economic Measures in Response to “Yellow Vest” Protests, Library of Congress (Washington) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2019. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-adopts-emergency-economic-measures-in-response-to-yellow-vest-protests/>.

<sup>2609</sup> France Adopts Emergency Economic Measures in Response to “Yellow Vest” Protests, Library of Congress (Washington) 14 January 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2019. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-adopts-emergency-economic-measures-in-response-to-yellow-vest-protests/>.

<sup>2610</sup> Government of France to host EITI Global Conference in Paris in June, EITI (Paris) 30 January 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://eiti.org/news/government-of-france-to-host-eiti-global-conference-in-paris-in-june>.

<sup>2611</sup> UK, France, and Germany create payments system to trade with Iran (Berlin) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47072020>.

<sup>2612</sup> UK, France, and Germany create payments system to trade with Iran (Berlin) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47072020>.

<sup>2613</sup> France Betting Big On Batteries With 700 Million Euro Investment (Paris) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2019. <https://cleantechnica.com/2019/02/25/france-betting-big-on-batteries-with-700-million-euro-investment/>.

<sup>2614</sup> France Pledges \$2.8 Billion African Business Investment by 2022 (Paris) 13 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-13/france-pledges-2-8-billion-african-business-investment-by-2022>.



## Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 13 November 2018, the German government declared that it would invest EUR1 billion into EV battery cell manufacturing.<sup>2615</sup> German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier stated that the investment would begin the foundation of large-scale battery production within Europe while ensuring the local production of the battery cells.<sup>2616</sup>

On 19 December 2018, the German federal cabinet approved a new immigration law to go before parliament in order to simplify the access to the labour market of non-EU citizens in order to solve shortages in qualified labour.<sup>2617</sup> It is the country's first ever immigration law focused on skilled immigrants.

On 23 January 2019, Minister of Education and Research Anja Karliczek announced that the government will begin to fund research facilities for the development of technology for batteries involved in electric cars.<sup>2618</sup> The funding of EUR500 million comes in addition to previous funding of EUR1 billion announced by the treasury department.<sup>2619</sup>

On 31 January 2019, the German government partnered with the governments of France and the United Kingdom to create a payment system to allow European businesses to trade with Iran, as well as allow German banks to make direct payments to Iran without risking US sanctions.<sup>2620</sup> The Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges (INSETX) include the trade of food, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods, although not oil.<sup>2621</sup>

On 5 February 2019, Economy Minister Peter Altmaier announced that the government many begin to take steps to address solutions to prevent foreign takeovers of the German market, including purchasing stakes in several major German firms.<sup>2622</sup> The announcement comes after increased

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<sup>2615</sup> Germany announces EUR 1 billion investment in local battery cell production to support EV growth (Berlin) 13 November 2018. Access date: 20 April 2019. <https://electrek.co/2018/11/13/germany-battery-cell-production-support-ev-growth/>

<sup>2616</sup> Germany to invest in EUR 1bn in EV battery cell production (Berlin) 15 November 2018. Access date: 20 April 2019. <https://insideevs.com/news/341111/germany-plays-catch-up-pours-12-billion-into-ev-batteries/>

<sup>2617</sup> German cabinet approves new rules to simplify labour market (Berlin) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 16 February 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/economy/german-cabinet-approves-new-rules-to-simplify-labour-market-1.3737504>.

<sup>2618</sup> Germany to fund research facility for EV battery technology (Berlin) 23 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-batteries/germany-to-fund-research-facility-for-ev-battery-technology-idUSKCN1PH1NT>.

<sup>2619</sup> Germany to fund research facility for EV battery technology (Berlin) 23 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-batteries/germany-to-fund-research-facility-for-ev-battery-technology-idUSKCN1PH1NT>.

<sup>2620</sup> UK, France, and Germany create payments system to trade with Iran (Berlin) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47072020>.

<sup>2621</sup> UK, France, and Germany create payments system to trade with Iran (Berlin) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47072020>.

<sup>2622</sup> Germany is prepared to invest in key companies to prevent foreign takeovers (Berlin) 5 February 2019. Access date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/international-business/european-business/article-germany-prepared-to-invest-in-key-companies-to-prevent-foreign/>.

worries that the country's technical knowledge and manufacturing base is being eroded by foreign investment.<sup>2623</sup>

On 14 February 2019, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Muller pledged to provide vocational training to young Ghanaians, improve access of Ghanaian and sub-Saharan African firms to European markets, and promote transparent and fair-trading rules between European firms and African firms and producers.<sup>2624</sup>

Germany has taken action in Investing in People and Places by providing vocational training to young Ghanaians in order to improve access to access between European firms and sub-Saharan African firms; and in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets and approving a new immigration law to simplify the access to labour market of non-EU citizens, announcing the development of research facilities, creating solutions to prevent foreign takeovers of German technology and firms, and partnering with France and the UK to develop a payment system for Iran. These actions fulfill two out of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nicole Vucemilo*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 7 January 2019, the Indian government approved a ten per cent expansion of the jobs and higher education reservation for "economy backward" groups in upper castes.<sup>2625</sup> This expansion comes in addition to the existing 50 per cent reservation of jobs and higher education places for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes.<sup>2626</sup>

On 10 January 2019, the Goods and Services Tax Council took decisions to reduce the tax and compliance burden on Small and Medium Enterprises, through increasing the annual turnover limit under which companies are exempt from the GST from INR2 million to INR4 million.<sup>2627</sup>

On 1 February 2019, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announced the Interim Budget for 2019, which will include a farmer's income transfer scheme aimed at providing income support to vulnerable

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<sup>2623</sup> Germany is prepared to invest in key companies to prevent foreign takeovers (Berlin) 5 February 2019. Access date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/international-business/european-business/article-germany-prepared-to-invest-in-key-companies-to-prevent-foreign/>.

<sup>2624</sup> German business delegation explores investment opportunities in Africa (Accra) 14 February 2019. Access date: 23 February 2019. <https://businessghana.com/site/news/business/181938/German-business-delegation-explores-investment-opportunities-in-Africa>.

<sup>2625</sup> Modi govt announces 10 per cent quota for economically backward in general category, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 7 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. [economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67418661.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67418661.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst).

<sup>2626</sup> Modi govt announces 10 per cent quota for economically backward in general category, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 7 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. [economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67418661.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67418661.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst).

<sup>2627</sup> GST burden on small businesses eased (Chennai) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019 <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/gst-burden-on-small-businesses-eased/article25962678.ece>.

landholding farmers with less than 2 hectares of land.<sup>2628</sup> Farmers will receive the transfer of INR6,000 per year in the form of tax relief.<sup>2629</sup> Other announcements included that those earning less than INR50,000 would be exempt from income tax and an increase in the standard deduction limit from INR400,000 to INR500,000.<sup>2630</sup>

On 19 February 2019, the Government of India enacted new rules related to the angel tax, a tax levied on companies who have raised investment through share sales at higher-than-market value prices.<sup>2631</sup> These new rules will allow newly registered startups to be exempt from the angel tax during their infancy, for investments up till INR100 million.<sup>2632</sup> This change aims to spur economic growth and promote entrepreneurial activity.<sup>2633</sup>

India has taken action in Investing in People and Places by reserving a higher proportion of jobs and higher education places for disadvantaged groups and providing tax relief for vulnerable farmers; and in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets through reductions in the angel tax and reducing tax compliance for small businesses. These actions fulfill two out of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nour Habli*

#### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 8 December 2018, Coordinating Economic Minister Darmin Nasution inaugurated a Special Economic zone (SEZ) in the Riau Islands, which has an estimated investment value of USD2.5 billion.<sup>2634</sup> The minister stated that the SEZ would create new jobs through the employment of

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<sup>2628</sup> Interim Budget 2019: an exercise aimed at pleasing farmers, informal workers, salaried taxpayers (Chennai) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019 <https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/interim-budget-2019-aimed-at-pleasing-farmers-informal-workers-salaried-taxpayers/article26149070.ece>.

<sup>2629</sup> Interim Budget 2019: an exercise aimed at pleasing farmers, informal workers, salaried taxpayers (Chennai) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/interim-budget-2019-aimed-at-pleasing-farmers-informal-workers-salaried-taxpayers/article26149070.ece>.

<sup>2630</sup> Interim Budget 2019: an exercise aimed at pleasing farmers, informal workers, salaried taxpayers (Chennai) 1 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/interim-budget-2019-aimed-at-pleasing-farmers-informal-workers-salaried-taxpayers/article26149070.ece>.

<sup>2631</sup> New angel tax rules provide relief to eligible start-ups (Chennai) 19 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/new-angel-tax-rules-provide-relief-to-eligible-start-ups/article26314438.ece>.

<sup>2632</sup> New angel tax rules provide relief to eligible start-ups (Chennai) 19 February 2019. Access Date: February 24 2019. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/new-angel-tax-rules-provide-relief-to-eligible-start-ups/article26314438.ece>.

<sup>2633</sup> New angel tax rules provide relief to eligible start-ups (Chennai) 19 February 2019. February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/new-angel-tax-rules-provide-relief-to-eligible-start-ups/article26314438.ece>.

<sup>2634</sup> New special economic zone opens for business in Riau Islands, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 December 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/12/10/new--special-economic-zone-opens-for-business-in-riau-islands.html>.

23,300 workers and lift economic activity in the region by developing a major aluminum production centre.<sup>2635</sup>

On 11 December 2018, the Government of Indonesia launched the One Map Policy Geoportal, a detailed map of land use that seeks to resolve overlapping territorial claims across the country, in order to improve the investment climate of Indonesia through facilitating accurate development planning.<sup>2636</sup>

On 16 December 2018, the Government of Indonesia and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) signed the Indonesia-EFTA Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The agreement aims to increase Indonesian exports to EFTA countries, creating new jobs in export-oriented industries.<sup>2637</sup>

On 11 February 2019, National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) head Bambang Brodjonegoro announced that Indonesia's new medium-term development plan, which is being drafted by Bappenas, will heavily emphasize investing in manufacturing to diversify Indonesia's export products.<sup>2638</sup> First steps in the development plan will include increasing value-added for Indonesian commodities and promoting greater collaboration between government and industry.<sup>2639</sup>

On 24 March 2019, President Joko Widodo inaugurated the Mass Rapid Transit in Jakarta, an underground railway infrastructure project that will facilitate commuter movement in Jakarta, expected to carry 170,000 travelers daily.<sup>2640</sup>

Indonesia has taken action in Investing in People and Places by establishing a new SEZ in the Riau Islands and investing in transportation infrastructure; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by launching the One Map Policy Geoportal and announcing a new industrial strategy; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by signing the CEPA agreement. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nour Habli*

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<sup>2635</sup> New special economic zone opens for business in Riau Islands, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 December 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2018/12/10/new--special-economic-zone-opens-for-business-in-riau-islands.html>.

<sup>2636</sup> Indonesia Launches One Map Policy Geoportal to Improve Investment Climate, Indonesia Investments (Jakarta) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.indonesia-investments.com/news/todays-headlines/indonesia-launches-one-map-policy-geoportal-to-improve-investment-climate/item9053?>

<sup>2637</sup> Indonesia-EFTA CEPA Trade Deal Signed, Will it Bring New Trade Opportunities?, Indonesia Investments (Jakarta) 16 December 2018. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.indonesia-investments.com/news/todays-headlines/indonesia-efta-cepa-trade-deal-signed-will-it-bring-new-trade-opportunities/item9057?>

<sup>2638</sup> Manufacturing sector to drive Indonesia's economy: Bappenas, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/02/11/manufacturing-sector-to-drive-indonesias-economy-bappenas.html>.

<sup>2639</sup> Manufacturing sector to drive Indonesia's economy: Bappenas, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/02/11/manufacturing-sector-to-drive-indonesias-economy-bappenas.html>.

<sup>2640</sup> Indonesia Underground Opens, Making 34-Year Dream Reality, Bloomberg (New York) 24 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-24/first-indonesia-underground-opens-making-34-year-dream-reality>.

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 11 December 2018, the Lega Nord coalition government stated that it would register a deficit of 2.04 per cent of Italian gross domestic product in response to European Commission demands that Italy reduce its deficit in light of its high debt-to-GDP ratio.<sup>2641</sup> New economic measures, worth EUR3 billion, will tax high-polluting vehicles and place a cut on high pensions.<sup>2642</sup> The Italian 2019 spending plan will introduce proposals for basic income directed at lower income citizens, as well as potentially lowering the age of retirement and introducing a flat tax rate.<sup>2643</sup>

On 18 January 2019, the Italian government approved a “citizen’s income” to provide greater support to Italians living in poverty with benefits ranging from EUR780 per month for an individual to EUR1,032 per month for families.<sup>2644</sup> The new income supports are conditional on unemployed citizens undertaking job training and committing to relocate in another region.<sup>2645</sup>

On 23 March 2019, Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio announced that Italy will join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China’s global investment programme as the first G7 member to sign on the programme.<sup>2646</sup> Di Maio and Chinese President Xi Jinping signed 29 deals that amounted to EUR2.5 billion which will enable Italian firms access to the Chinese market and Chinese firms access to Italian ports and infrastructure among other agreements.<sup>2647</sup>

Italy has taken action in Investing in People and Places by introducing measures that will tax high-polluting vehicles and reducing pension inequality and by introducing the “citizen’s income”; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by entering the BRI; and in Building Responsive and Resilient Institutions by decreasing the budget deficit in line with European Union standards. These actions fulfilled all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nicole Vucemilo*

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<sup>2641</sup> Italy makes concessions in latest budget draft proposal, Euractiv Elections19 (Rome) 17 December 2018. Access date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/economic-governance/news/italy-makes-concessions-in-latest-budget-draft-proposal/>.

<sup>2642</sup> Italy makes concessions in latest budget draft proposal, Euractiv Elections19 (Rome) 17 December 2018. Access date: 15 February 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/economic-governance/news/italy-makes-concessions-in-latest-budget-draft-proposal/>.

<sup>2643</sup> Rome and EU could be ready to compromise over Italy’s spending plans, local media reports (Rome) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/12/11/rome-and-eu-could-be-ready-to-compromise-over-italys-spending-plans-local-media-reports.html>.

<sup>2644</sup> Italian government approves overhaul of welfare and pensions, The Local (Rome) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.thelocal.it/20190118/italian-government-approves-overhaul-of-welfare-and-pensions>.

<sup>2645</sup> Italian government approves overhaul of welfare and pensions, The Local (Rome) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.thelocal.it/20190118/italian-government-approves-overhaul-of-welfare-and-pensions>.

<sup>2646</sup> Italy joins China’s New Silk Road project (Rome) 23 March 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47679760>.

<sup>2647</sup> Italy joins China’s New Silk Road project (Rome) 23 March 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47679760>.

**Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 7 December 2018, the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation held the sixth Japan-Russia Meeting Concerning Small and Medium Enterprise Cooperation in Khabarovsk, Russia.<sup>2648</sup> The conference consisted of an inter-governmental dialogue and networking opportunities among SMEs and other entities from the two countries.<sup>2649</sup>

On 18 December 2018, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Minister for Economic Cooperation with Russia Hiroshige Seko met with Minister of Economic Development and Special Representative for Trade and Economic Cooperation with Japan Maksim Stanislavovich Oreshkin during his visit to Japan.<sup>2650</sup> Both sides confirmed the progress in the eight-point cooperation plan established in 2016 and agreed to further interactions between the two economies.<sup>2651</sup> The two ministers also witnessed the signing ceremony for the development and operation of new terminals in Khabarovsk International Airport, which was one of the projects under the eight-point cooperation plan.<sup>2652</sup>

On 9 February 2019, a government advisory panel announced plans to create a new regulatory agency for the purpose of monitoring large technology companies and their handling of personal data as well as potential monopoly practices.<sup>2653</sup> This agency will also monitor mergers and acquisitions within the technology sector and make further anti-trust recommendations.<sup>2654</sup>

On 15 February 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz met to discuss improving diplomatic relations.<sup>2655</sup> Both leaders agreed to expand tourism between the two countries as well as promote trade between the countries, and free-trade worldwide.<sup>2656</sup>

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<sup>2648</sup> METI Holds the 6th Japan-Russia Meeting Concerning SME Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) (Tokyo) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019.

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210\\_002.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210_002.html).

<sup>2649</sup> METI Holds the 6th Japan-Russia Meeting Concerning SME Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) (Tokyo) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019.

[http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210\\_002.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210_002.html).

<sup>2650</sup> Abe presents 8-point economic cooperation plan to Putin, Nikkei Asian Review (Tokyo) 7 May 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Abe-presents-8-point-economic-cooperation-plan-to-Putin>.

<sup>2651</sup> Abe presents 8-point economic cooperation plan to Putin, Nikkei Asian Review (Tokyo) 7 May 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Abe-presents-8-point-economic-cooperation-plan-to-Putin>.

<sup>2652</sup> Minister Seko Holds Meeting with Mr. Maksim Stanislavovich Oreshkin, Minister of Economic Development and Special Representative for Trade and Economic Cooperation with Japan of Russia, METI (Tokyo) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1219\\_002.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1219_002.html).

<sup>2653</sup> Japan Sets Sights on Tighter Anti-Trust Regulations for Big Tech, Reuters (London) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-tech/japan-sets-sights-on-tighter-anti-trust-regulations-for-big-tech-idUSKCN1Q20YB>.

<sup>2654</sup> Japan Sets Sights on Tighter Anti-Trust Regulations for Big Tech, Reuters (London) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-tech/japan-sets-sights-on-tighter-anti-trust-regulations-for-big-tech-idUSKCN1Q20YB>.

<sup>2655</sup> Abe and Austria's Kurz Agree to Expand Tourism and Economic Cooperation, Japan Times (Tokyo) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/02/15/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-austrias-sebastian-kurz-agree-expand-tourism-economic-cooperation/>.

<sup>2656</sup> Abe and Austria's Kurz Agree to Expand Tourism and Economic Cooperation, Japan Times (Tokyo) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/02/15/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-austrias-sebastian-kurz-agree-expand-tourism-economic-cooperation/>.

On 24 April 2019, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) announced plans to maintain interest rates at current low-levels throughout the duration of 2019. The BOJ cited weak global demand for Japanese goods and trade-tensions with the United States<sup>2657</sup>.

Japan has taken action in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by developing closer economic ties with Russia, by cooperating with Austria to increase trade, and maintaining low interest rates; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by creating a new regulatory agency to monitor large technology companies and by raising the consumption tax. These actions fulfill two of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sebastian Warma*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 17 January 2019, President Moon Jae-in announced plans to expand Korea's hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) economy by increasing fuel-cell electric vehicle production and building more refueling stations through subsidies and cooperation with local governments.<sup>2658</sup>

On 18 February 2019, the Korean government announced plans to invest USD2.61 billion this year to develop new biotechnology, a 2.9 per cent increase from a year earlier.<sup>2659</sup> Most of the budget will be allocated for research and development of new drugs and medical instruments in an effort to become the foremost biotechnology hub in the world.<sup>2660</sup>

On 25 February 2019, Korea's Financial Services Commission announced plans to create an interbank payment network which is accessible to both banks and financial technology (fintech) companies.<sup>2661</sup> Usage fees will be lower for smaller companies to ensure equal access, which had previously been impaired by the inability of fintech companies to independent access the interbank payment network.<sup>2662</sup>

Korea has taken action in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by supporting new technologies and placing fintech companies on a more equitable legal footing. These actions fulfill one of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sebastian Warma*

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<sup>2657</sup> Bank of Japan says super-low rates to last another year, giving first timeframe (Davos) 24 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-boj/bank-of-japan-gives-first-timeframe-for-super-low-rates-says-will-remain-another-year-idUSKCN1S02Q5>.

<sup>2658</sup> South Korea unveils hydrogen economy plans, Gasworld (Ulsan) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.gasworld.com/south-korea-unveils-hydrogen-economy-plans/2016332.article>.

<sup>2659</sup> Korea to spend 2.93t won to develop biotech in 2019, Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190218000535>.

<sup>2660</sup> Korea to spend 2.93t won to develop biotech in 2019, Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190218000535>.

<sup>2661</sup> Korea to form open financial payment network to boost fintech, Korea Herald (Seoul) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190225000708>.

<sup>2662</sup> Korea to form open financial payment network to boost fintech, Korea Herald (Seoul) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190225000708>.

**Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 5 December 2018, Mexico's Supreme Court ruled that enrolling domestic workers in the social security system was now mandatory.<sup>2663</sup> These workers will get access to the public health system, and Mexico's social security system will benefit from the greater number of employers paying into it.<sup>2664</sup>

On 17 December 2018, President López Obrador promised to cut government expenditures by 0.2 per cent in 2019, primarily by cutting funding to "autonomous agencies."<sup>2665</sup> The budget has a one per cent primary surplus target, and also increases social security payments for the elderly and scholarships for students.<sup>2666</sup>

On 5 January 2019, President López Obrador announced plans to stimulate economic activity on the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border by reducing corporate taxes and the value-added tax.<sup>2667</sup> The aim of the tax changes is to create wage and job increases via lower taxes and productivity gains.<sup>2668</sup>

On 15 February 2019, state-run oil company Pemex announced that it would not issue any new bonds in 2019 as it embarks on a major financial turnaround.<sup>2669</sup> The administration of President López Obrador announced that it would increase the tax breaks offered to the firm by 36 per cent to a total of MXN90 billion over six years.<sup>2670</sup>

On 19 February 2019, the administration of President López Obrador announced that a digital payment system that will allow Mexicans to perform transactions through their smartphones free of charge will be built and run by the central bank.<sup>2671</sup> This financial technology solution is intended to

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<sup>2663</sup> Mexico's top court ruling can change lives of domestic workforce, Al Jazeera (Mexico City) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/12/mexicos-top-court-ruling-change-lives-domestic-workforce-181217111939154.html>.

<sup>2664</sup> Mexico's top court ruling can change lives of domestic workforce, Al Jazeera (Mexico City) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/12/mexicos-top-court-ruling-change-lives-domestic-workforce-181217111939154.html>.

<sup>2665</sup> In First Budget Mexico's President Obrador Promises To Shrink Government, Forbes (Mexico City) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 3 May 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2018/12/17/mexico-budget-amlo-obrador-shrinks-government-makes-investors-happy/#179659a01e23>.

<sup>2666</sup> In First Budget Mexico's President Obrador Promises To Shrink Government, Forbes (Mexico City) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 3 May 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2018/12/17/mexico-budget-amlo-obrador-shrinks-government-makes-investors-happy/#179659a01e23>.

<sup>2667</sup> Mexico launches plan to stimulate US border economy, Financial Post (Mexico City) 5 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/mexico-launches-plan-to-stimulate-us-border-economy>.

<sup>2668</sup> Mexico launches plan to stimulate US border economy, Financial Post (Mexico City) 5 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/mexico-launches-plan-to-stimulate-us-border-economy>.

<sup>2669</sup> Pemex Assistance Plan Fails to Impress Bondholders, Bloomberg (Mexico City) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-15/pemex-cfo-says-company-won-t-increase-debt-load-this-year>.

<sup>2670</sup> Pemex Assistance Plan Fails to Impress Bondholders, Bloomberg (Mexico City) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-15/pemex-cfo-says-company-won-t-increase-debt-load-this-year>.

<sup>2671</sup> Mexico pushes mobile payments to help unbanked consumers ditch cash, Reuters (Mexico City/New York) 19 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-fintech-unbanked/mexico-pushes-mobile-payments-to-help-unbanked-consumers-ditch-cash-idUSKCN1Q80FN>.



draw some of the 42 million unbanked Mexicans who have avoided mainstream banks because of taxes, high fees, and scandals into the formal economy.<sup>2672</sup>

On 24 February 2019, President López Obrador announced that the federal government has created a six-year tourism strategy intended to create jobs, improve living conditions for tourism workers, promote growth, and support regions that are lagging behind.<sup>2673</sup> One of the major components of the strategy is the construction of the Maya Train rail project to connect southeastern Mexican cities.<sup>2674</sup>

On 22 March 2019, President López Obrador called for greater competition among banks to urge them to offer lower commissions.<sup>2675</sup> The president said the government would give out more licenses in order to create new banks if needed, with the aim to include millions of previously unbanked Mexicans in the formal economy.<sup>2676</sup>

Mexico has taken action in Investing in People and Places by raising the minimum wage, decreasing taxes in the US border region, announcing a digital payment system for the unbanked, and urging banks to charge lower fees; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by extending social security to domestic workers, offering greater supports to Pemex, investing in the tourism industry, and creating 269,143 jobs; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by proposing a fiscally responsible 2019 budget. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Mexico has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joshua Raghubir*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 7 December 2018, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation along with the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry held the sixth Japan-Russia Meeting Concerning Small and Medium Enterprise Cooperation in Khabarovsk, Russia.<sup>2677</sup> The conference

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<sup>2672</sup> Mexico pushes mobile payments to help unbanked consumers ditch cash, Reuters (Mexico City/New York) 19 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-fintech-unbanked/mexico-pushes-mobile-payments-to-help-unbanked-consumers-ditch-cash-idUSKCN1Q80FN>.

<sup>2673</sup> Government unveils tourism strategy intended to boost revenues, create jobs, Mexico News Daily (Mexico City) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/government-unveils-six-year-tourism-strategy/>.

<sup>2674</sup> Government unveils tourism strategy intended to boost revenues, create jobs, Mexico News Daily (Mexico City) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/government-unveils-six-year-tourism-strategy/>.

<sup>2675</sup> Mexican president urges bank competition to boost financial inclusion, Reuters (Acapulco) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-banks-commissions/mexican-president-urges-bank-competition-to-boost-financial-inclusion-idUSKCN1R400Y>.

<sup>2676</sup> Mexican president urges bank competition to boost financial inclusion, Reuters (Acapulco) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-banks-commissions/mexican-president-urges-bank-competition-to-boost-financial-inclusion-idUSKCN1R400Y>.

<sup>2677</sup> METI Holds the 6th Japan-Russia Meeting Concerning SME Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) (Tokyo) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210\\_002.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210_002.html).

consisted of an inter-governmental dialogue and networking opportunities among SMEs and other entities from the two countries.<sup>2678</sup>

On 18 December 2018, Minister of Economic Development and Special Representative for Trade and Economic Cooperation with Japan Maksim Stanislavovich Oreshkin met with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and Minister for Economic Cooperation with Russia Hiroshige Seko during his visit to Japan.<sup>2679</sup> Both sides confirmed the progress in the eight-point cooperation plan established in 2016 and agreed to further interactions between the two economies.<sup>2680</sup> The two ministers also witnessed the signing ceremony for the development and operation of new terminals in Khabarovsk International Airport, which was one of the projects under the eight-point cooperation plan.<sup>2681</sup>

On 20 December 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated his expectation for gross domestic product growth by three per cent after 2021 and announced that the government would allocate RUB20.4 trillion in these years to support domestic industry.<sup>2682</sup> Stressing the desire for breakthrough and a new technological paradigm, the government would earmark RUB20.8 trillion for national projects and RUB6.5 trillion for infrastructure development.<sup>2683</sup>

On 17 January 2019, the National Plan “Transforming business climate” was adopted by the government. The plan is aimed at improving the investment climate in 12 areas: technological connection to utility networks; town planning activity; registration of property rights and cadastral valuation; customs administration; international trade and export development; access of small and medium-sized businesses to procurement; access of small and medium-sized businesses to finance; registration of legal entities; human capital and labor productivity; corporate governance; tax administration; control and supervisory activities. In order to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Plan, target indicators and their values until 2024 have been approved.<sup>2684</sup>

On 11 February 2019, the Russian government published information on 12 National Projects that will be implemented until 2024.<sup>2685</sup> These national projects include mandating higher use of Russian software by the public sector, boosting agricultural and industrial exports, and ensure that at least 90.8 per cent of Russians have access to clean drinking water by 2024.<sup>2686</sup>

On 11 February 2019, the government published the passport of the national program “Digital Economy of the Russian Federation.” Among the different tracks of the program is the initiative on

<sup>2678</sup> METI Holds the 6th Japan-Russia Meeting Concerning SME Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) (Tokyo) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210\\_002.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1210_002.html).

<sup>2679</sup> Abe presents 8-point economic cooperation plan to Putin, Nikkei Asian Review (Tokyo) 7 May 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Abe-presents-8-point-economic-cooperation-plan-to-Putin>.

<sup>2680</sup> Abe presents 8-point economic cooperation plan to Putin, Nikkei Asian Review (Tokyo) 7 May 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Abe-presents-8-point-economic-cooperation-plan-to-Putin>.

<sup>2681</sup> Minister Seko Holds Meeting with Mr. Maksim Stanislavovich Oreshkin, Minister of Economic Development and Special Representative for Trade and Economic Cooperation with Japan of Russia, METI (Tokyo) 19 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1219\\_002.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2018/1219_002.html).

<sup>2682</sup> Putin expands on Russia’s economic structure, Russian News Agency TASS (Moscow) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <http://tass.com/economy/1036952>.

<sup>2683</sup> Putin expands on Russia’s economic structure, Russian News Agency TASS (Moscow) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <http://tass.com/economy/1036952>.

<sup>2684</sup> On approval of the plan “Transformation of the business climate”, Russian Government (Moscow) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 22 May 2019. <http://government.ru/docs/35415/>.

<sup>2685</sup> Putin’s ‘Great Society’ program: Russian government outlines 12 major National Projects, TASS (Moscow) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 9 March 2019. <http://tass.com/politics/1044056>.

<sup>2686</sup> Putin’s ‘Great Society’ program: Russian government outlines 12 major National Projects, TASS (Moscow) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 9 March 2019. <http://tass.com/politics/1044056>.

Digital Government. The main objective of the project is to introduce digital technologies in public administration in rendering public services. It supports the creation of a National Data Management System, providing access to public services through a single portal in the “one window” mode, as well as the opportunity to obtain an “electronic passport.” This makes the system of governance more transparent and efficient.<sup>2687</sup>

On 14 February 2019, the Russian government approved a Spatial Development Strategy until 2025 which aims to specify the priorities and objectives of Russia’s development policy and ensure that economic growth occurs more equally throughout the country.<sup>2688</sup> In particular, several mid-sized Russian cities have been designated as potential growth powerhouses in addition to the major economic centres of Moscow and St. Petersburg.<sup>2689</sup>

Russia has taken action in investing in people and places through the 12 National Projects and the spatial development strategy; in supporting businesses and inclusive labour markets by cooperating with Japan and approving the Spatial Development Strategy and in supporting resilient and responsive institutions through its digital management strategy. These actions fulfill two out of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wenny Jin*

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

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 20 January 2019, the Human Resources Development Fund launched a program to provide 30 per cent of the salaries of males and females working in the private sector during their first year in the labour force.<sup>2690</sup> With additional support for people with disabilities and people from small towns and villages, the initiative aims to raise the participation of male and female citizens in the labor market and provide them with the necessary skills training needed in the private sector.<sup>2691</sup>

On 22 January 2019, Saudi Arabia unveiled seen investment principles based on international best practices that includes: ensuring equality between Saudi and foreign investors, ensuring protection of investments, enabling sustainability of investments, providing access to equal investment incentives, implementing social and environmental standards and ensuring investor compliance with Saudi health, safety and environmental standards, facilitating access procedures for foreign workers and their families, and ensuring a solid transfer of knowledge, technology and enhancement of local

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<sup>2687</sup> The passport of the national program "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation" is published, Russian Government (Moscow) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 22 May 2019. <http://government.ru/info/35568/>.

<sup>2688</sup> Об утверждении Стратегии пространственного развития до 2025 года, Government of Russia (Moscow) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 9 March 2019. <http://government.ru/docs/35733/>.

<sup>2689</sup> Putin Turns Swathes of Russia Into Flyover Country, Bloomberg (Berlin) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 9 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-03-07/putin-s-development-plan-picks-favorites-among-russian-regions>.

<sup>2690</sup> HRDF provides 30% of salaries of Saudis working in private sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 January 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1876132>.

<sup>2691</sup> HRDF provides 30% of salaries of Saudis working in private sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 January 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1876132>.

human capital. These principles, particularly the last, contribute to building strong and responsive institutions.<sup>2692</sup>

On 26 January 2019, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced a major plan to develop new infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, which is planned to provide over USD400 billion in investment funds and create 1.6 million jobs.<sup>2693</sup> International firms such as Boeing and IBM committed to increase their operations in Saudi Arabia through the plan.<sup>2694</sup>

On 10 February 2019, the Saudi Development Fund signed a finance agreement investing SAR292 million with the Tawteen Finance Program to build clad steel pipes plants.<sup>2695</sup> This investment will increase the private sector contribution in non-oil industries and is projected to decrease the rate of unemployment.<sup>2696</sup>

On 14 February 2019, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadhli signed a cooperative agreement with the Director General of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Graziano da Silva.<sup>2697</sup> This agreement will provide UN support for the implementation of the Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Program, over a seven year period and promote the production, processing and marketing of Saudi agricultural products.<sup>2698</sup>

On 20 February 2019, the Public Investment Fund, Saudi Arabia's Sovereign Wealth Fund, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India's largest hospitality company OYO, to strengthen Saudi Arabia's tourism and hospitality industries in order to help diversify the economy through the creation of jobs and support of businesses in those sectors.<sup>2699</sup>

On 23 February 2019, the National Housing Company signed an MoU with the Chinese State Construction Engineering Company to build affordable housing on land owned by the Ministry of Housing with a total area of 2.7 million square meters in Riyadh, offering 5,590 residential units at competitive prices for the underprivileged.<sup>2700</sup>

On 20 March 2019, King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman launched four new projects worth USD23 billion to increase living standards and boost the quality of life in the Saudi

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<sup>2692</sup> Saudi Arabia unveils seven principles to raise investment, Arab News (Jeddah) 22 January 2019. Access Date: 24 June 2019. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1440261/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>2693</sup> Saudi Arabia Kicks Off \$426 Billion Infrastructure Bonanza, Bloomberg (Riyadh) 26 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-26/saudi-crown-prince-to-launch-425-billion-infrastructure-plan>.

<sup>2694</sup> Saudi Arabia Kicks Off \$426 Billion Infrastructure Bonanza, Bloomberg (Riyadh) 26 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-26/saudi-crown-prince-to-launch-425-billion-infrastructure-plan>.

<sup>2695</sup> SIFD Signs first Finance Agreement within Tawteen Program for Local Content, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 February 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1883961>.

<sup>2696</sup> SIFD Signs first Finance Agreement within Tawteen Program for Local Content, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 February 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1883961>.

<sup>2697</sup> Saudi Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture signs with FAO cooperation agreement (Riyadh) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1885788>.

<sup>2698</sup> Saudi Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture signs with FAO cooperation agreement, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1885788>.

<sup>2699</sup> PIF signs MoU with OYO, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1888444>.

<sup>2700</sup> "NHC" signs agreement with China State Construction Engineering company during the Crown Prince's visit to China, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 23 February 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1889363>.

capital of Riyadh.<sup>2701</sup> The projects aim to create green spaces in the city, diversify the economy, and create 70,000 new jobs in the city.<sup>2702</sup>

On 24 March 2019, Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, the Governor of the Makkah Region, signed a MoU with Saudi Minister of Energy Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Faleh, to implement the Al-Faisaliyah solar energy project in the Makkah Region which aims to provide a capacity of 2600 Mega-Watts to tackle the region's issues of growing populations and demand for electricity through a supply of clean energy.<sup>2703</sup>

On 14 April 2019, Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture Abdulrahman Al-Fadhley launched the Agriculture Terraces Rehabilitation and Rainwater Harvesting Techniques Implementation Initiative in the region of Jazan.<sup>2704</sup> The first phase of the project aims to develop better irrigation systems and rainwater reservoirs for the farmers of the region, as well as provide Jazan farmers with crops familiar to the region such as coffee and banana plants.<sup>2705</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken action in Investing in People and Places by supporting new, particularly disabled and rural, workers in the labour force, providing new jobs in Riyadh, better access to electricity in the Makkah region, and partnering to build affordable housing; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by partnering with Tawteen Finance Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and OYO and announcing a major new investment plan. These actions fulfill three of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nour Habli*

## South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 7 February 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered his annual state of the nation address to parliament.<sup>2706</sup> President Ramaphosa proposed a new government agency that will aim to reduce regulatory and administrative barriers for businesses.<sup>2707</sup> Additionally, President Ramaphosa detailed

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<sup>2701</sup> Saudi unveils 4 projects worth \$23-bn to improve quality of life in Riyadh, Business Standard (New Delhi) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2019 [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/saudi-unveils-4-projects-worth-23-bn-to-improve-quality-of-life-in-riyadh-119032000060\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/saudi-unveils-4-projects-worth-23-bn-to-improve-quality-of-life-in-riyadh-119032000060_1.html).

<sup>2702</sup> Saudi unveils 4 projects worth \$23-bn to improve quality of life in Riyadh, Business Standard (New Delhi) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2019 [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/saudi-unveils-4-projects-worth-23-bn-to-improve-quality-of-life-in-riyadh-119032000060\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/saudi-unveils-4-projects-worth-23-bn-to-improve-quality-of-life-in-riyadh-119032000060_1.html).

<sup>2703</sup> Ministry of Energy and Development Authority of Makkah Region sign MoU on solar energy project, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 24 March 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2019 <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1903080>.

<sup>2704</sup> Eng. AlFadhley launches first phase of Agricultural Terraces rehabilitation Initiative in Jazan, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019 <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1912617>.

<sup>2705</sup> Eng. AlFadhley launches first phase of Agricultural Terraces rehabilitation Initiative in Jazan, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 14 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019 <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1912617>.

<sup>2706</sup> State of the Nation Address Puts Emphasis on the Economy, Economist Intelligence Unit (London) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019.

<http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=487638832&Country=South%20Africa&topic=Politics>.

<sup>2707</sup> State of the Nation Address Puts Emphasis on the Economy, Economist Intelligence Unit (London) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=487638832&Country=South%20Africa&topic=Politics>.

plans to increase the creation of tax incentivized special economic zones as well as plans to form a presidential commission to facilitate a digital transformation of the South African economy.<sup>2708</sup>

On 7 February 2019, President Ramaphosa announced plans to split state power company Eskom into three entities.<sup>2709</sup> Eskom provides 90 per cent of energy for South Africa, and currently has USD30 billion in debt.<sup>2710</sup> Large scale energy cuts and blackouts have been occurring, and have been drawing criticism from business executives and resulting in a decline in the value of the South African rand.<sup>2711</sup>

On 29 March 2019, President Ramaphosa announced the creation of the South Africa Small and Medium Enterprise Fund (SA SME Fund).<sup>2712</sup> The USD95 million fund is led by South African business leaders and aims to stimulate investment and growth in areas that will benefit the South African economy.<sup>2713</sup> The fund will target businesses with turnover between USD1.4 million and USD35.23 million.<sup>2714</sup>

South Africa has taken action in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by reducing barriers for business and fostering digitization, and by creating SA SME Fund; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions by restructuring Eskom into a more financially sustainable entity. These actions fulfill two of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sebastian Warma*

## **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 25 December 2018, Family, Labor and Social Services Minister Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk announced that a commission made up of the labour ministry, trade and employer unions implemented a new

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<sup>2708</sup> State of the Nation Address Puts Emphasis on the Economy, Economist Intelligence Unit (London) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019.

<http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=487638832&Country=South%20Africa&topic=Politics>.

<sup>2709</sup> Eskom split to minimize risks to South Africa, Ramaphosa says (London) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-safrica-eskom/eskom-split-to-minimize-risks-to-south-africa-ramaphosa-says-idUSKCN1Q32BL>.

<sup>2710</sup> Eskom split to minimize risks to South Africa, Ramaphosa says (London) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-safrica-eskom/eskom-split-to-minimize-risks-to-south-africa-ramaphosa-says-idUSKCN1Q32BL>.

<sup>2711</sup> Eskom split to minimize risks to South Africa, Ramaphosa says (London) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-safrica-eskom/eskom-split-to-minimize-risks-to-south-africa-ramaphosa-says-idUSKCN1Q32BL>.

<sup>2712</sup> South Africa Launches \$95 Million Fund to Grow Small Businesses (Jersey City) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tobyschapshak/2019/03/29/south-africa-launches-95m-fund-to-grow-small-businesses/#4162fef44850>.

<sup>2713</sup> Company Overview of SA SME Fund (New York) Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/snapshot.asp?privcapId=403113447>.

<sup>2714</sup> Company Overview of SA SME Fund (New York) Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/snapshot.asp?privcapId=403113447>.

minimum wage of TL2020 (USD380), a 26 per cent increase.<sup>2715</sup> Selçuk said that the commission unanimously agreed on the new minimum wage.<sup>2716</sup>

On 25 December 2018, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan told the ruling Justice and Development (AK Party) parliamentary group that workers who are hired for the first time in 2019 and 2020 based on the minimum wage will have their social security premiums and taxes paid for by the state.<sup>2717</sup> In addition, the TL101 subsidy that was given for the first nine months of 2018 will be given for 12 months in 2019 to businesses employing more than 500 people.<sup>2718</sup> For businesses employing fewer than 500 people, the subsidy will be increased to TL150.<sup>2719</sup>

On 1 January 2019, Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank announced that over USD1 billion has been allocated to support industrialists, entrepreneurs and researchers in the upcoming year.<sup>2720</sup> This funding will come from the ministry, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB), development agencies and regional development administrations.<sup>2721</sup>

On 10 January 2019, Treasury and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak announced a finance package of USD3.7 billion, funded in participation with 13 Turkish lenders, for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)<sup>2722</sup>. Albayrak said that around 20,000 – 40,000 SMEs will benefit from this package, and that this finance package will not affect the country's treasury because it was created by lenders.<sup>2723</sup>

On 17 January 2019, President Erdoğan was granted emergency powers by parliament to mitigate threats to the country's financial stability.<sup>2724</sup> Parliament additionally approved the formation of the

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<sup>2715</sup> Minimum wage in Turkey rises to TL 2,020 with 26 percent increase, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 25 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2018/12/25/minimum-wage-in-turkey-rises-to-tl-2020-with-26-percent-increase>.

<sup>2716</sup> Minimum wage in Turkey rises to TL 2,020 with 26 percent increase, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 25 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2018/12/25/minimum-wage-in-turkey-rises-to-tl-2020-with-26-percent-increase>.

<sup>2717</sup> Minimum wage in Turkey rises to TL 2,020 with 26 percent increase, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 25 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2018/12/25/minimum-wage-in-turkey-rises-to-tl-2020-with-26-percent-increase>.

<sup>2718</sup> Minimum wage in Turkey rises to TL 2,020 with 26 percent increase, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 25 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2018/12/25/minimum-wage-in-turkey-rises-to-tl-2020-with-26-percent-increase>.

<sup>2719</sup> Minimum wage in Turkey rises to TL 2,020 with 26 percent increase, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 25 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2018/12/25/minimum-wage-in-turkey-rises-to-tl-2020-with-26-percent-increase>.

<sup>2720</sup> Turkey to allocate over \$1B to assist researchers, entrepreneurs in 2019, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 2 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/technology/2019/01/02/turkey-to-allocate-over-1b-to-assist-researchers-entrepreneurs-in-2019>.

<sup>2721</sup> Turkey to allocate over \$1B to assist researchers, entrepreneurs in 2019, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 2 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/technology/2019/01/02/turkey-to-allocate-over-1b-to-assist-researchers-entrepreneurs-in-2019>.

<sup>2722</sup> Turkish banks to support SMEs with \$3.7 billion loan package, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 11 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-banks-to-support-smes-with-3-7-billion-loan-package-140427>.

<sup>2723</sup> Turkish banks to support SMEs with \$3.7 billion loan package, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 11 January 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-banks-to-support-smes-with-3-7-billion-loan-package-140427>.

<sup>2724</sup> Erdogan Gets Emergency Powers Over the Turkish Economy, Bloomberg (Istanbul) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-17/erdogan-gets-emergency-powers-to-use-if-turkish-economy-at-risk>.

Financial Stability and Development Committee, which will coordinate response to threats to financial stability and security.<sup>2725</sup>

On 11 February 2019, the Turkish government opened government vegetable stalls to battle food price inflation and the rising cost of labour and transport by selling food at half the regular shop prices.<sup>2726</sup> Agriculture Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said the project would continue as long as needed, perhaps becoming permanent.<sup>2727</sup>

On 25 February 2019, the Turkish government announced a campaign to increase employment by supporting Turkish businesses.<sup>2728</sup> Minister Selçuk said that the state would pay the salaries, taxes, and premiums of people who were employed by businesses for three months and continue paying their taxes and premiums for nine more months.<sup>2729</sup>

On 1 March 2019, Treasury and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak announced a USD4.67 billion loan package for SMEs funded in participation with 17 banks following a similar government package issued in January.<sup>2730</sup> The loans will allow for six months without principal repayments, and will be offered at a 1.54 per cent monthly interest rate.<sup>2731</sup>

On 10 April 2019, Treasury and Finance Minister Albayrak unveiled a new reform package to be implemented over the next 4.5 years.<sup>2732</sup> Minister Albayrak said that the reform package will address urgent issues in the financial sector, food price inflation, trade logistics, tourism, exports, and judicial and tax reforms which are crucial to sustainable economic development.<sup>2733</sup>

Turkey has taken action in Investing in People and Places by paying for social security premiums for new workers, battling food price inflation, and issuing a sweeping reform package; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by raising the minimum wage, extending an existing subsidy to SMEs, partnering with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization to fund industry and technology, allocating USD3.7 billion for SMEs, financing businesses to hire new

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<sup>2725</sup> Erdogan Gets Emergency Powers Over the Turkish Economy, Bloomberg (Istanbul) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-17/erdogan-gets-emergency-powers-to-use-if-turkish-economy-at-risk>.

<sup>2726</sup> Turkey opens government vegetable stalls in battle with inflation, Reuters (Istanbul) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-economy-inflation/turkey-opens-government-vegetable-stalls-in-battle-with-inflation-idUSKCN1Q01TN>.

<sup>2727</sup> Turkey opens government vegetable stalls in battle with inflation, Reuters (Istanbul) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-economy-inflation/turkey-opens-government-vegetable-stalls-in-battle-with-inflation-idUSKCN1Q01TN>.

<sup>2728</sup> Turkish government launches campaign to boost employment, Hurriyet Daily News (Ankara) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-government-launches-campaign-to-boost-employment-141478>.

<sup>2729</sup> Turkish government launches campaign to boost employment, Hurriyet Daily News (Ankara) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-government-launches-campaign-to-boost-employment-141478>.

<sup>2730</sup> UPDATE 2-Turkey to offer SMEs a second 25 billion-lira loan package, Reuters (Istanbul) 1 March 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/turkey-economy-loans/update-2-turkey-to-offer-smes-a-second-25-billion-lira-loan-package-idUSL5N2001O8>.

<sup>2731</sup> UPDATE 2-Turkey to offer SMEs a second 25 billion-lira loan package, Reuters (Istanbul) 1 March 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/turkey-economy-loans/update-2-turkey-to-offer-smes-a-second-25-billion-lira-loan-package-idUSL5N2001O8>.

<sup>2732</sup> Turkey's new reform agenda takes on finance, inflation, tax regime, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2019/04/11/turkeys-new-reform-agenda-takes-on-finance-inflation-tax-regime>.

<sup>2733</sup> Turkey's new reform agenda takes on finance, inflation, tax regime, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 20 April 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2019/04/11/turkeys-new-reform-agenda-takes-on-finance-inflation-tax-regime>.



employees, and allocating an additional USD4.67 billion for SMEs; and in building resilient and responsive institutions by implementing a major reform package to address the financial sector and ensure sustainable growth. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joshua Raghubir*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied in its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 3 December 2018, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced an initiative called the “Local Industrial Strategies,” which consults with different local businesses, public partners and civilians to ensure new ways to work together to increase job growth in local communities.<sup>2734</sup>

On 5 December 2018, the United Kingdom announced their second Life Sciences Sector Deal.<sup>2735</sup> The government worked to gain funding with ten private corporations, including securing GBP1 billion from the biopharmaceutical company UCB.<sup>2736</sup> The government will also provide GBP79 million as part of the Industrial Strategy plan.<sup>2737</sup> This deal will allow the integration of artificial intelligence into hospital treatments to help spot and prevent early diseases.<sup>2738</sup>

On 6 December 2018, the United Kingdom announced a joint deal with the aerospace sector, to develop the modernized electric planes, drones and autonomous aircrafts in a plan called “Future Flight” by 2025.<sup>2739</sup> The government will provide GBP125 million from the Industrial Strategy

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<sup>2734</sup> Local Industrial Strategies to drive growth across the country, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-industrial-strategies-to-drive-growth-across-the-country>.

<sup>2735</sup> £1.3 billion industry/government investment in UK economy and new partnership driving early disease detection, Government of the United Kingdom GOV.UK (London) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/13-billion-industrygovernment-investment-in-uk-economy-and-new-partnership-driving-early-disease-detection>.

<sup>2736</sup> £1.3 billion industry/government investment in UK economy and new partnership driving early disease detection, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/13-billion-industrygovernment-investment-in-uk-economy-and-new-partnership-driving-early-disease-detection>.

<sup>2737</sup> £1.3 billion industry/government investment in UK economy and new partnership driving early disease detection, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/13-billion-industrygovernment-investment-in-uk-economy-and-new-partnership-driving-early-disease-detection>.

<sup>2738</sup> £1.3 billion industry/government investment in UK economy and new partnership driving early disease detection, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/13-billion-industrygovernment-investment-in-uk-economy-and-new-partnership-driving-early-disease-detection>.

<sup>2739</sup> New backing to transform the UK's future through the modern Industrial Strategy. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-backing-to-transform-the-uks-future-through-the-modern-industrial-strategy>.

plan.<sup>2740</sup> There will be an additional GBP15 million invested in GKN Aerospace's new Global Technology Centre in Bristol which is set to open in 2020.<sup>2741</sup>

On 10 December 2018, the United Kingdom announced new measures to combat international money laundering and stop the abuse of limited partnerships.<sup>2742</sup> The government is ensuring a higher amount of anti-corruption and transparency checks to stop money laundering.<sup>2743</sup> There will be more thorough checks for those applying for Limited Partnerships, and required annual filing for corporations with limited partnerships to ensure the government has up to date information.<sup>2744</sup>

On 11 December 2018, the United Kingdom announced a GBP100 million investment toward 40 new renewable energy projects in Africa.<sup>2745</sup> These projects entail small solar, wind, hydro and geothermal sources that will promote the use of renewable energy.<sup>2746</sup> These new projects are projected to forestall three million tonnes of carbon emissions.<sup>2747</sup>

On 13 December 2018, the United Kingdom announced a goal of being the world's first "net zero carbon" industrial nation by 2040.<sup>2748</sup> This goal is backed by GBP170 million in funding, which will be backed by private industries as well. The government believes this can be achievable through the use of carbon capture and storage technology.<sup>2749</sup> The government is expecting growth of over two

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<sup>2740</sup>New backing to transform the UK's future through the modern Industrial Strategy. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-backing-to-transform-the-uks-future-through-the-modern-industrial-strategy>.

<sup>2741</sup>New backing to transform the UK's future through the modern Industrial Strategy. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-backing-to-transform-the-uks-future-through-the-modern-industrial-strategy>.

<sup>2742</sup>New measures to tackle international money laundering. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-tackle-international-money-laundering>.

<sup>2743</sup>New measures to tackle international money laundering. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-tackle-international-money-laundering>.

<sup>2744</sup>New measures to tackle international money laundering. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-tackle-international-money-laundering>.

<sup>2745</sup>£100 million for renewable energy projects in Africa to provide electricity to 2.4 million people a year. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-for-renewable-energy-projects-in-africa-to-provide-electricity-to-24-million-people-a-year>.

<sup>2746</sup>£100 million for renewable energy projects in Africa to provide electricity to 2.4 million people a year. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-for-renewable-energy-projects-in-africa-to-provide-electricity-to-24-million-people-a-year>.

<sup>2747</sup>£100 million for renewable energy projects in Africa to provide electricity to 2.4 million people a year. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-million-for-renewable-energy-projects-in-africa-to-provide-electricity-to-24-million-people-a-year>.

<sup>2748</sup>World-first carbon 'net-zero' hub of heavy industry to help UK seize global economic opportunities of clean growth. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-carbon-net-zero-hub-of-heavy-industry-to-help-uk-seize-global-economic-opportunities-of-clean-growth>.

<sup>2749</sup>World-first carbon 'net-zero' hub of heavy industry to help UK seize global economic opportunities of clean growth. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-carbon-net-zero-hub-of-heavy-industry-to-help-uk-seize-global-economic-opportunities-of-clean-growth>.

million “green collar” jobs in 2030, and low carbon exports from the UK being valued at GBP170 billion.<sup>2750</sup>

On 17 December 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom announced an update to worker’s rights legislation, it is the biggest update in 20 years.<sup>2751</sup> It took 51 of the 53 recommendations made by Matthew Taylor, who has been in charge of overlooking Britain’s workplace policies, in order to make a fairer workplace for all.<sup>2752,2753</sup> It also addresses Sir David Metcalf’s Labour Market Strategy, with new policies in place to help low paid workers avoid exploitation.<sup>2754</sup>

On 18 December 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom announced an initiative to improve the standards of the nation’s audit market through an independent, nonpartisan review.<sup>2755</sup> The government has appointed Donald Bryton, who is the former Chair of the London Stock Exchange Group.<sup>2756</sup> This review will build on the Financial Reporting Council Review and the Competition and Market Authority’s market study which examined the audit market.<sup>2757</sup>

On 18 December 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that the Independent Review of the Financial Reporting Council by Sir John Kingman was completed.<sup>2758</sup> The review has made multiple accountability and transparency measures for the financial sector moving forward.<sup>2759</sup>

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<sup>2750</sup>World-first carbon 'net-zero' hub of heavy industry to help UK seize global economic opportunities of clean growth. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-carbon-net-zero-hub-of-heavy-industry-to-help-uk-seize-global-economic-opportunities-of-clean-growth>.

<sup>2751</sup>Largest upgrade in a generation to workplace rights - getting work right for British workers and businesses. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-upgrade-in-a-generation-to-workplace-rights-getting-work-right-for-british-workers-and-businesses>.

<sup>2752</sup>Largest upgrade in a generation to workplace rights - getting work right for British workers and businesses. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-upgrade-in-a-generation-to-workplace-rights-getting-work-right-for-british-workers-and-businesses>.

<sup>2753</sup>Largest upgrade in a generation to workplace rights - getting work right for British workers and businesses. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-upgrade-in-a-generation-to-workplace-rights-getting-work-right-for-british-workers-and-businesses>.

<sup>2754</sup>Largest upgrade in a generation to workplace rights - getting work right for British workers and businesses. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-upgrade-in-a-generation-to-workplace-rights-getting-work-right-for-british-workers-and-businesses>.

<sup>2755</sup>Government takes next step in improving standards of UK audit market with new independent review into audit standards. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-next-step-in-improving-standards-of-uk-audit-market-with-new-independent-review-into-audit-standards>.

<sup>2756</sup>Government takes next step in improving standards of UK audit market with new independent review into audit standards. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-next-step-in-improving-standards-of-uk-audit-market-with-new-independent-review-into-audit-standards>.

<sup>2757</sup>Government takes next step in improving standards of UK audit market with new independent review into audit standards. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-next-step-in-improving-standards-of-uk-audit-market-with-new-independent-review-into-audit-standards>.

<sup>2758</sup>Independent review of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) launches report. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-of-the-financial-reporting-council-frc-launches-report>.

On 1 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom announced an initiative to protect energy customers from price hikes.<sup>2760</sup> The cap will create GBP1 billion in energy savings for families by 2020, and energy providers are expected to work with regulators to find a fairer price.<sup>2761</sup>

On 1 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom is enforcing new transparency regulations regarding compensation for corporate executives.<sup>2762</sup> The Government is requiring any corporation with over 250 employees to share the wage of the CEO in comparison to different levels of workers.<sup>2763</sup> The companies will also have to report how executives consider needs of employees and shareholders when making business decisions.<sup>2764</sup>

On 4 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom announced a new service to help startups register their company and register for tax called the Streamlined Company Registration Service.<sup>2765</sup>

On 23 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom entered a new partnership with the World Economic Forum to create a more modern regulatory approach that integrates the use of technology while protecting consumers.<sup>2766</sup> This partnership will expand on the UK's *Industrial Strategy Grand Challenges* which focus on: AI and machine learning, autonomous and urban progress, drones and advancement of medicine.<sup>2767</sup>

On 24 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom announced new plans to protect protection for pregnant women and new parents rejoining the workforce.<sup>2768</sup> It proposes that legal protections against “redundancy” for women who are pregnant or new mothers is now provided

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<sup>2759</sup>Independent review of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) launches report. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-of-the-financial-reporting-council-frc-launches-report>.

<sup>2760</sup>Loyal energy customers to pay fair price from today. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/loyal-energy-customers-to-pay-fair-price-from-today>.

<sup>2761</sup>Loyal energy customers to pay fair price from today. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/loyal-energy-customers-to-pay-fair-price-from-today>.

<sup>2762</sup>New executive pay transparency measures come into force. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-executive-pay-transparency-measures-come-into-force>.

<sup>2763</sup>New executive pay transparency measures come into force. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-executive-pay-transparency-measures-come-into-force>.

<sup>2764</sup>New executive pay transparency measures come into force. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-executive-pay-transparency-measures-come-into-force>.

<sup>2765</sup>Helping hand to set up new businesses. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/helping-hand-to-set-up-new-businesses>.

<sup>2766</sup>UK and World Economic Forum to lead regulation revolution to foster industries of the future. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-world-economic-forum-to-lead-regulation-revolution-to-foster-industries-of-the-future>.

<sup>2767</sup>UK and World Economic Forum to lead regulation revolution to foster industries of the future. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-world-economic-forum-to-lead-regulation-revolution-to-foster-industries-of-the-future>.

<sup>2768</sup>Plans to boost protections for pregnant women and new parents returning to work. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-boost-protections-for-pregnant-women-and-new-parents-returning-to-work>.

until six months after they return to work after maternity leave.<sup>2769</sup> These rights will also be granted to parents returning from adopted or shared parental leave.<sup>2770</sup>

On 28 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom announced measures to strengthen business and consumer cyber security protection through a GBP70 million investment into research into design and development of hardware to protect from attacks.<sup>2771</sup> The research will produce better hardware that will program security measures into chip designs in order to protect against cyber threats.<sup>2772</sup> This investment is important as the government estimates that almost all UK businesses run on technology, and that 40 per cent have faced a threat or breach in the past year.<sup>2773</sup>

On 31 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom announced a new fund of up to GBP30 million to create a “data trust initiative.”<sup>2774</sup> This will enable different charities to share information between each other in order to track those who illegally trade animals, audio data can be used to notify park rangers of gunshots or illegal fishing ships, image data is shared between charities and the government to identify illegal animal components on the internet.<sup>2775</sup>

On 31 January 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom partnered with the governments of Germany and the France to create a payment system to allow European businesses to trade with Iran, as well as allow French banks to make direct payments to Iran without risking US sanctions.<sup>2776</sup> The Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges (INSETX) includes the trade of food, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods, although not oil.<sup>2777</sup>

On 25 February 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom delivered important parts of their “international transparency agenda” through publishing their UK Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Reconciliation Report.<sup>2778</sup> The government worked with 58 companies in the United

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<sup>2769</sup>Plans to boost protections for pregnant women and new parents returning to work. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-boost-protections-for-pregnant-women-and-new-parents-returning-to-work>.

<sup>2770</sup>Plans to boost protections for pregnant women and new parents returning to work. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-boost-protections-for-pregnant-women-and-new-parents-returning-to-work>.

<sup>2771</sup>‘Designing out’ cyber threats to businesses and personal data. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/designing-out-cyber-threats-to-businesses-and-personal-data>.

<sup>2772</sup>‘Designing out’ cyber threats to businesses and personal data. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/designing-out-cyber-threats-to-businesses-and-personal-data>.

<sup>2773</sup>‘Designing out’ cyber threats to businesses and personal data. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/designing-out-cyber-threats-to-businesses-and-personal-data>.

<sup>2774</sup>Digital revolution to use the power of data to combat illegal wildlife trade and reduce food waste. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-revolution-to-use-the-power-of-data-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade-and-reduce-food-waste>.

<sup>2775</sup>Digital revolution to use the power of data to combat illegal wildlife trade and reduce food waste. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/digital-revolution-to-use-the-power-of-data-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade-and-reduce-food-waste>.

<sup>2776</sup>UK, France, and Germany create payments system to trade with Iran (Berlin) 31 January 2019. Access date: 21 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47072020>.

<sup>2777</sup>UK, France, and Germany create payments system to trade with Iran (Berlin) 31 January 2019. Access date: 21 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47072020>.

<sup>2778</sup>UK government delivers key strand of international transparency agenda. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 February 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-delivers-key-strand-of-international-transparency-agenda>.

Kingdom to conduct this voluntary report with the EITI, as the government has been a supporter of the organization's work since it was admitted in 2014.<sup>2779</sup> The transparency report, conducted according to EITI regulations ensures that the nation's oil, gas and minerals revenues are accounted for responsibly.<sup>2780</sup>

On 28 February 2019, the United Kingdom created ten new University Enterprise Zones in England.<sup>2781</sup> This will create a closer relationship between local businesses and universities in the area, so that schools have a greater understanding of what skills employers expect from students upon graduation.<sup>2782</sup> The government made a GBP10 million investment to fund the project.<sup>2783</sup>

On 6 March 2019, the the United Kingdom announced a new "Offshore Wind Sector" deal, that is aiming to have 33 per cent of women to be part of the offshore wind industry before 2030, an increase from the current level of 16 per cent.<sup>2784</sup> The government is aiming to have 27,000 new jobs created in this sector over the next 10 years.<sup>2785</sup>

On 6 March 2019, the United Kingdom announced that Parliament will be working to ensure that workers' rights will be protected in United Kingdom law, in consultation with trade unions and businesses to make future plans.<sup>2786</sup> One proposal is to create a single enforcement body to protect vulnerable workers.<sup>2787</sup>

On 6 March 2019, the United Kingdom vowed to assist young entrepreneurs through making a review that will study the challenges they face in making their businesses succeed.<sup>2788</sup> The review is part of the government's modern Industrial Strategy, which is aimed at ensuring that the United

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<sup>2779</sup> UK government delivers key strand of international transparency agenda. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 February 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-delivers-key-strand-of-international-transparency-agenda>.

<sup>2780</sup> UK government delivers key strand of international transparency agenda. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 February 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-delivers-key-strand-of-international-transparency-agenda>.

<sup>2781</sup> New university-business partnerships to boost jobs and local economies. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 February 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-university-business-partnerships-to-boost-jobs-and-local-economies>.

<sup>2782</sup> New university-business partnerships to boost jobs and local economies. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 February 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-university-business-partnerships-to-boost-jobs-and-local-economies>.

<sup>2783</sup> New university-business partnerships to boost jobs and local economies. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 February 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-university-business-partnerships-to-boost-jobs-and-local-economies>.

<sup>2784</sup> Green collar jobs in offshore wind set to triple by 2030. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-collar-jobs-in-offshore-wind-set-to-triple-by-2030>.

<sup>2785</sup> Green collar jobs in offshore wind set to triple by 2030. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-collar-jobs-in-offshore-wind-set-to-triple-by-2030>.

<sup>2786</sup> Workers rights to be protected in UK law. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/workers-rights-to-be-protected-in-uk-law>.

<sup>2787</sup> Workers rights to be protected in UK law. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/workers-rights-to-be-protected-in-uk-law>.

<sup>2788</sup> New plans to help next generation of young entrepreneurs turn their ideas into reality. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-help-next-generation-of-young-entrepreneurs-turn-their-ideas-into-reality>.

Kingdom is an attractive jurisdiction to start a business, and will examine issues such as access to credit and networks.<sup>2789</sup>

On 12 March 2019, the United Kingdom launched a new ad campaign on “holiday pay” to bring awareness about workers’ rights and people’s eligibility to receive holiday pay.<sup>2790</sup> The government found that many people were missing out on receiving holiday pay which amounted to GBP1.8 billion every year.<sup>2791</sup>

On 15 March 2019, the United Kingdom announced new investments to boost research, development and job growth in the country.<sup>2792</sup> They government will pledge 2.4% of the gross domestic product by 2027 towards research and development. Targets of these funds include developing a supercomputer, genetic research, nuclear technology, reducing energy usage by small business, sustainable energy, and fracking.<sup>2793</sup>

On 28 March 2019, the United Kingdom announced they would provide GBP9 million in funding toward AI and machine learning projects in the digital health sector in hopes that they will help future patients.<sup>2794</sup>

On 1 April 2019, the United Kingdom increased the National Living Wage by 5 per cent to GBP8.21 per hour in the largest raise in history.<sup>2795</sup> The government claims that 2.1 million workers will benefit from the increases, specifically those in the retail and hospitality industry.<sup>2796</sup>

On 8 April 2019, the government of the United Kingdom required employers to issue payslips to all workers, including those on casual and zero-hour contracts, that include the amount of hours they

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<sup>2789</sup> New plans to help next generation of young entrepreneurs turn their ideas into reality. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-help-next-generation-of-young-entrepreneurs-turn-their-ideas-into-reality>.

<sup>2790</sup> Government has launched its first holiday pay advertising campaign. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-has-launched-its-first-holiday-pay-advertising-campaign>.

<sup>2791</sup> Government has launched its first holiday pay advertising campaign. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-has-launched-its-first-holiday-pay-advertising-campaign>.

<sup>2792</sup> Spring statement support for modern industrial strategy. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spring-statement-support-for-modern-industrial-strategy>.

<sup>2793</sup> Spring statement support for modern industrial strategy. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spring-statement-support-for-modern-industrial-strategy>.

<sup>2794</sup> £9m awarded to breakthrough digital health technologies. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/9m-awarded-to-breakthrough-digital-health-technologies>.

<sup>2795</sup> Biggest ever increase to National Living Wage comes into effect. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-ever-increase-to-national-living-wage-comes-into-effect>.

<sup>2796</sup> Biggest ever increase to National Living Wage comes into effect. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-ever-increase-to-national-living-wage-comes-into-effect>.

worked each week.<sup>2797</sup> The government is also closing the “Swedish derogation” loophole which allowed firms to pay agency workers less than permanent staff.<sup>2798</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken action in Investing in People and Places by announcing the Local Industrial Strategies initiative, updating workers’ rights legislation, protecting consumers from energy price hikes, in addition to other actions. On Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets they took action by announcing a Life Sciences Sector Deal, partnering with the aerospace industry, supporting the green economy through carbon capture and storage, easing registration process for start-ups, among other actions. On Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions, the government adopted stronger anti-money laundering laws, increased the transparency of limited partnerships, invested in renewable energy in Africa, and improved the standards of the audit market, among others. These actions fulfill all three components of the commitment.

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

*Analyst: Isha Chaudhuri*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 12 December 2018, President Donald Trump issued the Executive Order on Establishing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council to utilize public funds to revitalize urban and economically distressed communities.<sup>2799</sup>

On 7 February 2019, President Trump issued the Presidential Memorandum on Promoting Women’s Global Development and Prosperity, including USD50 million in proposed funding for the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Fund within United States Agency for International Development (USAID).<sup>2800</sup> The establishment of this initiative aims to economically empower 50 million women across the developing world by 2025 through workforce development and skills training, increasing entrepreneurship and access to capital, and addressing barriers in laws and norms.<sup>2801</sup>

On 11 February 2019, President Trump issued an executive order on maintaining American leadership in artificial intelligence (AI), calling for AI to be designated as an agency research and

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<sup>2797</sup> New laws give 300,000 workers a payslip for the first time. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-give-300000-workers-a-payslip-for-the-first-time>.

<sup>2798</sup> New laws give 300,000 workers a payslip for the first time. Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-give-300000-workers-a-payslip-for-the-first-time>.

<sup>2799</sup> Executive Order on Establishing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, The White House (Washington) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-establishing-white-house-opportunity-revitalization-council/>.

<sup>2800</sup> Presidential Memorandum on Promoting Women’s Global Development and Prosperity, The White House (Washington) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-promoting-womens-global-development-prosperity/>.

<sup>2801</sup> Presidential Memorandum on Promoting Women’s Global Development and Prosperity, The White House (Washington) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-promoting-womens-global-development-prosperity/>.



development priority for all federal government agencies that fund or conduct AI research.<sup>2802</sup> The increased funding aims to promote scientific discovery, economic competitiveness and national security.<sup>2803</sup>

On 13 February 2019, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Presidential Adviser Ivanka Trump announced the creation of the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board.<sup>2804</sup> The board is intended to ensure inclusive growth through developing a national campaign to promote education and training, improving labour market data and increasing private sector investment.<sup>2805</sup>

On 25 February 2019, the first of a series of “Fed Listens” events will take place in Dallas, Texas for the Federal Reserve to gather recommendations from the public to be presented in a 2020 report.<sup>2806</sup> Events in Minneapolis and Chicago will follow in the following months, with the Federal Open Market Committee using the perspectives gathered to conduct a broad review of the Reserve’s existing policy framework.<sup>2807</sup>

On 28 February 2019, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced a new USD5 billion annual investment for Education Freedom Scholarships, to expand students’ access to additional educational opportunities.<sup>2808</sup> Funded through a federal tax credit from voluntary donations, the state-based scholarship program can expand the public education system through investing in existing programs and services, or fund additional out-of-school programs, such as home education, apprenticeships or tutoring.<sup>2809</sup>

On 12 April 2019, President Trump announced a new USD20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund under the Federal Communications Commission to extend high-speed broadband to four million homes and small businesses as part of an initiative to make the US a world leader in 5G technology.<sup>2810</sup>

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<sup>2802</sup> Executive Order on Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, The White House (Washington) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-maintaining-american-leadership-artificial-intelligence>.

<sup>2803</sup> Executive Order on Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, The White House (Washington) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-maintaining-american-leadership-artificial-intelligence>.

<sup>2804</sup> Bloomberg: “Wilbur Ross, Ivanka Trump Introduce Workforce Advisory Board”, The White House (Washington) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/icymi-bloomberg-wilbur-ross-ivanka-trump-introduce-workforce-advisory-board/>.

<sup>2805</sup> Wilbur Ross, Ivanka Trump Introduce Workforce Advisory Board, Bloomberg (New York) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-26/house-votes-to-block-trump-s-national-emergency-for-border-wall>.

<sup>2806</sup> Review of Monetary Policy Strategy, Tools, and Communications, The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Washington) 22 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/review-of-monetary-policy-strategy-tools-and-communications-fed-listens-events.htm>.

<sup>2807</sup> Review of Monetary Policy Strategy, Tools, and Communications, The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Washington) 22 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/review-of-monetary-policy-strategy-tools-and-communications.htm>.

<sup>2808</sup> Fast Facts: Education Freedom Scholarships, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/trump-administration-unveils-plan-historic-investment-americas-students-through-education-freedom-scholarships>.

<sup>2809</sup> Fast Facts: Education Freedom Scholarships, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/trump-administration-unveils-plan-historic-investment-americas-students-through-education-freedom-scholarships>.

<sup>2810</sup> President Donald J. Trump Is Taking Action to Ensure that America Wins the Race to 5G, The White House (Washington) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-taking-action-ensure-america-wins-race-5g/>.

On 18 April 2019, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced their Integrated Modernization Business Plan to upgrade its information technology systems, to drive innovation and support the IRS mission and its future.<sup>2811</sup> Costing between USD2.3 billion to 2.7 billion over six years, the plan is built on four “Modernization Pillars”: the taxpayer experience, core taxpayer services and enforcement, modernized IRS operations, and cybersecurity and data protection.<sup>2812</sup> US290 million was proposed in the budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2020.<sup>2813</sup>

The United States has taken action in Investing in People and Places by establishing urban revitalization projects, funding female entrepreneurship programs, and investing scholarship programs; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by improving labour market data and promoting artificial intelligence research; and Building More Resilient and Responsive Institutions by consulting with stakeholders regarding federal reforms and modernizing government services. These actions fulfill three out of the three components of the commitment.

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

*Analyst: Denise Lee*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to invest in people and regions that are considered vulnerable, to support businesses and inclusive labour markets, and to build efficient, resilient, and responsive institutions.

On 5 December 2018, the European Commission announced proposals to reduce the European Union’s dependence on the US dollar.<sup>2814</sup> Specific proposals include the creation of euro-denominated price benchmarks for energy commodities and a fully integrated payment system, which combined will “[yield] important potential for better protecting European citizens and companies against external shocks and making the international finance and monetary system more resilient,” per Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici.

On 18 January 2019, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced a EUR255 million, 20-year loan with the Greek Public Power Corporation to upgrade its national electricity network.<sup>2815</sup> The

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<sup>2811</sup> IRS announces multi-year plan to update, modernize IT systems; Effort focused on improved taxpayer services, expanded cybersecurity and taxpayer data protections, Internal Revenue Service (Washington) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-announces-multi-year-plan-to-update-modernize-it-systems-effort-focused-on-improved-taxpayer-services-expanded-cybersecurity-and-taxpayer-data-protections>.

<sup>2812</sup> IRS announces multi-year plan to update, modernize IT systems; Effort focused on improved taxpayer services, expanded cybersecurity and taxpayer data protections, Internal Revenue Service (Washington) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-announces-multi-year-plan-to-update-modernize-it-systems-effort-focused-on-improved-taxpayer-services-expanded-cybersecurity-and-taxpayer-data-protections>.

<sup>2813</sup> IRS announces multi-year plan to update, modernize IT systems; Effort focused on improved taxpayer services, expanded cybersecurity and taxpayer data protections, Internal Revenue Service (Washington) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 24 April 2019. <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-announces-multi-year-plan-to-update-modernize-it-systems-effort-focused-on-improved-taxpayer-services-expanded-cybersecurity-and-taxpayer-data-protections>.

<sup>2814</sup> EU’s dependence on dollar to be reduced under new proposals, The Guardian (Brussels) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/05/european-union-dependence-on-dollar-to-be-reduced-under-new-proposals>.

<sup>2815</sup> EUR 255m EIB support to the upgrade of Greek national electricity network, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2019/2019-012-eur-255m-eib-support-to-the-upgrade-of-greek-national-electricity-network?media=rss&language=EN>.

investment will be used to implement over 7,000 kilometres of new distribution infrastructure to cater to future demand.<sup>2816</sup>

On 24 January 2019, the EIB provided EUR1.2 billion in research, development and innovation (RDI) loans to support science in Spain under the EU InnovFin programme.<sup>2817</sup> This is the largest RDI loan to date, and will be used to finance public research centres and institutions for the development of patents and new areas of research, particularly those closely related to industry needs.<sup>2818</sup>

On 20 February 2019, the European Economic and Social Committee voted to adopt the policy statement “For a European Framework directive on a Minimum Income” which calls on the European Commission to establish an adequate minimum income for each Member State.<sup>2819</sup> The statement was made in response to the perceived failure of the existing anti-poverty policy tool, the Open Method of Coordination, which has failed to prevent increases in inequalities both within and between Member States..<sup>2820</sup>

On 26 February 2019, the EU announced an investment programme worth over EUR10 billion for low-carbon technologies, by offering grants to cover up to 60 per cent of capital and operational costs for selected projects.<sup>2821</sup> Intended to boost global competitiveness and acquire first mover benefits by increasing exports of European sustainable products, as well as grow local jobs and a cleaner environment, the first call for proposals will be launched in 2020.<sup>2822</sup>

On 26 February 2019, EU and Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) negotiators met in Samoa to discuss a New ACP-EU Partnership.<sup>2823</sup> The current Cotonou Agreement created in 2000 is set to

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<sup>2816</sup> EUR 255m EIB support to the upgrade of Greek national electricity network, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2019/2019-012-eur-255m-eib-support-to-the-upgrade-of-greek-national-electricity-network?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2817</sup> Support for science in Spain: EIB provides EUR 1.2bn under EU InnovFin programme, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2019/2019-022-support-for-science-in-spain-eib-provides-eur-1-2bn-under-eu-innovfin-programme?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2818</sup> Support for science in Spain: EIB provides EUR 1.2bn under EU InnovFin programme, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2019/2019-022-support-for-science-in-spain-eib-provides-eur-1-2bn-under-eu-innovfin-programme?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2819</sup> EU’s civil society consultative body votes in favour of EU-supported decent minimum income for all EU citizens in need, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/eus-civil-society-consultative-body-votes-favour-eu-supported-decent-minimum-income-all-eu-citizens-need>.

<sup>2820</sup> EU’s civil society consultative body votes in favour of EU-supported decent minimum income for all EU citizens in need, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/eus-civil-society-consultative-body-votes-favour-eu-supported-decent-minimum-income-all-eu-citizens-need>.

<sup>2821</sup> Towards a climate-neutral Europe: EU invests over €10bn in innovative clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1381_en.htm).

<sup>2822</sup> Towards a climate-neutral Europe: EU invests over €10bn in innovative clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1381_en.htm).

<sup>2823</sup> New ACP-EU Partnership: EU and Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Leaders intensify the regional talks in Samoa, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1409\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1409_en.htm).

expire in 2020, and both parties expressed commitment to the creation of a new EU-Pacific pillar that will “find new ways to fight climate change, and to protect our people and our planet.”<sup>2824</sup>

On 28 February 2019, Unicredit and the EIB announced EUR500 million in credit line availability for Italian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with special emphasis on promoting female entrepreneurship and climate action.<sup>2825</sup> Unicredit will match the initial EUR250 million from the EIB, with funds to be used to finance new and existing projects for businesses in any productive sector, with specific streams for businesses managed or controlled by women, innovative SMEs, and environmental projects.<sup>2826</sup>

On 1 April 2019, the EIB signed to commit USD15 million to the Africa Industrialization I Fund, to invest and acquire equity in SMEs with a high growth potential in North Africa.<sup>2827</sup> This private equity fund aims to contribute to the development of the private sector by increasing access to capital, with a focus on sectors such as education, healthcare and manufacturing.<sup>2828</sup>

On 9 April 2019, the EIB board approved a EUR4 billion investment, including EUR1.3 billion of financing for private sector investment to support new climate mitigation projects.<sup>2829</sup> Dedicated credit lines across Europe will be created to support female entrepreneurs and youth employment, energy efficiency investments, and product research and development.<sup>2830</sup> The remaining funds will be directed towards improvements in transport, clean energy generation and infrastructure projects.<sup>2831</sup>

On 10 April 2019, the European Commission announced a new EU framework for the screening of foreign direct investments.<sup>2832</sup> The new framework will create a cooperation mechanism between

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<sup>2824</sup> New ACP-EU Partnership: EU and Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Leaders intensify the regional talks in Samoa, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1409\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1409_en.htm).

<sup>2825</sup> UniCredit and the EIB: EUR 500 million for Italian SMEs to promote female entrepreneurship and climate action, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2019/2019-061-unicredit-and-the-eib-eur-500-million-for-italian-smes-to-promote-female-entrepreneurship-and-climate-action?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2826</sup> UniCredit and the EIB: EUR 500 million for Italian SMEs to promote female entrepreneurship and climate action, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2019/2019-061-unicredit-and-the-eib-eur-500-million-for-italian-smes-to-promote-female-entrepreneurship-and-climate-action?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2827</sup> EIB invests in Africa Industrialization Fund to support growth capital investments, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-093-eib-invests-in-africa-industrialization-fund-to-support-growth-capital-investments?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2828</sup> EIB invests in Africa Industrialization Fund to support growth capital investments, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-093-eib-invests-in-africa-industrialization-fund-to-support-growth-capital-investments?media=rss&language=EN>.

<sup>2829</sup> EIB backs EUR 4 billion transport, business, clean energy and climate resilience investment, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 9 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-100-eib-backs-eur-4-billion-transport-business-clean-energy-and-climate-resilience-investment>.

<sup>2830</sup> EIB backs EUR 4 billion transport, business, clean energy and climate resilience investment, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 9 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-100-eib-backs-eur-4-billion-transport-business-clean-energy-and-climate-resilience-investment>.

<sup>2831</sup> EIB backs EUR 4 billion transport, business, clean energy and climate resilience investment, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) 9 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-100-eib-backs-eur-4-billion-transport-business-clean-energy-and-climate-resilience-investment>.

<sup>2832</sup> EU foreign investment screening regulation enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 10 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2088\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2088_en.htm).

Member States to exchange information and raise concerns, encourage international cooperation and set screening mechanism requirements.<sup>2833</sup>

The EU has taken action in Investing in People and Places through financing infrastructure projects in and supporting climate mitigation and transportation projects; in Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets by implementing EIB loans for RDI, low-carbon technologies, and SMEs dedicated to female entrepreneurship, and contributing to the Africa Industrialization I Fund; and in Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions through reducing the Euro's dependence on the US dollar, and adapting policy to establish compliance within the EU, among others. These actions fulfill three out of the three components of the commitment.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

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<sup>2833</sup> EU foreign investment screening regulation enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 10 April 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2088\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2088_en.htm).