



**RANEPA**  
THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY  
OF NATIONAL ECONOMY  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



# 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

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

**We encourage readers to send comments to**

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## 1. Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth

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

*G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.90 (95%)	

### Background

Inclusive economic growth has been a major area of interest at G20 summits in recent years. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought into greater light the deep inequalities in economic growth and prospects among countries around the world. According to the World Bank, in 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic is estimated to push 88 to 115 million people into extreme poverty (defined as living on less than USD1.90 daily), with that number potentially rising to 150 million by 2021.<sup>3</sup> Even prior to the pandemic, the World Bank noted that “the rate of [poverty] reduction slowed to less than half a percentage point per year between 2015 and 2017.”<sup>4</sup> Consequently, this commitment aims to highlight that promoting inclusive economic growth requires addressing systemic inequalities in the global economy that hinder the participation of all.

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

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

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders recognized that fostering inclusive growth requires the use of “all policy tools and strong engagement with stakeholders.”<sup>5</sup> Additionally, they strived to ensure that growth is “robust,” “inclusive,” and “delivers more quality jobs.”<sup>6</sup> According to the communiqué, rising inequalities negatively affect economies and “hinder our objective of lifting growth.”<sup>7</sup> They affirmed that global trade and investment continue to be important for fuelling economic growth and development, generating employment and contributing to welfare and inclusive growth. They further affirmed their support for “policies that allow firms of all sizes, particularly SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises], in countries at all levels of economic development to participate in and take full advantage of Global Value Chains and encourage greater participation and value addition by developing countries.”<sup>8</sup>

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

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

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to their previous year’s pledge of using all three policy tools to “achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.”<sup>15</sup> An additional focus on infrastructure growth as a criterion for inclusive growth was included; G20 leaders called

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

for more private investment in infrastructure to address the continuing financing gap.<sup>16</sup> The Buenos Aires Action Plan highlights key areas where member's implemented policy measures have had success in promoting inclusive growth, including taxation, social security reform, financial regulation, labour market changes and health insurance.<sup>17</sup>

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

### **Commitment Features**

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

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

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

- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average;
- By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>21</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

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

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

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

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

This commitment is divided into four key areas of action: increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for SMEs and

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

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

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

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

<sup>28</sup> Report on the OECD Framework for Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG\\_MCM\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG_MCM_ENG.pdf)

entrepreneurs, and the upskilling and reskilling of workers. These areas of reform have been published in an OECD report entitled *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, calling for G20 members' to better enhance equal access to opportunities for all. Incorporating phenomena including globalization, digitalization, demographics, climate change, as well as the impact of COVID-19, this report was endorsed by the G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration, highlighting the importance of greater access to opportunities and affirming their commitment to "ensuring an inclusive recovery that tackles inequalities."<sup>29</sup>

### **Increased Access to Opportunities for Youth**

The first area of reform arises from the acknowledgement that "effective employment and social support can help young people to successfully transition from the educational system to the labour market."<sup>30</sup> Youth from disadvantaged backgrounds perform worse than advantaged students due to their comparatively adverse environments according to the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment.<sup>31</sup> Furthermore, the OECD estimates that approximately 19 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds are classified as not in employment, education or training (NEET) across G20 economies, the number potentially greater following the onset of COVID-19.<sup>32</sup>

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

### **Increased Opportunities for Women**

The OECD recognized that "across G20 economies, women still do not have the same labour market opportunities as men," noting that COVID-19 "risks having a greater impact on women."<sup>34</sup> While G20 economies have been recognized for "significant progress towards...reducing the gender

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

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

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

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

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

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

gap in labour force participation by 25 per cent by 2025,<sup>35</sup> gaps in job quality and earnings still remain,<sup>36</sup> which are expected to widen throughout the pandemic.

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: supporting the unpaid care burden of children through incentivizing paternity care leave, ensuring access to maternity care leave and greater access to formal childcare, addressing systemic gender occupational inequalities particularly in science, technology, engineering and math, the implementation of budgeting that sufficiently consider and provide an effective framework to ensure gender equality, and conducting greater research on existing gaps in the labour market.<sup>37</sup> While these actions are predominantly domestic in scope, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G20 members specifically towards increasing access to opportunities for women can be included in compliance.

### **Increased Opportunities for SMEs and Entrepreneurs**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Upskilling and Reskilling of Workers**

The OECD has recognized that “new technologies have been replacing workers in many middle-skill routine occupations while resting new jobs at both the high and low ends of the skills spectrum.”<sup>43</sup> The automation of several sectors in the economy and “mismatch in skills” leading to under-qualification in certain occupations and over-qualification in others in G20 economies have changed the nature of labour markets worldwide.<sup>44</sup> In particular, COVID-19 has accelerated digitalization processes and rapidly shifted labour demand across sectors, in turn inducing redundancies in workers’ skills.<sup>45</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Scoring Guidelines**

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

*Compliance Director: Malbaar Mobarir  
Lead Analyst: Srijan Sabu*

**Argentina: +1**

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

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development announced a ARS300 million initiative to create and strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) university centres, to “provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the country.”<sup>47</sup> Part of the Program for Competitiveness of Regional Economies, the initiative hopes to “enhance competitiveness and promote the export capacity of [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)] and value chains” through financing “training, equipment and technical assistance.”<sup>48</sup>

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

On 3 December 2020, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Economy Melina Mallamace and the National Director of Economy, Equality and Gender Mercedes D’Alessandro participated in a meeting of the Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective.<sup>51</sup> The discussion pertained to the impact of COVID-19 on female employment in Argentina, noting that the crisis has

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

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

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

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

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

disproportionately impacted women in the tourism, healthcare and textile sectors.<sup>52</sup> The participants outlined several plans including “developing a map of productive development with a gender perspective,” encouraging more women to participate in the digitalized industries and technology sectors, increasing the number of female employees in the civil service and continuing gender-sensitive budgets, all to be implemented in 2021.<sup>53,54</sup>

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development opened lines of credits amounting to ARS3.5 billion for MSMEs to “develop national productive investment projects,” with a maximum of ARS15 million per project.<sup>55</sup> The Direct Loans for Productive Reactivation program aims to promote the “financial inclusion of micro and small companies and cooperatives that have difficulties accessing bank financing.”<sup>56</sup>

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

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

On 23 January 2021, Executive Decree No. 39/2021 was made public which states that there would be an extension for 90 calendar days on the ban against dismissals without just cause and dismissals

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

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

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

<sup>55</sup> The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-otorgara-creditos-directos-para-micro-y-pequenas>

<sup>56</sup> The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-otorgara-creditos-directos-para-micro-y-pequenas>

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

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

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

and suspensions grounded on reduced or decreased workloads and force majeure.<sup>60</sup> Additionally, the decree announced that there would be an extension of the duplication of severance payments till December 2021.<sup>61</sup>

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

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta announced the implementation of the University Program of the School of Professional Education, aimed at training the professional skills of students in the “strategic development of the productive and technological sector.”<sup>63</sup> The program would see training courses, support on research and strengthening cooperation between universities and international training centres.<sup>64</sup>

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

On 3 March 2021, Argentina announced an ARS2.1 billion investment in the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies.<sup>66</sup> Located in each of the 23 provinces as well as the capital Buenos Aires, the centers will enable the central government to work more closely with regional authorities and social organizations to provide more comprehensive access to assistance, programs and resources to women and the LGBTQ+ community facing gender-based violence.<sup>67</sup>

On 5 March 2021, Argentina jointly presented a cooperation programme with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund to develop an adequate institutional framework for children and

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>66</sup> The National Government announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

<sup>67</sup> The National Government announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

adolescents.<sup>68</sup> Through broad engagement with the Ministries of Economy, Social Development, Education and the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family, USD50,000 is to be allocated to assess the effectiveness of early childhood care, USD150,000 towards strengthening opportunities for youth. The document notes that for each core action, “support will be given for the development of evidence-based policies with a rights-based focus and a gender perspective, the allocation of adequate and sustainable budgets, a wider offering of inclusive, quality services.”<sup>69</sup>

On 9 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá announced a new set of measures intended to bridge the gender gap in the Foreign Ministry. The most significant measures included the reduction of “gender-based unequal opportunities and treatment,” with particular attention paid to the persistent gender pay gap.<sup>70</sup>

On 11 March 2021, the 2021 budget for the Progresar scholarship program was boosted to more than ARS27 billion marking a 163.7 per cent increase.<sup>71</sup> The scholarships have been divided into four categories: those for tertiary and university students, for nursing students, for those completing of primary and secondary school, and for professional training courses.<sup>72</sup>

On 15 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Special Programs against Violence for Gender Reasons Carolina Varsky met with representatives of the native community in Tucumán and officials from nearby communes to work on strengthening the state’s response capacity to gender-based violence.<sup>73</sup> In the meetings that took place, the National Plan of Action against Gender Violence was presented, training session of gender perspectives was carried out and the creation of the Primary Care Office was announced.<sup>74</sup>

On 31 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Equality Policies Pilar Escalante met with social organizations and municipal authorities of Lavalle to jointly plan for greater equality and economic autonomy for women.<sup>75</sup> The meeting concluded that the main obstacles for women in these

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<sup>68</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF agreed on new 2021-2025 UNICEF programme for Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/ministry-foreign-affairs-and-unicef-agreed-new-2021-2025-unicef-programme>

<sup>69</sup> Costed evaluation plan—Argentina—UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021-2025, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. [https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/4511/file/2021-PL15-Argentina\\_CEP-EN-2021.03.08.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/4511/file/2021-PL15-Argentina_CEP-EN-2021.03.08.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> Felipe Solá announced measures to bridge gender gap within Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/felipe-sola-announced-measures-bridge-gender-gap-within-foreign-ministry>

<sup>71</sup> Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

<sup>72</sup> Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

<sup>73</sup> Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

<sup>74</sup> Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

<sup>75</sup> Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

communities include access to land, work tools, property and lack of connectivity.<sup>76</sup> The Undersecretary also visited numerous sites to learn more about the needs of women in schools in rural areas.<sup>77</sup>

On 7 April 2021, Argentina attended a meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents to discuss rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery pathways for middle-income countries (MIC) following the pandemic.<sup>78</sup> Argentina noted two crucial mechanisms that should be focused on for improving the economic situation of MICs through the international financial system: allocation of special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund and establishing debt-restructuring methods that support inclusivity.

On 22 April 2021, Minister Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development, to be implemented in the Norte Grande Region of Argentina.<sup>79</sup> The plan consists of ten key actions: “the creation of a Comprehensive Vocational Training System; the creation of Technological Centers for Educational Innovation in the National Universities; the delivery of Strategic Study Scholarships for Sustainable Development; the development of a National Technological Innovation Program for Vocational Training through INET; the certification and accreditation of knowledge and skills acquired at work and in education to promote integration with the labor market; the creation of Regional Technological Centers for Vocational Training to strengthen the link between education, production, work and local development; the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people’s capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer, the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people’s capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer.”<sup>80</sup>

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the World of Work Pamela Ares participated in the “Socio-economic Recovery Program”

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<sup>76</sup> Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

<sup>77</sup> Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

<sup>78</sup> G20: Joint declaration of Argentina and Mexico on a rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/g20-declaracion-conjunta-de-argentina-y-mexico-sobre-una-recuperacion-rapida-inclusiva-y>

<sup>79</sup> Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-presento-el-programa-nacional-de-educacion-para-el-trabajo-y-el-desarrollo>

<sup>80</sup> Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021.

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

Steering Committee to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the economic autonomy of women.<sup>81</sup> The meeting focused on two key aspects: increasing labour market participation through equal distribution of unpaid care and improving financial education for women.<sup>82</sup>

On 23 April 2021, Minister Trotta signed an agreement with the General Confederation of Labor of the Argentine Republic to develop education and work programs within the framework for the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development.<sup>83</sup> In particular, the programs seek to emphasize Vocational Training in conjunction with the national university system and using technological equipment and development to adapt to the modern economy.<sup>84</sup>

On 10 May 2021, Chief of Staff Santiago Cafiero and Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas hosted the First Meeting for Productive Reactivation.<sup>85</sup> During this meeting, the government announced additional funding for SMEs. The Bank of the Argentine Nation will be offering a line of credit specifically to support the digital transformation of SMEs.<sup>86</sup> These businesses can request loans of ARS3 million to ARS30 million at a subsidized, fixed interest rate.<sup>87</sup> This move will help Argentinian SMEs be more active and competitive in the online space.

On 16 May 2021, the Programa PyMEs en Gondolas was launched to promote the commercialization of family farming and MSMEs in supermarket chains.<sup>88</sup> The program involves connecting businesses with professionals in the food industry, providing ARS1.5 billion for bolstering production capacity as well as ARS1.7 billion to be provide direct financing.<sup>89</sup> Under the Gondolas Law established by the Ministry of Internal Trade, the program aims provide businesses

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<sup>81</sup> First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

<sup>82</sup> First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

<sup>83</sup> Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

<sup>84</sup> Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

<sup>85</sup> Cafiero and Kulfas announced a new credit line for digitization of SMEs, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-y-kulfas-anunciaron-nueva-linea-de-creditos-para-digitalizacion-de-pymes>

<sup>86</sup> Cafiero and Kulfas announced a new credit line for digitization of SMEs, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-y-kulfas-anunciaron-nueva-linea-de-creditos-para-digitalizacion-de-pymes>

<sup>87</sup> Cafiero and Kulfas announced a new credit line for digitization of SMEs, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-y-kulfas-anunciaron-nueva-linea-de-creditos-para-digitalizacion-de-pymes>

<sup>88</sup> The Government will present this Monday the SMEs in Gondolas Program, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presentara-este-lunes-el-programa-pymes-en-gondolas>

<sup>89</sup>The Government will present this Monday the SMEs in Gondolas Program, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presentara-este-lunes-el-programa-pymes-en-gondolas>

with the means to “sustain the technical and production level necessary to allow them to consolidate over time as suppliers to large chains.”<sup>90</sup>

On 19 May 2021, the Ministry of Productive Development and National University of Río Negro announced the establishment of a new SME University Center that would provide services to businesses in the “fruit, tourism, beer and wine[.], logging and mining” industries.<sup>91</sup> ARS8.5 million would be given to address five main areas: digital transformation; strengthening of strategic value chains; the addition of value at source, the incorporation of management technologies, as well as design and innovation in processes and products.<sup>92</sup>

On 14 June 2021, Argentina launched the Federal Strengthening Program for the Eradication of Child Labor.<sup>93</sup> The program aims to eradicate child labor by working with provincial leaders and non-governmental organizations.<sup>94</sup>

On 28 July 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero announced the launch of the “Te Sumo” program.<sup>95</sup> This youth employment program aims to encourage youth between 18 and 24 years old with high school diplomas to work and SMEs.<sup>96</sup> Measures to support this goal include reducing employer contributions for SME employers that hire youth and providing financial assistance by covering some of the expenses associated with discharging an employee.<sup>97</sup>

On 9 August 2021, President Alberto Fernández launched Youth Week and announced the launch of the Argentina Program.<sup>98</sup> This program aims to train 60,000 youth in coding and programming with additional support such as subsidized laptops and free internet connection.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> The Government will present this Monday the SMEs in Gondolas Program, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 16 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-presentara-este-lunes-el-programa-pymes-en-gondolas>

<sup>91</sup> Productive Development and the National University of Río Negro will invest more than \$ 8.5 million to create a SME Center, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/desarrollo-productivo-y-la-universidad-nacional-de-rio-negro-invertiran-mas-de-85-millones>

<sup>92</sup> Productive Development and the National University of Río Negro will invest more than \$ 8.5 million to create a SME Center, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 19 May 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/desarrollo-productivo-y-la-universidad-nacional-de-rio-negro-invertiran-mas-de-85-millones>

<sup>93</sup> Cafiero: "It is morally unacceptable that there are girls and boys destined for labor exploitation", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-es-moralmente-inaceptable-que-haya-pibas-y-pibes-destinados-la-explotacion-laboral>

<sup>94</sup> Cafiero: "It is morally unacceptable that there are girls and boys destined for labor exploitation", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-es-moralmente-inaceptable-que-haya-pibas-y-pibes-destinados-la-explotacion-laboral>

<sup>95</sup> The National Government launched the youth employment program "Te Sumo", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-el-programa-de-empleo-joven-te-sumo>

<sup>96</sup> The National Government launched the youth employment program "Te Sumo", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-el-programa-de-empleo-joven-te-sumo>

<sup>97</sup> The National Government launched the youth employment program "Te Sumo", Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-el-programa-de-empleo-joven-te-sumo>

<sup>98</sup> The President led the opening ceremony of the Youth Week, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presidente-encabezo-el-acto-de-apertura-de-la-semana-de-las-juventudes>

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

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Simran Arulraj, Tammy Cheng and Malhaar Moharir*

### **Australia: +1**

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

On 25 November 2020, Australia announced three new skills project hubs for the mining sector in order to facilitate better delivery of training and quicker assessment.<sup>100</sup> These three hubs include an apprenticeships hub, digital transformation hub, and attraction and retention hub, all designed to modernize training and promote rewarding careers for workers.<sup>101</sup> Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Michaelia Cash said the pilot would help new and existing workers to upskill and reskill.<sup>102</sup>

On 1 December 2020, Australia announced the Career Revive pilot initiative aimed at increasing women's workforce participation by encouraging businesses to attract and retain women workers, particularly in light of COVID-19.<sup>103</sup> The project is intended to provide businesses guidance on how to improve practices and policies and develop an action plan to address barriers to women's employment.<sup>104</sup>

On 7 December 2020, Australia launched the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program.<sup>105</sup> The AUD24.8 million program offers women the opportunity to study a diploma in STEM subjects while providing paid employment.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> The President led the opening ceremony of the Youth Week, Chief of Cabinet Ministers (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-presidente-encabezo-el-acto-de-apertura-de-la-semana-de-las-juventudes>

<sup>100</sup> Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

<sup>101</sup> Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

<sup>102</sup> Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

<sup>103</sup> Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

<sup>104</sup> Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

<sup>105</sup> Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

<sup>106</sup> Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

On 8 December 2020, Australia launched the JobMaker Hiring Credit.<sup>107</sup> The scheme provides eligible employers with payments of up to AUD200 a week for each eligible employee aged 16 to 29 years and up to AUD100 a week for each eligible employee aged 30 to 35 years old.<sup>108</sup>

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced AUD11.6 million of assistance to extend the Skills and Training Incentive for eligible mature aged workers until June 2022.<sup>109</sup> The Skills and Training Incentive provides workers aged 45 to 70 years with up to AUD2,200 for job training and is designed to increase the labour force participation of mature workers, particularly those adversely affected by COVID-19.<sup>110</sup>

On 18 December 2020, Australia provided AUD10 million to establish a panel involving a “wide range of industries” dedicated to improving youth employment as well as assist hundreds of thousands of businesses in supplying jobs.<sup>111</sup>

On 23 December 2020, Australia announced the hiring of 9 new Employment Facilitators in various Employment Regions across Australia tasked with helping job seekers find employment while supporting local employers.<sup>112</sup> As part of the Government’s AUD62.8 million Local Jobs Program, Employment Facilitators will “ensure better leverage of existing strategies, as well as [serve as] a valuable source of information on labour market developments.”<sup>113</sup>

On 3 March 2021, Australia held an Indigenous Youth Employment roundtable to discuss local solutions to improve employment participation and outcomes for Indigenous youth. Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services Luke Howarth said the government would invest in “programs to improve the employability of both young people and Indigenous Australians” in order to reduce the 13.9 per cent national youth unemployment rate.<sup>114</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Australia expanded the Women in STEM program from 500 to 600 places due to its popularity.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

<sup>108</sup> New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

<sup>109</sup> Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

<sup>110</sup> Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

<sup>111</sup> Panel established to create pathways to get young Australians into jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/panel-established-create-pathways-get-young-australians-jobs>

<sup>112</sup> Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

<sup>113</sup> Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

<sup>114</sup> Focus on giving young Indigenous Queenslanders more job opportunities, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/wyatt/focus-giving-young-indigenous-queenslanders-more-job-opportunities>

<sup>115</sup> More STEM Opportunities for Australian Women, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/more-stem-opportunities-australian-women>

On 9 March 2021, Australia announced the expansion of the targeted wage subsidy program as part of the National Economic Recovery Plan.<sup>116</sup> The government is investing around AUD1.2 billion in the program which is expected to generate around 70,000 new apprentice and trainee places in order to address the “economic challenges faced by the COVID-19 recession.”<sup>117</sup> As of this date, over 100,000 apprenticeship positions had already been filled.<sup>118</sup>

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced the Youth Advisory Sessions initiative to help connect up to 15,000 young people with youth employment specialists.<sup>119</sup> The assistance will help them stay connected to the labour market.<sup>120</sup>

On 29 March 2021, Australia opened applications for the Future of Work Partnership with BHP, an Australian mining company.<sup>121</sup> The program will give up to 1,000 people in regional Australia the opportunity to study a course or start an Advanced Apprenticeship, with their student contribution covered.<sup>122</sup> The program is intended to help people in regional Australia improve their skills and employability.<sup>123</sup>

On 15 May 2021, the Australian Government announced targeted measures to train youth.<sup>124</sup> As part of its 2021-22 budget, the government plans to invest AUD2.7 billion to support apprenticeships, allowing businesses to claim a 12-month wage subsidy for new apprentices starting between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.<sup>125</sup>

On 7 August 2021, the Australian Government launched a push to promote the School Leavers Information Service, a free service to help Australian high school students understand their future career options, such as further education, upskilling, and going straight into the workforce.<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

<sup>117</sup> Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

<sup>118</sup> Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

<sup>119</sup> Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

<sup>120</sup> Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

<sup>121</sup> Upskilling Australia’s regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

<sup>122</sup> Upskilling Australia’s regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

<sup>123</sup> Upskilling Australia’s regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

<sup>124</sup> Morrison Government supporting young Australians, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/morrison-government-supporting-young-australians>

<sup>125</sup> Morrison Government supporting young Australians, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/morrison-government-supporting-young-australians>

<sup>126</sup> Morrison Government helps young Australians take the first steps in their careers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/robert/morrison-government-helps-young-australians-take-first-steps-their-careers>

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

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Para Babuwaran*

### **Brazil: +1**

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

On 11 December 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) invested more than BRL18 million to advance the Qualifica Mulher project.<sup>127</sup> Noting that over 7 million women left the job market due to COVID-19, the initiative plans to promote “economic autonomy, in addition to stimulating professional qualification, work and entrepreneurship ...[and] the generation of jobs and income.”<sup>128</sup> The project aims to provide professional guidance, financial education and entrepreneurship workshops to boost the role of women in the Brazilian economy.<sup>129</sup>

On 19 January 2021, the MMFDH allocated BRL1 million “for the qualification 100 young people [with Autistic Spectrum Disorder] between the ages of 18 and 29.”<sup>130</sup> Representative of the National Youth Secretariat Emilly Coelho noted that “We need to ensure that youth can also occupy their space professionally, with training and opportunities focused on autonomy.”<sup>131</sup>

On 2 March 2021, the World Economic Forum and the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness of the Government of Brazil and the Economy Ministry held the first Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative co-chair meeting. The Accelerator aims to close the skills gaps between the current and future workforce and promote the reskilling and upskilling of the Brazilian labour force by matching the more demanded capabilities. It targets to reach about 8 million workers.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

<sup>128</sup> Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

<sup>129</sup> Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

<sup>130</sup> Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

<sup>131</sup> Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

<sup>132</sup> World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

On 8 March 2021, the Minister of Women Family and Human Rights Damares Alves and the Minister of Citizenship João Roma signed a technical cooperation agreement “to promote social and productive inclusion actions for the socioeconomic autonomy of women in vulnerable situations.”<sup>133</sup> Particular attention is given to women-led businesses and microentrepreneurs and the agreement reaffirmed support for the Qualifica Mulher pilot project, which over 25,000 women have joined.

On 30 March 2021, the MMFDH allocated approximately BRL11 million towards programs for encouraging “professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation, among young people between 18 and 29 years old, especially among those who are in a situation of social vulnerability.” The Programa Horizontes will provide training to youth for better job market integration as well as spurring nano and micro entrepreneurship among them.<sup>134</sup> The Espaço 4.0 program is aimed at training youth in new technologies and infrastructure, offering courses in programming, robotics, and application development.<sup>135</sup>

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy reported that it is in the process of finalizing the reopening of two programs that could mitigate the effects of the pandemic on employment and preservation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>136</sup> Also, it announced that BRL15 billion would be distributed among the BEm and Pronampe programs to support employment and SME survival.<sup>137</sup>

On 19 April 2021, the MMFDH transferred BRL500,000 to Humana Brasil, a non-profit organization.<sup>138</sup> The funds are to be used towards dispelling entrepreneurship training courses to the young people from Marajó.<sup>139</sup> It is estimated that around 500 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 from 11 municipalities will benefit from this endeavor.<sup>140</sup> The secretary for the National Youth Secretariat which will carry out the initiative said, “In addition to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, the program aims to increase the qualification of young people to create and

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<sup>133</sup> Socioeconomic autonomy of women is the subject of an agreement signed by ministries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/autonomia-socioeconomica-das-mulheres-e-tema-de-acordo-assinado-por-ministerios>

<sup>134</sup> Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasília) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

<sup>135</sup> Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasília) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

<sup>136</sup> Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasília) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. [https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe](https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe)

<sup>137</sup> Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasília) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. [https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais\\_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe](https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe)

<sup>138</sup> Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

<sup>139</sup> Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

<sup>140</sup> Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasília) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

maintain their own businesses, create job opportunities and generate income, in addition to improving existing initiatives through guidance specialized.<sup>141</sup>

On 30 June 2021, the Chamber of Deputies launched the National Observatory of Women in Politics (ONMP).<sup>142</sup> The goal of the ONMP is to develop, elaborate and present research related to the participation of women in positions of power. The agency is also responsible for monitoring political violence and expanding the participation of women in politics.<sup>143</sup>

On 1 July 2021, the MMFDH announced a notice to select a civil society organization to lead the Opportunity for All Project.<sup>144</sup> The project aims to increase entrepreneurship among traditional peoples and communities. The National Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality will develop training courses in entrepreneurship and cooperativism to educate a target of 200 people per municipality in Atalaia no Norte, Itamarati, Ipixuna and Santa Isabel do Rio Negro, as well as 200 people in Jordan, Acre.<sup>145</sup>

On 7 July 2021, the MMFDH invested BRL19 million in the Qualifica Mulher project for training and entrepreneurship activities.<sup>146</sup> The goal of the project is to create an environment to help women achieve economic independence. The project assists women with professional qualifications, maternity initiatives, protecting against violence and new legislation.<sup>147</sup>

On 13 July 2021, the MMFDH commemorated the 31st anniversary of the Statute of Children and Adolescents.<sup>148</sup> The Federal Government introduced 11 new actions to strengthen the legislation. These actions included the launch of the National Registration System for Rights Funds and new National School for the Rights of Children and Adolescents courses, the signing of the Protocol of

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<sup>141</sup>Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

<sup>142</sup> National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

<sup>143</sup> National Observatory will stimulate the role of women in politics, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/observatorio-nacional-ira-estimular-a-atuacao-da-mulher-na-politica>

<sup>144</sup> Open selection to choose an organization that will develop entrepreneurship courses for traditional peoples and communities, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/aberta-selecao-para-a-escolha-de-organizacao-que-vai-elaborar-cursos-de-empreendedorismo-para-povos-e-comunidades-tradicionais>

<sup>145</sup> Open selection to choose an organization that will develop entrepreneurship courses for traditional peoples and communities, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/aberta-selecao-para-a-escolha-de-organizacao-que-vai-elaborar-cursos-de-empreendedorismo-para-povos-e-comunidades-tradicionais>

<sup>146</sup> Qualifica Mulher project receives investment of R\$19 million, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/projeto-qualifica-mulher-recebe-investimento-de-r-19-milhoes>

<sup>147</sup> Qualifica Mulher project receives investment of R\$19 million, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/projeto-qualifica-mulher-recebe-investimento-de-r-19-milhoes>

<sup>148</sup> Child and Adolescent Statute: Federal Government launches 11 initiatives to protect girls and boys, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/estatuto-da-crianca-e-do-adolescente-governo-federal-lanca-11-iniciativas-para-a-protecao-de-meninas-e-meninos>

Intent with the Brazilian Navy and the Institutional Ordinance for the “Brasil Amigo da Criança” Award and the delivery of vehicles to Guardianship Councils.<sup>149</sup>

On 15 July 2021, the MMFDH and the Entrepreneurial Alliance signed a technical cooperation agreement to commit to training 270,000 socially vulnerable women in entrepreneurship.<sup>150</sup> The agreement is part of the Qualifica Mulher project by the MMFDH and will offer 10,000 placements in every state of the country.<sup>151</sup>

On 21 July 2021, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) concluded the first edition of Conecta Startup Brasil.<sup>152</sup> The initiative helps to connect various business actors in the innovation sector.<sup>153</sup> The goal of the Conecta Startup Brasil initiative is to encourage entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation, initiate action, and prepare Brazilian startups for the challenges of the market.<sup>154</sup> Plans for the second edition by the MCTI are currently underway.<sup>155</sup>

On 29 July 2021, the MMFDH, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), hired five civil society organizations to implement strategies to protect youth by reducing violence against children and adolescents.<sup>156</sup> UNDP invested BRL2.5 million for the institutions to develop a methodology to initiate strategies. In total, the Federal Government will invest BRL9.8 million into the projects to reduce infant-juvenile lethality.<sup>157</sup>

On 30 July 2021, the MMFDH and the National Supply Company signed a protocol of intentions to support family farmers and women from traditional communities as part of the Qualifica Mulher

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<sup>149</sup> Child and Adolescent Statute: Federal Government launches 11 initiatives to protect girls and boys, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/estatuto-da-crianca-e-do-adolescente-governo-federal-lanca-11-iniciativas-para-a-protecao-de-meninas-e-meninos>

<sup>150</sup> Ministry and Entrepreneurial Alliance sign partnership to train 270,000 women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/ministerio-e-alianca-empreendedora-firmam-parceria-para-capacitar-270-mil-mulheres>

<sup>151</sup> Ministry and Entrepreneurial Alliance sign partnership to train 270,000 women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/ministerio-e-alianca-empreendedora-firmam-parceria-para-capacitar-270-mil-mulheres>

<sup>152</sup> Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

<sup>153</sup> Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

<sup>154</sup> Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

<sup>155</sup> Conecta Startup Brasil stimulates job creation in the sector, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/07/conecta-startup-brasil-estimula-geracao-de-emprego-no-setor>

<sup>156</sup> Federal Government invests R\$9.8 million to implement projects that reduce infant-juvenile lethality, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/governo-federal-investe-r-9-8-milhoes-para-implementar-projetos-que-reduzam-a-letalidade-infanto-juvenil>

<sup>157</sup> Federal Government invests R\$9.8 million to implement projects that reduce infant-juvenile lethality, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/governo-federal-investe-r-9-8-milhoes-para-implementar-projetos-que-reduzam-a-letalidade-infanto-juvenil>

project.<sup>158</sup> Noting that nearly 77,000 family farms were headed by women, the project aims to offer free courses and educational materials to empower women through entrepreneurship, marketing and business decision-making.<sup>159</sup>

On 4 August 2021,<sup>160</sup> the Federal Government enacted Law 14.192/2021 to protect women from political violence.<sup>161</sup> The law aims to guarantee women are free from gender and race-based discrimination by criminalizing political violence that prevents, restricts, or hinders their political rights.<sup>162</sup>

From 9-13 August 2021, the National Youth Secretariat of the MMFDH hosted a series of lectures, promotion actions, training and policy initiatives aimed at young Brazilians as part of the National Youth Week.<sup>163</sup> The goal of the event is to improve social and productive inclusion by addressing areas such as the labour market, family economy and mental health.<sup>164</sup>

On 31 August 2021, the MCTI and the Ministry of the Economy hosted the “Opportunities for Innovative Entrepreneurship in Brazil: What changes with the Legal Framework of Startups” event.<sup>165</sup> The event introduced the new Legal Framework for Startups and Innovative Entrepreneurship which aims to create more security for the development of startups in Brazil.<sup>166</sup> The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations Marcos Pontes stated the new legislation would cultivate more confidence in Brazilian entrepreneurs.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>158</sup> Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

<sup>159</sup> Partnership with Conab will empower women farmers, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/julho/parceria-com-a-conab-ira-capacitar-mulheres-agricultoras>

<sup>160</sup> Brazil: New Law Enacted to Combat Political Violence Against Women, Library of Congress (Washington) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-08-13/brazil-new-law-enacted-to-combat-political-violence-against-women/>

<sup>161</sup> Federal government publishes law to prevent and combat political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/governo-federal-publica-lei-para-prevenir-e-combater-a-violencia-politica-contra-a-mulher>

<sup>162</sup> Brazil: New Law Enacted to Combat Political Violence Against Women, Library of Congress (Washington) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-08-13/brazil-new-law-enacted-to-combat-political-violence-against-women/>

<sup>163</sup> National Youth Week will address social and productive inclusion, starting next Monday (9), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/semana-nacional-da-juventude-abordara-a-inclusao-social-e-produtiva-a-partir-da-proxima-segunda-feira-9>

<sup>164</sup> National Youth Week will address social and productive inclusion, starting next Monday (9), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 8 August 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/agosto/semana-nacional-da-juventude-abordara-a-inclusao-social-e-produtiva-a-partir-da-proxima-segunda-feira-9>

<sup>165</sup> MCTI and ME highlight opportunities with a legal framework for startups, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/08/mcti-e-me-destacam-opportunidades-com-marco-legal-das-startups>

<sup>166</sup> MCTI and ME highlight opportunities with a legal framework for startups, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/08/mcti-e-me-destacam-opportunidades-com-marco-legal-das-startups>

<sup>167</sup> MCTI and ME highlight opportunities with a legal framework for startups, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/08/mcti-e-me-destacam-opportunidades-com-marco-legal-das-startups>

On 2 September 2021, the MCTI launched the “MCTI Futuro: Future of Work, Work of the Future” program. The goal of the program is to support training in Digital Transformation across various education levels. The program will utilize BRL190 million to achieve its objective.<sup>168</sup>

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

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Simran Arulraj, Rebecca Jones and Malhaar Moharir*

### **Canada: +1**

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

On 25 November 2020, Canada participated in a roundtable for the launch of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE).<sup>169</sup> WISE’s mission includes strengthening the measurement of inequalities and inclusion.<sup>170</sup>

On 2 December 2020, Canada introduced Bill C-14 to provide support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic.<sup>171</sup> The legislation will allow an expense, such as rent, to qualify under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy before the expense is actually paid.<sup>172</sup> Bill C-14 also included measures to eliminate the interest on repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for one year.<sup>173</sup>

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<sup>168</sup> MCTI launches technological training program focused on work, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (Brasilia) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2021/09/mcti-lanca-programa-de-capitacao-tecnologica-focada-no-trabalho>

<sup>169</sup> Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

<sup>170</sup> Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

<sup>171</sup> Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

<sup>172</sup> Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

<sup>173</sup> Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

On 4 December 2020, Canada expanded loans under the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).<sup>174</sup> Eligible businesses facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for a second CEBA loan of up to CAD20,000 in addition to the initial CAD40,000 that was available to small businesses.<sup>175</sup> Up to CAD10,000 of the additional funding will be forgivable if the loan is repaid by the end of 2022.<sup>176</sup>

On 17 February 2021, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced CAD63.5 million over five years for 68 projects as part of the Union Training and Innovation Program.<sup>177</sup> The investment will help certify skilled tradespeople and prepare them for the job market.<sup>178</sup>

On 3 March 2021, Canada announced the extension of wage and rent subsidies to 5 June 2021.<sup>179</sup> Active employees will remain subsidized at up to 75 per cent, rent will remain subsidized at up to 65 per cent, and Lockdown Support will remain at 25 per cent.<sup>180</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Canada announced the members of a new Task Force on Women in the Economy.<sup>181</sup> The group includes experts from different sectors of the economy to advise the government on issues of gender equality in the wake of the pandemic.<sup>182</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister Qualtrough announced an investment of over CAD11 million through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program.<sup>183</sup> The investment will support and train more than 650 young women for the job market.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

<sup>175</sup> Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

<sup>176</sup> Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

<sup>177</sup> Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

<sup>178</sup> Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

<sup>179</sup> Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

<sup>180</sup> Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

<sup>181</sup> Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

<sup>182</sup> Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

<sup>183</sup> Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

On 19 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland released the 2021 budget of CAD101.4 billion in spending over three years.<sup>185</sup> The budget will support almost 500,000 new training and work opportunities including 215,000 opportunities for youth.<sup>186</sup> The budget will extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support to 25 September 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>187</sup> The budget will assist over 160,000 businesses with the cost of new technology and allow them to fully expense up to CAD1.5 million in capital investments.<sup>188</sup> The budget will invest CAD300 million in initiatives including the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, supporting women entrepreneurs who face barriers to launching and owning businesses.<sup>189</sup> The budget will invest CAD8.9 billion in the Canada Workers Benefit to support about one million additional low-wage workers over six years.<sup>190</sup>

On 18 May 2021, the Government of Canada launched Skills for Success, a skills training program that aims to provide training to nearly 90,000 Canadians to learn job-finding and career growth skills.<sup>191</sup>

On 2 June 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Women's Employment Readiness Pilot Program.<sup>192</sup> Under the program, CAD50 million will be provided to organizations over two years to provide pre-employment and training supports to marginalized women.<sup>193</sup>

On 2 June 2021, the Government of Canada announced that the Canada Recovery Hiring Program would be available retroactively 6 June 2021.<sup>194</sup> The program will provide eligible employers with a subsidy of up to 50 per cent of eligible salary or wages.<sup>195</sup>

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<sup>184</sup> Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

<sup>185</sup> Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

<sup>186</sup> Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

<sup>187</sup> Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

<sup>188</sup> Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

<sup>189</sup> Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

<sup>190</sup> Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

<sup>191</sup> Government of Canada invests in skills training to help get Canadians back to work, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/05/launch-of-skills-for-success---003368.html>

<sup>192</sup> Government of Canada launches new pilot program aimed at removing barriers to women's employment, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-launches-new-pilot-program-aimed-at-removing-barriers-to-womens-employment.html>

<sup>193</sup> Government of Canada launches new pilot program aimed at removing barriers to women's employment, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-launches-new-pilot-program-aimed-at-removing-barriers-to-womens-employment.html>

On 7 July 2021, the Government of Canada announced that it will begin enforcing the Pay Equity Act on 31 August 2021.<sup>196</sup> Under the Pay Equity Act, employers with 10 or more employees will have three years to develop and implement plans that establish guidelines and regulations for regulating pay equity.<sup>197</sup>

On 29 July 2021, the Government of Canada announced a CAD2.4 million investment in a project funded under the Union Training and Innovation Program.<sup>198</sup> The project will help almost 2,300 apprentices become certified in the skilled trades.<sup>199</sup>

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

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Para Babubaran*

#### **China: +1**

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

On 3 December 2020, Vice Minister of Education and Chief Inspector of Schools Zheng Fuzhi and Vice Governor of Sichuan Province Luo Qiang attended a conference to launch a national supervision and assessment of early childhood education across China.<sup>200</sup> Vice Minister Fuzhi

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<sup>194</sup> Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program and Extension of Business Support Programs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-details-of-the-new-canada-recovery-hiring-program-and-extension-of-business-support-programs.html>

<sup>195</sup> Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program and Extension of Business Support Programs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-details-of-the-new-canada-recovery-hiring-program-and-extension-of-business-support-programs.html>

<sup>196</sup> Government of Canada announces that the Pay Equity Act will come into force on August 31, 2021, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-that-the-pay-equity-act-will-come-into-force-on-august-31-2021.html>

<sup>197</sup> Government of Canada announces that the Pay Equity Act will come into force on August 31, 2021, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-that-the-pay-equity-act-will-come-into-force-on-august-31-2021.html>

<sup>198</sup> Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

<sup>199</sup> Government of Canada invests in training to help workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/07/utip-funding-announcement0.html>

<sup>200</sup> Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. [http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202012/t20201222\\_506980.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html)

presented key goals and its corresponding evaluation criteria, including universal preschool attendance, standardizing school conditions and establishing a sound governance system.<sup>201</sup>

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao reaffirmed the government's commitment to nurturing skilled labour.<sup>202</sup> In addition to the existing three-year plan released in May 2019, the department plans to introduce new policies in the 14th Five-Year Plan to foster more skilled talent through enhancing vocational education, enhancing the social status of skilled labourers, and improving their income.<sup>203</sup>

On 22 December 2020, the State Council announced plans to unify China's registration system for movable property and rights pledges, effective 1 January 2021.<sup>204</sup> This move by the People's Bank of China allows financial institutions to provide loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) using their credit information.<sup>205</sup> As a result, SMEs now have better access to financing to help offset the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 3 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that the central government will spend over CNY19 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the growth of 1000 innovative SMEs.<sup>206</sup> The additional spending aims to strengthen the industrial supply chain and foster innovative growth in micro, small and medium-sized technology companies.

On 11 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang stated at a press conference that government expenditures for the coming year will focus on compulsory education and basic medical care.<sup>207</sup> The "no child left behind" policy will involve improving the pay packages for rural teachers as well as improving access to education for children of migrant workers to achieve educational fairness and equal access to opportunities.

On 17 March 2021, People's Daily released a summary of the Chinese Ministry of Education's progress in promoting access to education among poor children. The government has rolled out student-origin-based loans, state scholarships, work-study programs, tuition exemptions and other types of relief funds to increase access to higher education in poor areas.<sup>208</sup> The government is also offering preferential policies for vocational college enrollment in poor areas such that enrollment numbers have grown from 1.16 million in 2019 to 1.57 million in 2020.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>201</sup>Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202012/t20201222\\_506980.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html)

<sup>202</sup> New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content\\_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html)

<sup>203</sup> New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content\\_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html)

<sup>204</sup> New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content\\_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html)

<sup>205</sup> New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content\\_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html)

<sup>206</sup> Innovative SMEs to get policy boost in financing, China Daily (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202102/04/content\\_WS601b47d2c6d0f72576945164.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202102/04/content_WS601b47d2c6d0f72576945164.html)

<sup>207</sup> Premier stresses compulsory education, basic medical care at news conference, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/13/content\\_WS604bf85cc6d0719374afac45.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/13/content_WS604bf85cc6d0719374afac45.html)

<sup>208</sup> China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content\\_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html)

<sup>209</sup> China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content\\_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html)

On 24 March 2021, the State Council announced an additional tax deduction on firms who conduct research and development from 75 per cent to 100 per cent.<sup>210</sup> Additional preferential tax policies are also in place for innovation firms and business start-ups.<sup>211</sup> These policies will benefit entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and encourage research and development in the private sector.

On 25 April 2021, China's banking and insurance regulator issued a circular encouraging development of financial services offered to SMEs.<sup>212</sup> According to the circular, efforts will be made to enhance the effective growth of financial support and improve its quality, efficiency and effectiveness.<sup>213</sup> In essence the circular promised to increase the number of loans to SMEs and borrowers and urged the major banks to increase inclusive loans by 30 per cent.<sup>214</sup>

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced the launch of four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment.<sup>215</sup> These measures are in response to the concentration of the job market for young college graduates who are about to enter the workforce.<sup>216</sup> The first of these measures involves stabilizing jobs, reducing unemployment and work-related injury insurance rates.<sup>217</sup> The second includes attempts to broaden employment channels, improve support policies such as entrepreneurial secured loans, support and standardize the development of new employment forms.<sup>218</sup> The third and fourth measures are to focus on employment of key groups such as college graduates and optimizing employment services.<sup>219</sup>

On 27 April 2021, Premier Keqiang announced at the State Council executive meeting that China will take steps to further protect intellectual property to promote entrepreneurial activity and boost innovation in the private sector.<sup>220</sup> China will reduce the review period for electronically submitted

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<sup>210</sup> China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content\\_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html)

<sup>211</sup> China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content\\_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html)

<sup>212</sup> China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

<sup>213</sup> China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

<sup>214</sup> China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

<sup>215</sup> My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

[http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427\\_413783.html](http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html)

<sup>216</sup> My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

[http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427\\_413783.html](http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html)

<sup>217</sup> My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

[http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427\\_413783.html](http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html)

<sup>218</sup> My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

[http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427\\_413783.html](http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html)

<sup>219</sup> My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

[http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427\\_413783.html](http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html)

<sup>220</sup> China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content\\_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html)

applications to alter or expand existing patents and trademarks.<sup>221</sup> Premier Keqiang also called for increased financial assistance and incentives during the trademark and patent application process.<sup>222</sup>

On 27 April 2021, the State Council issued a circular to establish a leading group on protection of minors led by Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan.<sup>223</sup> The purpose of the working group is to oversee the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Minors.<sup>224</sup> It will also work with other departments to continue devising and implementing plans, policies, measures, and standards for protection of minors.<sup>225</sup>

On 30 April 2021, the General Office of China's State Council issued a circular urging state departments and agencies to assist in the development of former Central Soviet areas through a pairing program.<sup>226</sup> From 2021 to 2030, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will work together to pair 63 centrally administered State organs with 43 local administrative units to cultivate talent and build industrial and innovation platforms.<sup>227</sup>

On 9 May 2021, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology released guidelines to further support small and medium enterprises.<sup>228</sup> Notable measures include special funds to grant small firms cheaper and wider access to financing, higher reward caps and other preferential policy incentives.<sup>229</sup> The new guidelines aim to assist small and medium enterprises in economic recovery from COVID-19 with particular focus on the central and western regions of China.<sup>230</sup>

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<sup>221</sup> China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content\\_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html)

<sup>222</sup> China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content\\_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html)

<sup>223</sup> Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content\\_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html)

<sup>224</sup> Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content\\_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html)

<sup>225</sup> Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content\\_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html)

<sup>226</sup> State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content\\_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html)

<sup>227</sup> State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content\\_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html)

<sup>228</sup> China to continue reward policies to help small firms, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content\\_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html)

<sup>229</sup> China to continue reward policies to help small firms, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content\\_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html)

<sup>230</sup> China to continue reward policies to help small firms, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content\\_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202105/09/content_WS60971995c6d0df57f98d9339.html)

On 21 July 2021, the State Council and the Communist Party of China Central Committee released a set of guidelines to regulate the primary and middle school tutoring industry.<sup>231</sup> Some policies introduced include limiting the hours of operation of tutoring centres, the content taught and the number of tutoring advertisements.<sup>232</sup> These rules aim to reduce stress experienced by schoolchildren and the intense competition they face in preparing for high school entrance exams.

On 24 July 2021, the National Health Commission announced the decision to allow couples to have three children.<sup>233</sup> Accompanying this decision were measures to improve child nursery services, reduce childbearing costs and advance prenatal and postnatal services.<sup>234</sup> These policies not only support children's growth but enable parents—particularly mothers—in retaining and accessing economic opportunities through the childrearing process.

On 30 August 2021, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Development and Reform Commission Gao Gao held a press conference following up on the 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan's goal of increasing employment and the quality of the job market.<sup>235</sup> Notably, the commission aims to upskill and increase employment of young workers in urban areas by encouraging regional institutions to offer trainings and workshops.<sup>236</sup>

On 1 September 2021, the State Council announced a series of policy moves designed to support small and micro businesses.<sup>237</sup> Some of the policy tools include tax exemption and inclusive loans for these businesses. The latter will be achieved by increasing the relending quota for small firms by another RMB300 billion and giving regional banks more incentive to issue loans to SMEs.<sup>238</sup>

On 1 September 2021, State Council executives also met to discuss support for poor students.<sup>239</sup> The outcome was an increase in bail out for students in financial distress by increasing the maximum loan that college students are eligible to receive.<sup>240</sup> This move is important for facilitating greater access to education for all youth.

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

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<sup>231</sup> Wide-ranging guideline to rein in tutoring sector, China Daily (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/26/content\\_WS60fdf199c6d0df57f98dd91b.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/26/content_WS60fdf199c6d0df57f98dd91b.html)

<sup>232</sup> Wide-ranging guideline to rein in tutoring sector, China Daily (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/26/content\\_WS60fdf199c6d0df57f98dd91b.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/26/content_WS60fdf199c6d0df57f98dd91b.html)

<sup>233</sup> Third-child policy to unleash childbirth potential, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/22/content\\_WS60f8c05ac6d0df57f98dd5ef.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202107/22/content_WS60f8c05ac6d0df57f98dd5ef.html)

<sup>234</sup> Measures to support third-child policy, China Daily (Beijing) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content\\_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202107/21/content_WS60f7572dc6d0df57f98dd4d9.html)

<sup>235</sup> Govt outlines plan to beef up employment, China Daily (Beijing) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content\\_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html)

<sup>236</sup> Govt outlines plan to beef up employment, China Daily (Beijing) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content\\_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202109/01/content_WS612ece09c6d0df57f98df754.html)

<sup>237</sup> Policy support essential for small businesses, China Daily (Beijing) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202109/07/content\\_WS6136c5c1c6d0df57f98dfcd5.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202109/07/content_WS6136c5c1c6d0df57f98dfcd5.html)

<sup>238</sup> Policy support essential for small businesses, China Daily (Beijing) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202109/07/content\\_WS6136c5c1c6d0df57f98dfcd5.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202109/07/content_WS6136c5c1c6d0df57f98dfcd5.html)

<sup>239</sup> China pledges stronger support for small firms, poor students, Xinhua (Beijing) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202109/02/content\\_WS61300c91c6d0df57f98df808.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202109/02/content_WS61300c91c6d0df57f98df808.html)

<sup>240</sup> China pledges stronger support for small firms, poor students, Xinhua (Beijing) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. [http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202109/02/content\\_WS61300c91c6d0df57f98df808.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202109/02/content_WS61300c91c6d0df57f98df808.html)

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tammy Cheng*

**France: +1**

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

On 14 January 2021, Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire announced the implementation of increased measures to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through a new budgetary initiative valued at EUR4 billion.<sup>241</sup> Moreover, companies will be able to delay the repayment of loans from this initiative if they do not have sufficient means a year after the loan was given.<sup>242</sup>

On 15 January 2021, the members of the French Banking Federation Bpifrance created the State Guaranteed Loan system to relieve the cashflow of enterprises in difficulty because of the COVID19 pandemic.<sup>243</sup>

On 25 January 2021, France put into place accessible meals for students for the price of EUR1 as part of the plan to aid with the poverty of youths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>244</sup> Due to the lack of jobs, the government has provided this meal plan to support students who are in difficult situations and seeking employment.<sup>245</sup> This measure is a new addition to the larger plan one youth one solution from the previous year, a EUR9 billion initiative, and which is designed to financially support young people in a time of economic instability caused by the global pandemic, thus preventing the growth of financial disparity with youths.<sup>246</sup>

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of the Economy required that all companies with more than 50 employees submit a professional equality index report to evaluate and reinforce the equality of men and women in the workplace.<sup>247</sup> The report allows companies to assess the level of equality between men and women on a scale of 100 points.<sup>248</sup> The points system includes recording the pay gap, the difference between men and women's pay raises, the number of pay raises awarded after maternity leave, parity among the 10 highest paid and the promotion rate difference between men and

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<sup>241</sup> Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

<sup>242</sup> Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

<sup>243</sup> Public aid for companies, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/cedef/aides-publiques-entreprises>

<sup>244</sup> Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

<sup>245</sup> Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

<sup>246</sup> Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

<sup>247</sup> Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

<sup>248</sup> Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

women.<sup>249</sup> The index must be posted on the company's website, and is considered in need of progress if it is below 75.<sup>250</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex and Minister Le Maire prolonged the 1 Jeune 1 Solution program, which is a part of the grander France Relance mission that focuses on economic inclusion for young people.<sup>251</sup> Minister Le Maire added a new budget to support the employment of young people by providing between EUR5,000 to EUR8,000 to enterprises who hire young people for apprenticeships and internships.<sup>252</sup>

On 15 March 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion launched a training project for economic inclusion through self-employment of people with difficulty accessing employment.<sup>253</sup> The project provides employment opportunities for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 by supporting the creation and restarting of businesses through financial assistance in the form of a bonus of EUR3,000.<sup>254</sup> The total budget of the project is EUR25 million over two years.<sup>255</sup>

On 30 April 2021, Secretary of State Cédric O announced the partnership between the startup ecosystem French Tech and the job searching platform JobTeaser in a press release.<sup>256</sup> This announcement outlined the intention to support young people in finding and training for jobs in start-up companies associated with French Tech, which anticipates creating at least 10,000 new jobs.<sup>257</sup>

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<sup>249</sup> Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

<sup>250</sup> Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

<sup>251</sup> Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

<sup>252</sup> Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

<sup>253</sup> Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

<sup>254</sup> Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

<sup>255</sup> Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 Mars 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

<sup>256</sup> "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf)

<sup>257</sup> "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf)

On 2 June 2021, the Ministry of the Economy announced the continuation of support for SMEs by extending how long small companies will be able to receive financial aid.<sup>258</sup> The extension will last until the end of 2021. Moreover, small and medium enterprises will also be able to apply for loans until the end of the year as well on account of having been significantly weakened by the pandemic.<sup>259</sup>

On 19 July 2021, the Ministry of Labour announced that the Public Service of Insertion and of Employment announced a plan to fight against poverty by calling for people to seek out support to look for employment.<sup>260</sup> The first initiative in December 2020 was a success, so another initiative will take place to fight against poverty and unemployment.<sup>261</sup>

On 2 September 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion announced that the High Commission for Skills would launch another wave of applications for “pre-apprenticeship” programs, aimed at enabling “young people who are insufficiently prepared today to successfully enter apprenticeship thanks to personalized support.”<sup>262</sup> Additionally, the program serves to specifically target youth in “priority” neighbourhoods, those in rural revitalization zones and disabled workers.<sup>263</sup>

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports announced new investments to open a public market providing “digital educational solutions” for teachers.<sup>264</sup> The 4<sup>th</sup> Future Investments Program is designed to “revitalize and structure the digital-educational sector”, working with parents and teachers to provide digital equipment and pedagogical training through and on digital fora. The program is to be conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.”<sup>265</sup>

On 9 September 2021, the Ministry of Labour announced that over 15,000 job offers had been posted online for the beginning of the school year as part of the “1 jeune, 1 solution” program

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<sup>258</sup> Emerging from the crisis: aid for companies in fragile situations, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/sortie-crise-aides-entreprises-situation-fragilite#aides>

<sup>259</sup> Emerging from the crisis: aid for companies in fragile situations, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/sortie-crise-aides-entreprises-situation-fragilite#aides>

<sup>260</sup> Public integration and employment service | Call for expressions of interest, Ministry of Work, Labour and of Integration (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/appel-manifestation-spie>

<sup>261</sup> Public integration and employment service | Call for expressions of interest, Ministry of Work, Labour and of Integration (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/appel-manifestation-spie>

<sup>262</sup> Apprenticeship preparation: launch of a new wave of the call for projects, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/prepa-apprentissage-lancement-d-une-nouvelle-vague-de-l-appel-a-projets>

<sup>263</sup> Apprenticeship preparation: launch of a new wave of the call for projects, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/prepa-apprentissage-lancement-d-une-nouvelle-vague-de-l-appel-a-projets>

<sup>264</sup> Investments for the Future: Opening of a Public Market for Digital Educational Solutions for Teachers, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/investissements-d-avenir-ouverture-d-un-marche-public-des-solutions-numeriques-educatives-pour-les-325076>

<sup>265</sup> Investments for the Future: Opening of a Public Market for Digital Educational Solutions for Teachers, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/investissements-d-avenir-ouverture-d-un-marche-public-des-solutions-numeriques-educatives-pour-les-325076>

launched in July 2020.<sup>266</sup> Noting that over 2.6 million youth had already signed up for the program, the platform seeks to match youth with labour demand in industries such as childcare, domestic help, entertainment, hotels and restaurants, retail and more.

On 22 September 2021, Secretary of State to the Minister of National Education, Youth and Sports Sarah El Haïry attended the Think Forward Festival to raise awareness of entrepreneurship activities for youth, bringing together around 600 policymakers.<sup>267</sup> The festival consisted of presentations and discussions with youth about their entrepreneurship potential as well as discussions concerning shifts in global economic prospects and their impacts on adolescents.<sup>268</sup>

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

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Dalia Michaud*

### **Germany: +1**

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

On 21 December 2020, the German development bank KfW signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia, Agence Française de Développement and the European Union, providing EUR37.1 million for the Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project, which aims to develop rural infrastructure in the central plain of Cambodia.<sup>269</sup> Central to this development plan is the improving infrastructure in the education sector.<sup>270</sup>

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<sup>266</sup> “1 young person, 1 solution”: more than 15,000 student job offers posted online for the start of the school year, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/1-jeune-1-solution-plus-de-15-000-offres-de-jobs-etudiants-mises-en-ligne-pour>

<sup>267</sup> Developing Entrepreneurship Among Young People: Visit of Sarah El Haïry to the Think Forward Festival, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/developper-l-entrepreneuriat-chez-les-jeunes-deplacement-de-sarah-el-hairy-au-festival-think-forward-325289>

<sup>268</sup> Developing Entrepreneurship Among Young People: Visit of Sarah El Haïry to the Think Forward Festival, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/developper-l-entrepreneuriat-chez-les-jeunes-deplacement-de-sarah-el-hairy-au-festival-think-forward-325289>

<sup>269</sup> European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en)

<sup>270</sup> European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en)

On 6 January 2021, Germany proposed the Second Management Positions Act (FüPoG II) “to force larger listed companies to have at least one woman on their management boards, building on a 30 per cent quota for supervisory boards introduced in 2015 and will apply to listed companies with more than three management board members.”<sup>271</sup>

On 26 January 2021, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Björn Böhning held a workshop with Vice Minister at the Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao to discuss vocational education, highlighting that “it must become more individualized, more inclusive and make more use of digital technologies.”<sup>272</sup>

On 2 February 2021, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey announced the “Youth Budgets Project” which aims to increase youth’s participation in policy making and tasks them to develop innovative projects in fields ranging from Diversity and Participation to Education, Work and Freedom. The best projects would receive up to EUR100,000 for their implementation.<sup>273</sup>

On 29 March 2021, Germany announced its ratification of the Revised European Social Charter, with amendments made to include “protection against sexual harassment in the workplace and other forms of harassment ... [and] rights of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment.”<sup>274</sup>

On 30 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) announced the implementation of a “German Equal Pay Award,” to be given to companies that actively seek to reduce the wage gap.<sup>275</sup> Minister Giffey noted “Fair pay and equal pay are part of a modern and sustainable personnel policy and are a decisive competitive advantage when it comes to securing skilled workers.”<sup>276</sup>

On 16 April 2021, Minister Giffey launched the Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments to encourage young people to get involved in politics.<sup>277</sup> The program includes a diverse curriculum

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<sup>271</sup> German cabinet agrees quota for women on company boards, Reuters 6 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN29B16U>

<sup>272</sup> Virtual exchange of ideas with China about vocational education and training, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/virtual-exchange-of-ideas-with-china-about-vocational-education-and-training.html>

<sup>273</sup> Minister Giffey: One million euros for the best ideas for young people in Germany, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-eine-million-euro-fuer-die-besten-jugendideen-deutschlands-165622>

<sup>274</sup> Details of Treaty No. 162, Treaty Office—Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/germany-ratifies-revised-european-social-charter.html>

<sup>275</sup> Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

<sup>276</sup> Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

<sup>277</sup> Minister Giffey launches the “Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments” to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

which offers seminars, workshops and events.<sup>278</sup> The academy is funded by a total of EUR4 million from the federal child and youth plan and is part of the Strong Child and Youth Parliaments initiative.<sup>279</sup>

On 23 April 2021, the Federal Minister of Education Anja Karliczek voiced support for improvements in vocational training infrastructure in the country based on the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report.<sup>280</sup> The country report on continuing vocational education and training by the OECD was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to provide expert support for the implementation process of Germany's National Skills Strategy. Minister Karliczek said, "Professional training is a key to maintaining our competitiveness and the innovative strength of our country. Professional training is an absolute necessity for companies and employees. It is part of lifelong learning. Setting the right framework conditions remains a central task of politics, which we gladly accept. External suggestions are certainly helpful for this. We will examine the recommendations of the OECD and take them up where appropriate and sensible."<sup>281</sup>

On 30 April 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research published the Second Funding Guideline of the Secure Apprenticeships program.<sup>282</sup> The program enables companies facing economic difficulties with training.<sup>283</sup> It supports trainees to continue and complete their training in midst of the pandemic.<sup>284</sup> Minister Karliczek said, "With the revised Second Funding Guideline of the federal program, we have introduced a subsidy for the costs of external exam preparation courses for trainees. In addition, we have also further improved the promotion of contract and joint training so that trainees can continue their training if this is temporarily not possible in their own training company."<sup>285</sup>

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<sup>278</sup>Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

<sup>279</sup>Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

<sup>280</sup>Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

<sup>281</sup>Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

<sup>282</sup>Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

<sup>283</sup>Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

<sup>284</sup>Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

<sup>285</sup>Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

On 4 May 2021, Minister Giffey presented the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” which outlined five fields of action to address in response to the growing trend of digitization in Germany.<sup>286</sup> These fields’ key general goals were to introduce digital innovations that would “make people’s everyday lives easier, safer and more social,” noting that “all people should be able to use digital technologies informally” to ensure no citizen is left behind.<sup>287</sup>

On 28 July 2021, the Federal Equality Foundation entered into force. The Foundation will work towards equality between women and men in Germany by pursuing three goals: firstly, to show where more equality is needed and to find solutions; secondly, network and support those committed to equality, and thirdly, increase knowledge about gender equality issues and discuss them with citizens.<sup>288</sup>

On 26 August 2021, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Juliane Seifert represented Germany at the first meeting of the G20 equality ministers, called: “The Conference on Women’s Empowerment.”<sup>289</sup> It aims to reduce the gender pay gap and increase the participation of women in the labor force. The Minister stated Germany’s commitment to creating “real equality between men and women” and mentioned its goal being “fair division of paid employment and unpaid care work and more qualified women in management positions”.<sup>290</sup> Moreover, the Minister also expressed, “gender equality is a task that we can only achieve together and with international cooperation.”<sup>291</sup>

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

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Muhammad Hamza Khan and Malhaar Moharir*

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<sup>286</sup> Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

<sup>287</sup> Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

<sup>288</sup> Federal Equal Opportunities Foundation starts work, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundesstiftung-gleichstellung-nimmt-arbeit-auf-183272>

<sup>289</sup> First meeting of the G20 equality ministers with a focus on business and the labor market, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth Press (Berlin) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/erstes-treffen-der-g20-gleichstellungsministerinnen-und-minister-mit-schwerpunkt-wirtschaft-und-arbeitsmarkt-185052>

<sup>290</sup> First meeting of the G20 equality ministers with a focus on business and the labor market, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/erstes-treffen-der-g20-gleichstellungsministerinnen-und-minister-mit-schwerpunkt-wirtschaft-und-arbeitsmarkt-185052>

<sup>291</sup> First meeting of the G20 equality ministers with a focus on business and the labor market, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/erstes-treffen-der-g20-gleichstellungsministerinnen-und-minister-mit-schwerpunkt-wirtschaft-und-arbeitsmarkt-185052>

**India: +1**

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

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the approval of allocation of training, specifically targeting states and districts on the basis of population, industry and labour supply.<sup>292</sup> The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21) (PMKVY 3.0) aims to train youth and provide skill avenues, resulting in greater participation in the private sector.<sup>293</sup> It also aims to reskill those in remote villages and towns in India. It is also the first phase in the PMKVY 3.0 initiative, creating a setting for phase two to occur from 2021-2026.<sup>294</sup>

On 1 January 2021, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) announced the launch of an e-commerce website which catalogues over 50,000 products and aims to serve as a digital marketplace for farmers, artisans, craftsmen and other MSMEs.<sup>295</sup> The website was jointly launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and is recognized as “a step towards building an ecosystem that enables MSMEs to help achieve the Prime Minister’s goal of [a self-reliant India].”<sup>296</sup>

On 5 January 2021, Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textile Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched a joint initiative, Toycathon 2021.<sup>297</sup> This initiative is aimed at creating toys and games based on the Indian value and takes a step towards achieving the goal of a self-reliant India in toy manufacturing.<sup>298</sup> This initiative is also supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of MSMEs, Ministry of Information and Banking and All India Council for Technical Education.<sup>299</sup>

On 14 January 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana project, which would focus on improving new-age technologies and COVID-19-related skills.<sup>300</sup> The program, funded

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<sup>292</sup> In-principle approval of allocation of training (STT) target under PMKVY 3.0 (2020-21) -reg., Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

<sup>293</sup> Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

<sup>294</sup> Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

<sup>295</sup> The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry’s process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

<sup>296</sup> The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry’s process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

<sup>297</sup> Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

<sup>298</sup> Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

<sup>299</sup> Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

<sup>300</sup> Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

under the Skill India Mission plans to utilize over 900 training facilities and institutes to “build a robust pool of skilled professionals.”<sup>301</sup>

On 1 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance has provided a welfare scheme of INR10 million for tea workers in West Assam and West Bengal, particularly for women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>302</sup> Furthermore, the Ministry mentioned measures to increase employability of youth through amendments in the Apprenticeship Act for greater opportunities for youth.<sup>303</sup> These measures include a partnership with the United Arab Emirates for certification and with Japan to transfer vocational skills from Japan through training programs.<sup>304</sup>

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare announced training centres for farmers in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.<sup>305</sup> Farmers will be trained in machinery and technology to increase production and crop yield along with the quality of crop yield.<sup>306</sup>

On 5 February 2021, the Nai Roshni Scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to be implemented through non-governmental organizations.<sup>307</sup> This scheme empowers women to assume leadership roles outside of their homes with a six-day training program in health and hygiene, legal rights of women, financial literacy, digital literacy, life skills and advocacy for social and behavioral change.<sup>308</sup>

On 11 February 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the India International Skill Centre, allowing youth to mobilize their skills in the international workforce.<sup>309</sup> This initiative is supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council, Japan, Russia, South East Asia, North America, Oceania and Europe.<sup>310</sup>

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<sup>301</sup> Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

<sup>302</sup> Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

<sup>303</sup> Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

<sup>304</sup> Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

<sup>305</sup> Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

<sup>306</sup> Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

<sup>307</sup> The overall objective of the “NaiRoshni” scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

<sup>308</sup> The overall objective of the “NaiRoshni” scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

<sup>309</sup> Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

<sup>310</sup> Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

On 23 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation announced policy initiatives for insured workers and women.<sup>311</sup> These initiatives include sickness benefits, maternity benefits and measures within hospitals.<sup>312</sup>

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry summit regarding the country's National Education Policy.<sup>313</sup> Minister Goyal lauded the efforts of the policy's focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and skills development and expressed hope in making India the "knowledge capital of the world."<sup>314</sup>

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced initiatives to reduce standard testing fees for MSMEs, start-ups and women entrepreneurs to encourage business in these areas.<sup>315</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana pilot project, which aims to facilitate "entrepreneurship education, training, advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship network."<sup>316</sup>

On 25 March 2021, the National Career Service launched the Mahila Adhikarita Yojana, which would establish funds amounting to INR75,000 for Scavenger women and dependent daughters for projects in small, petty trade and various other low-income categories.<sup>317</sup>

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced schemes for women farmers in rural areas to build their livelihoods.<sup>318</sup> This includes training in agriculture and relevant sectors at institutions such as the National Training Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.<sup>319</sup> Further assistance will be provided to women farmers, including "provision of 30 per cent of funds."<sup>320</sup>

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<sup>311</sup> ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

<sup>312</sup> ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

<sup>313</sup> Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

<sup>314</sup> Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

<sup>315</sup> The Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal directs BIS( Bureau of Indian Standards) to reduce testing fees for "MSME, Start Ups and Women Entrepreneurs" to encourage ease of doing business, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (New Delhi) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701683>

<sup>316</sup> Steps taken by the Government to expand Research-oriented higher education towards building a knowledge-based economy, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/he\\_pr.pdf](https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/he_pr.pdf)

<sup>317</sup> Mahila Adhikarita Yojana (MAY), National Career Service (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://ncsk.nic.in/sites/default/files/MahilaAdhikaritaYojana%28MAY%29.pdf>

<sup>318</sup> Schemes for Women Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743360>

<sup>319</sup> Schemes for Women Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743360>

<sup>320</sup> Schemes for Women Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1743360>

On 15 August 2021, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced vocational training programs for women at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust with a grant of INR5 million for skill development training in the Raigad District, Maharashtra.<sup>321</sup>

On 26 August 2021, NITI Aayog announced their partnership with Cisco to create a platform for entrepreneurship by women through “technology-led experiences.”<sup>322</sup>

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

Thus, India receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra*

### **Indonesia: 0**

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

On 9 February 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Arif Rahman Hakim held a meeting to collaborate on policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the national and local levels.<sup>323</sup> Secretary Hakim noted that IDR4.85 trillion has been allocated in the national budget for the development of MSMEs and noted that next steps involved increasing income and market access for these groups, with a target export contribution of over 15 per cent for MSMEs and cooperatives.<sup>324</sup>

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo attended the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting.<sup>325</sup> The meeting discussed two main agendas, the Global Economy and Policy Actions for a Transformative and Equitable Recovery, and Financial Sector Issues, which primarily highlights the G20 goals from the Riyadh presidency.<sup>326</sup>

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<sup>321</sup> Vocational training Program for Women at JNPT, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (New Delhi) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1746025>

<sup>322</sup> NITI Aayog partners with Cisco to foster women entrepreneurship in India, NITI Aayog (New Delhi) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1749197>

<sup>323</sup> Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

<sup>324</sup> Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

<sup>325</sup> Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

<sup>326</sup> Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

On 12 March 2021, Minister Indrawati stated that the gender gap between men and women widened during the COVID-19 pandemic and further reiterated Indonesia's commitment toward increasing access to opportunities for women.<sup>327</sup> They further stated, "the government through the 2021 State Budget provides equal access and opportunities to women through various priority programs, one of which is through education reform to improve the quality of human resources."<sup>328</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga emphasised the role of women in improving the national economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>329</sup> During a meeting with grassroots women, she said that "grassroots women in various parts of Indonesia have helped the government in filling spaces that are difficult to reach or have not been touched by the program at all."<sup>330</sup>

On 29 April 2021, Minister Puspayoga said that women play an important role in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>331</sup> She said that women can bring voice and create various inclusive policies.<sup>332</sup> Additionally, the Chair of the Indonesian National Hero Family Association Saharto Sahardjo, said, "We see the role of women in developing or driving the economy of Small and Micro Enterprises [SMEs]. Many women have started online and culinary businesses. This moves the Indonesian economy."<sup>333</sup>

On 6 June 2021, the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) President Director Ad interim Andin Hadiyanto stated, "LPDP collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Culture to strengthen the steps for the superior Indonesian human capital formation. Previously existing programs at LPDP will be enriched with several new scholarship programs to strengthen strategic plans in the field of human capital development."<sup>334</sup> Furthermore, Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Mendikbudristek) Nadiem Makarim stated, "the essence of the LPDP funds independence to be more inclusive is not only supporting students, but also teaching lecturers

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<sup>327</sup> Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

<sup>328</sup> Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

<sup>329</sup> Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

<sup>330</sup> Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

<sup>331</sup> Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

<sup>332</sup> Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

<sup>333</sup> Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

<sup>334</sup> LPDP and Kemendikbudristek Collaboration to Improve Indonesia's Superior Human Capital, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia 6 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/lpdp-and-kemendikbudristek-collaboration-to-improve-indonesias-superior-human-capital/>

and teaching staff. In addition, it does not only focus on degree programs, but also non-degree programs.”<sup>335</sup>

On 30 June 2021, the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs published a press release regarding Indonesia’s vision of “Advanced Indonesia 2045.” The Ministry highlighted the Government’s efforts to improve the quality of human resources, including the Job Loss Guarantee which has been regulated in the Job Creation Law, to provide guarantees for workers affected by layoffs through cash, job training, and access to labor market information, so that they can immediately get back to work after their abilities have increased by participating in training. The Pre-Employment Card Program is intended for job seekers, laid off workers, and workers who need higher competencies than before, so this program focuses on skilling, upskilling, and reskilling. In 2021, the Pre-Employment Card Program passed approximately 2.8 million recipients.<sup>336</sup>

On 7 July 2021, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, represented by the Deputy for Macroeconomic and Financial Coordination at the Coordinating Ministry for the Economy, Iskandar Simorangkir, launched the Virtual Strengthening Women Micro-entrepreneurs to Digital Security and Financial Inclusion (SERUNI) Program in Jakarta.<sup>337</sup> The SERUNI program aims to empower the economy to encourage increased welfare, as well as financial and digital literacy for women micro-enterprise owners (including groups with disabilities) in Indonesia. This program reaches 500 women micro-enterprises spread across Sukabumi, Garut, Cirebon, Central Lampung, and Central Lombok, and is a collaboration between the DNKI Secretariat, the British Embassy, and Mercy Corps Indonesia.<sup>338</sup>

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) announced the development of a women’s leadership initiative: the Woman Leadership Initiative as an effort to improve access and leadership quality of women in the Ministry of Finance.<sup>339</sup> This program is expected to “increase the leadership capacity of women in carrying out careers as managers of state finances and assets and aims at reducing the gap in the roles of men and women in the context of development.”<sup>340</sup>

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<sup>335</sup> LPDP and Kemendikbudristek Collaboration to Improve Indonesia’s Superior Human Capital, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia 6 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/lpdp-and-kemendikbudristek-collaboration-to-improve-indonesias-superior-human-capital/>

<sup>336</sup> Middle Class Human Resources Quality and Digital Transformation Are The Keys To An Advanced Indonesia 2045, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release: 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/3123/kualitas-sdm-kelas-menengah-dan-transformasi-digital-menjadi-kunci-indonesia-maju-2045>

<sup>337</sup> Economic Empowerment and Financial and Digital Literacy for Women Micro Business Actors, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release: 13 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/3143/pemberdayaan-ekonomi-serta-literasi-keuangan-dan-digital-bagi-perempuan-pelaku-usaha-mikro>

<sup>338</sup> Economic Empowerment and Financial and Digital Literacy for Women Micro Business Actors, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release: 13 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.ekon.go.id/publikasi/detail/3143/pemberdayaan-ekonomi-serta-literasi-keuangan-dan-digital-bagi-perempuan-pelaku-usaha-mikro>

<sup>339</sup> Improving Women’s Capacity, Ministry of Finance Launches Women’s Leadership Initiative, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tingkatkan-kapasitas-perempuan-kemenkeu-luncurkan-woman-leadership-initiative/>

<sup>340</sup> Improving Women’s Capacity, Ministry of Finance Launches Women’s Leadership Initiative, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release (Jakarta) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tingkatkan-kapasitas-perempuan-kemenkeu-luncurkan-woman-leadership-initiative/>

On 30 August 2021, the MoF expressed its commitment to support MSMEs during the pandemic, through the Public Service Agency for the Government Investment Center (BLU PIP), which helps them with fast and easy financing.<sup>341</sup> The Ministry's press release also stated, "during this pandemic period, BLU PIP has distributed assistance of IDR5.32 trillion for working capital financing. With details, IDR4.23 trillion for relaxation of principal installment payments, and IDR552 billion for interest subsidies, as well as the Banpres for Productive Micro Business which is currently running."<sup>342</sup>

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

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Muhammad Hamza Khan*

### **Italy: +1**

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

On 8 December 2020, Italy released a draft recovery plan with a total budget of EUR196 billion. The recovery plan allocated EUR74.3 billion to be invested in the green revolution and ecological transition.<sup>343</sup> Aside from heading towards a more sustainable future, the objective of this initiative is also to free up job opportunities for people, which is particularly necessary due to the rising levels of unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>344</sup> This will increase inclusive growth by providing new jobs for people who have struggled with job losses and unemployment.<sup>345</sup> Moreover, the plan allocated EUR17.1 billion to implement measures to foster gender equality.<sup>346</sup>

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<sup>341</sup> The Government's Commitment to Awakening MSMEs Through UMi Financing Continues, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release (Jakarta) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/komitmen-pemerintah-bangkitkan-umkm-melalui-pembiayaan-umiterus-berlanjut/>

<sup>342</sup> The Government's Commitment to Awakening MSMEs Through UMi Financing Continues, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, Press Release (Jakarta) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/komitmen-pemerintah-bangkitkan-umkm-melalui-pembiayaan-umiterus-berlanjut/>

<sup>343</sup> Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility>

<sup>344</sup> Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

<sup>345</sup> Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

<sup>346</sup> Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Labour and of Social Politics released the employment forecasts of the 2021 Budget.<sup>347</sup> In this plan, the Ministry announced that they would provide financial support for young people under the age of 36 in need of steady employment.<sup>348</sup> In addition, in this budget the Ministry also promoted the support of women's businesses.<sup>349</sup> The Ministry announced that "resources of EUR3 million are assigned to the Venture Capital Support Fund for the year 2021 aimed at supporting investments in risk capital for highly innovative female entrepreneurship projects" to promote inclusivity and increase work opportunities for women.<sup>350</sup> Further, an additional EUR50 million was pledged to support the return to work of mothers after childbirth.<sup>351</sup>

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of the Economy and Finance launched the Recovery and Resilience Plan which mobilizes over EUR300 billion.<sup>352</sup> One of the components of the "Inclusion and Cohesion" mission is to create Employment Policies to improve the employment situation of women, youth and vulnerable people.<sup>353</sup> Additionally, it aims to rework existing employment policies with a focus on promoting new skills through reform of the training system.<sup>354</sup>

On 24 February 2021, Italy's initiative to support private employers in small or medium sized enterprises by exempting them from compulsory social security contributions was approved by the European Commission. The total budget allocated for this initiative is EUR61.4 million.<sup>355</sup> The aim of this initiative is to reduce the financial burden on small and medium enterprises, particularly due to the economic problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing employers to keep their workers employed.<sup>356</sup>

On 15 March 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando participated in a meeting of the EU Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs focused on employment and wage concerns.<sup>357</sup>

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<sup>347</sup> Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

<sup>348</sup> Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

<sup>349</sup> Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

<sup>350</sup> Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

<sup>351</sup> Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

<sup>352</sup> The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

<sup>353</sup> The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

<sup>354</sup> The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

<sup>355</sup> Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en)

<sup>356</sup> Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en)

<sup>357</sup> Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>

Under the guiding force of the EU Pillar Action Plan on social rights, the minister noted that “in Italy we are working on the reform of social safety nets, on active labour policies, on hiring incentives, on the strengthening of redeployment allowance, on the reduction of the tax wedge,” as well as committing to support the Community Initiative to establish minimum wage standards across Europe.<sup>358</sup>

On 16 March 2021, Italy allocated EUR63 million through the Italian aid scheme “to support the uncovered fixed costs of companies in the trade fairs sector affected by the coronavirus outbreak.”<sup>359</sup> The support will be delivered in the form of direct grants which will be made available to the affected companies, aiming to reverse the financial damage from COVID-19 restrictions such as “the suspension or reduction of their business activity.”<sup>360</sup>

On 19 March 2021, the Italian Cabinet approved a decree to provide further financial support as part of its COVID-19 recovery plan.<sup>361</sup> The allocated budget of this decree is approximately EUR32 billion.<sup>362</sup> The initiative covers several areas including supporting businesses of the third sector and preventing poverty.<sup>363</sup> The budget covers an allowance of EUR2,400 for seasonal and fixed-term workers and an expansion of the emergency income for citizens for another few months. In addition, the initiative announced the allocation of EUR400 million in social funds for employment and training of workers.<sup>364</sup>

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that more than EUR50 million worth of loans had been provided for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) over the past year to “support the competitiveness and innovative investments of SMEs” as part of Italy’s revised National Business Plan.<sup>365</sup> Over 380 applications had been processed as of this date and the ministry noted that up to EUR100 million would be provided as well.<sup>366</sup>

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<sup>358</sup> Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>.

<sup>359</sup> Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en)

<sup>360</sup> Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en)

<sup>361</sup> Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

<sup>362</sup> Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

<sup>363</sup> Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

<sup>364</sup> Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

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

<sup>365</sup> Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021.

Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

<sup>366</sup> Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced the provision of subsidized interest-free loans for youth and women-led startups.<sup>367</sup> In particular, the investment is focused on businesses concerning “the production of goods in the sectors of industry, crafts and processing of agricultural products, supply of services to businesses, trade and tourism.”<sup>368</sup>

On 14 April 2021, Italy chaired a meeting of the Employment Working Group. The discussions primarily focused around “structural changes in the organization of work, the economy of platforms and the growing use of remote working.”<sup>369</sup> Noting that artificial intelligence would have a transformative effect on labour relationships, the meeting’s participants stressed the need for “adequate social protection tools” that would adequately respond to green and digital economy changes accelerated by the pandemic.<sup>370</sup>

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi presented a draft of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament in preparation for presentation to the European Commission.<sup>371,372</sup> A total of EUR221.5 billion obtained from the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility and national borrowing is to be provided for six target areas including education and research, and social inclusion.<sup>373</sup> Within the education and research mission, a total of EUR31.9 billion is to be allocated to “strengthen the educational system [and] digital and technical-scientific skills.”<sup>374</sup> Within the social inclusion mission, EUR22.4 billion are to be provided for facilitating “participation in the labour market” through training and strengthening labour policies, including the development of employment centres and promoting female entrepreneurship, including a new Women’s Enterprise Fund.<sup>375</sup> The plan is predicted to increase gross domestic product by three percentage points higher than initially predicted.<sup>376</sup>

From 23-24 June 2021, Italy hosted the G20 Forum on digital transition of industry, organized by the Ministry for Economic Development.<sup>377</sup> The event included plenary working sessions with G20

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<sup>367</sup> Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-impres-di-giovani-e-donne>

<sup>368</sup> Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-impres-di-giovani-e-donne>

<sup>369</sup> Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

<sup>370</sup> Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

<sup>371</sup> Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

<sup>372</sup> Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

<sup>373</sup> Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

<sup>374</sup> Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

<sup>375</sup> Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

<sup>376</sup> Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

<sup>377</sup> G20: 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June Forum on digital transition of industry, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2042409-g20-23rd-and-24th-june-forum-on-digital-transition-of-industry>

members' representatives to discuss both the challenges and opportunities associated with an increasingly digitalized world.<sup>378</sup>

On 6 August 2021, Minister Orlando discussed proposed changes in labour policy specifically pertaining to the upskilling and reskilling of workers with regional councillors.<sup>379</sup> As part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the plans would create a framework that would “allow for the first time to define active policies that constitute real rights payable for workers...ensuring services aimed at improving their employability,” as well as targeting skills deficits in certain industries.<sup>380</sup>

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

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Dalia Michaud and Malhaar Mobarir*

### **Japan: +1**

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

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) requested for smoother financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>381</sup> It asked several organizations to “improve the facilitation of financing for SMEs and small enterprises at the end of 2020, taking into consideration that some businesses are still facing serious difficulties in funding due to the impacts of COVID-19, and that demand for working capital and other funds is expected to grow during the period from the end of 2020 to the end of fiscal year 2020.”<sup>382</sup>

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released highlights of the Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which highlighted the need for “measures for medium- and long-term issues” such as digital and green societies, as well as robust social security systems.<sup>383</sup> In particular, JPY2.2 billion would be allocated for the “digitalization of education,” JPY2.3 billion towards scholarships for youth through the University Fellowship Program, and tax reductions and subsidies for SMEs.<sup>384</sup>

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<sup>378</sup> G20: 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June Forum on digital transition of industry, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2042409-g20-23rd-and-24th-june-forum-on-digital-transition-of-industry>

<sup>379</sup> This morning Orlando – Regions confrontation on reform of active policies, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Questa-mattina-confronto-Orlando-Regioni-su-Riforma-Politiche-attive.aspx>

<sup>380</sup> This morning Orlando – Regions confrontation on reform of active policies, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Questa-mattina-confronto-Orlando-Regioni-su-Riforma-Politiche-attive.aspx>

<sup>381</sup> Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html)

<sup>382</sup> Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html)

<sup>383</sup> Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

<sup>384</sup> Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

On 5 February 2021, a cabinet decision was made on the bill that includes the SMEs Enterprises Business Enhancement Act.<sup>385</sup> The Act promotes the expansion of SME businesses and better regulations of the SMEs including funding for middle-ranking businesses working with SMEs.<sup>386</sup>

On 18 February 2021, METI initiated the “Japan Innovation Bridge” under the Japan External Trade Organization.<sup>387</sup> The platform aims “to support Japanese companies in collaborating and advancing mergers and acquisitions with overseas companies based mainly in Asia, including startups, through open innovation.”<sup>388</sup>

On 2 March 2021, Japan “contributed USD7.8 million to support [the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF’s)] Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria.”<sup>389</sup> The contribution provides aid to young people on education, employment opportunities, and strengthened community service.<sup>390</sup> Akira Endo, the Special Coordinator for Syria and Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Syria said “Japan stays engaged in supporting children, youth and women wherever they are in Syria to meet their humanitarian needs.”<sup>391</sup> Since 2017, Japan has contributed USD60 million to Syria through UNICEF programs.<sup>392</sup>

On 3 March 2021, virtual training for preparatory Japanese language was held for the 13th batch of Filipino nurse and care worker candidates bound for Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Philippines.<sup>393</sup> Filipino nurses and health workers will be trained

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<sup>385</sup> Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html)

<sup>386</sup> Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html)

<sup>387</sup> Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html)

<sup>388</sup> Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html)

<sup>389</sup> The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

<sup>390</sup> The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

<sup>391</sup> The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

<sup>392</sup> The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

<sup>393</sup> Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

virtually before they depart for work in Japan; after they arrive, they will receive another six months of language training.<sup>394</sup>

On 9 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held the 10th meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the 20th meeting of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality.<sup>395</sup> At the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening efforts for gender equality.<sup>396</sup>

On 23 March 2021, Ambassador of Japan to Sierra Leone Himeno Tsutomu and United Nations Industrial Development Organization Country Representative to Sierra Leone Mariatu Abionor Swaray, signed an exchange of notes enacting USD3.88 million of aid from Japan to Sierra Leone.<sup>397</sup> The financial aid is to “help Sierra Leone bridge the skills gap in the country’s automotive repair and maintenance sector and to promote decent employment opportunities for youth.”<sup>398</sup>

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan held a webinar on women’s empowerment. The webinar consisted of three panels: “Panel Discussion 1: Empowered Women as a Driving Force for the Betterment of Society; Panel Discussion 2: Women’s Empowerment in Sports; Panel Discussion 3: What is Women, Peace and Security?”<sup>399</sup> The goal of the webinar was to commemorate “the memorial year of gender equality and women’s empowerment.”<sup>400</sup>

On 23 April 2021, METI released the 2021 White Paper on SMEs in Japan, which outlined the key challenges these businesses have faced through COVID-19.<sup>401</sup> The ministry outlined three areas of reform that would need to be addressed in order to overcome their financial difficulties faced: “developing management strategies that are aligned with the changes in the business environment,” “cultivating a proactive organizational culture toward digitalization,” and taking on “new opportunities under new management after business succession.”<sup>402</sup>

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

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<sup>394</sup> Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

<sup>395</sup> Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202103/\\_00008.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html)

<sup>396</sup> Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202103/\\_00008.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html)

<sup>397</sup> Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

<sup>398</sup> Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

<sup>399</sup> Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000945.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html)

<sup>400</sup> Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000945.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html)

<sup>401</sup> 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html)

<sup>402</sup> 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html)

due to pregnancy, childbirth and menopause, as well as “increase the diversity of human resources at companies.”<sup>403</sup>

On 11 May 2021, the Young Professionals Japan Program announced the call for applications for the year of 2021.<sup>404</sup> The program is a set of seminars for participants to learn about international standardization. The program has the “purpose of developing human resources in the ISO/IEC field as an action that embodies the measures.”<sup>405</sup>

From 23 to 29 June 2021, the Gender Equality Cabinet Office hosted the annual Gender Equality Week. The event aims “[to] promote understanding by the general public about the purpose and basic principles of the Basic Act for a Gender-equal Society and to facilitate various initiatives for the creation of a gender-equal society.”<sup>406</sup> Four main events took place during the week: “National Conference for the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society, Prime Minister's Commendation for Efforts Toward the Formation of a Gender-Equal Society, Women's Challenge Grand Prize, Women's Challenge Support Grand Prize and special prize, and Contest for a slogan of the week.”<sup>407</sup> The week also included training sessions for government officials to ensure they understand relevant government measures.<sup>408</sup>

On 2 July 2021, the successful applicants for the program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains were selected.<sup>409</sup> The program aims to ensure stable domestic production in case of emergency due to COVID-19. 151 projects were selected, amounting to about 209.5 billion yen in total.<sup>410</sup> The selected projects include supply chains in products and parts that are largely produced overseas, products and parts that are essential for people’s wellbeing, and SMEs that produce parts and products necessary for the production of parts produced overseas.<sup>411</sup>

From 28 July 2021 to 10 September 2021, METI and the Japan External Trade Organization held the Net Zero Leaders Summit “to gather the world's wisdom toward achieving net zero, and promote

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<sup>403</sup> Assistance for Initiatives to Create Femtech-driven Systems to Support the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0428\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0428_001.html)

<sup>404</sup> Call for Applicants for the IP Acceleration Program for Startups (IPAS2021) to Open, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0614\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0614_002.html)

<sup>405</sup> About the schedule of the 2021 Yanpro course, JSA Group (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

[https://webdesk.jsa.or.jp/common/W10K0500/index/dev/std\\_jinzai/](https://webdesk.jsa.or.jp/common/W10K0500/index/dev/std_jinzai/)

<sup>406</sup> Promotion of PR / Awareness-raising Activities through a Variety of Media, Various Training Sessions, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 22 July 2021

[https://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/pr\\_act/act/index.html](https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/pr_act/act/index.html)

<sup>407</sup> Promotion of PR / Awareness-raising Activities through a Variety of Media, Various Training Sessions, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 22 July 2021

[https://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/pr\\_act/act/index.html](https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/pr_act/act/index.html)

<sup>408</sup> Promotion of PR / Awareness-raising Activities through a Variety of Media, Various Training Sessions, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 22 July 2021

[https://www.gender.go.jp/english\\_contents/pr\\_act/act/index.html](https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/pr_act/act/index.html)

<sup>409</sup> Successful Applicants Selected for the Program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains (Second Call), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021.

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702_003.html)

<sup>410</sup> Successful Applicants Selected for the Program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains (Second Call), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021.

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702_003.html)

<sup>411</sup> Successful Applicants Selected for the Program for Promoting Investment in Japan to Strengthen Supply Chains (Second Call), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021.

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0702_003.html)

Japan's attractive investment environment.”<sup>412</sup> The summit also has the program: Global Startup Connection: J-Startups for NET ZERO, which aims to promote start-ups in Japan to the world.<sup>413</sup>

On 23 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced it will continue to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity – Pacific to host the US-Japan Educational Exchange.<sup>414</sup> The program allows youths to broaden their views of the world and develop problem-solving skills.<sup>415</sup> The program also consists of several two-day events on US military installations in mainland Japan, designed to engage youth in international exchange opportunities abroad.<sup>416</sup>

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

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jenny Liu*

### **Korea: +1**

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

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family hosted the 2020 Korea-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Summit.<sup>417</sup> The summit provides a platform

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<sup>412</sup> Global Startup Connection: J-Startups for NET ZERO Will Be Held, An Event to Promote the Attractiveness of Japanese Startups, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0826\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0826_001.html)

<sup>413</sup> Global Startup Connection: J-Startups for NET ZERO Will Be Held, An Event to Promote the Attractiveness of Japanese Startups, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0826\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0826_001.html)

<sup>414</sup> MOFA AND DODEA PARTNER FOR U.S.-JAPAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, U.S. Mission Japan (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/mofa-and-dodea-partner-for-u-s-japan-educational-exchange/>

<sup>415</sup> MOFA AND DODEA PARTNER FOR U.S.-JAPAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, U.S. Mission Japan (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/mofa-and-dodea-partner-for-u-s-japan-educational-exchange/>

<sup>416</sup> MOFA AND DODEA PARTNER FOR U.S.-JAPAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, U.S. Mission Japan (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/mofa-and-dodea-partner-for-u-s-japan-educational-exchange/>

<sup>417</sup> 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

for youths to discuss the role of youths for Korea-ASEAN cooperation.<sup>418</sup> The discussions included promotion of a “Korea-ASEAN passport” and “financial support with a focus on sharing.”<sup>419</sup>

On 9 December 2020, the National Assembly passed amendments for the Special Act on the Promotion of Youth Employment.<sup>420</sup> The amendments for the act increase the commission of Youth work in public organizations.<sup>421</sup> The renovated act has included new features to promote digitalization, including “commissioning of maintenance of computer network related to global [Human Resources Development] projects to specialist agencies.”<sup>422</sup>

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups Park Youngsun announced the COMEUP 2020 Plan.<sup>423</sup> The project plans to help startups and SMEs by providing opportunities to promote selected businesses.<sup>424</sup> A total of 1,076 startups worldwide have participated.<sup>425</sup>

On 25 February 2021, the National Institute for Lifelong Education announced the 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project to “promote pre-employment and post-employment learning through the establishment of a university’s adult learner-friendly academic system.”<sup>426</sup> The project will operate from 2021 to 2022 and the budget of the project is approximately KRW24.3 billion.<sup>427</sup>

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<sup>418</sup> 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

<sup>419</sup> 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

<sup>420</sup> National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1587](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587)

<sup>421</sup> National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1587](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587)

<sup>422</sup> National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1587](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587)

<sup>423</sup> International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

<sup>424</sup> International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

<sup>425</sup> International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

<sup>426</sup> 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

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

<sup>427</sup> 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

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

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) published the 2021 Work Report. In the report, the MOEL promises to help youth employment by offering more opportunities and vocational training.<sup>428</sup> This policy is to “minimize the number of young people ending up in the category of economically inactive population.” In the Work Report, the MOEL also promises to create a training system for non-majors to find jobs in the new technology sector. Furthermore, the MOEL will create a program to build future oriented talent. The program will be training 17,000 persons and will be cooperating with businesses and educational institutions.

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced to concentrate on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment.<sup>429</sup> The specific policies include “creation of 780,000-plus women’s jobs to cope with the employment crisis through supplementary budget; strengthening support for the maintenance of employment such as extension of emergency support for family care expense and support for those affected by transfer; strengthening support for female students majoring in science/engineering; enhancement of their digital capability through vocational training; strengthening the expertise of those engaging in childcare and housework; improving working conditions; promotion of status survey for women platform workers; putting an end to the gender stereotyping of jobs through the adoption of absolute evaluation factors in Affirmative Action.”<sup>430</sup>

On 25 March 2021, Vice Chair Doh Kyu-sang “discussed the progress in the implementation of the COVID-19 financial support for small merchants and SMEs” at the 37th financial risk assessment meeting.<sup>431</sup> He recognized the progress of the emergency financial support package to small merchants and SMEs and promised to keep close monitoring of the situation and be available to provide aid to the vulnerable.<sup>432</sup>

On 6 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of Korea passed amendments to the support for single parents raising children.<sup>433</sup> The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family made amendments to the Enforcement Ordinance of the Single-Parent Family Support Act, whereby the amendment provides “expansion of support for single parents in multicultural households and the procedure for the establishment of an annual execution plan for supporting single-parent families

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<sup>428</sup> 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1594](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594)

<sup>429</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635)

<sup>430</sup> Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635)

<sup>431</sup> FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

<sup>432</sup> FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March, 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

<sup>433</sup> Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713)

and management of its execution.”<sup>434</sup> Non-Korean single parents raising Korean children will receive support under the amendment once it comes into effect in May 2021.<sup>435</sup>

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family jointly held a panel discussion with the Embassy of Finland in Seoul on the subject of Women in Tech.<sup>436</sup> Noting that international cooperation would be needed to achieve all countries’ goals of gender equality, the panel discussion focused on the inclusivity of women in STEM fields and improving company policies for hiring practices.

From 4 to 6 May 2021, Korean representatives, along with representatives from ASEAN Secretariat and International Organizations, attended “Training Workshop on ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All.”<sup>437</sup> The three-day workshop discusses international standards and recent works on gender equality and labour and employment policies.<sup>438</sup>

On 12 May 2021, MOEL held the “Online Job Fair Week 2021” and a youth conference for overseas employment.<sup>439</sup> Seventy-five companies from foreign countries offered 200 positions from abroad for Korean youths.<sup>440</sup> This program helped youths to find career opportunities despite the pandemic.<sup>441</sup>

On 21 May 2021, the “Act on the Employment Improvement, Etc. of Domestic Workers” was passed at the National Assembly.<sup>442</sup> “The enactment of the law laid an institutional foundation for domestic workers who have been in the blind spot of the labor law and social insurance and have not

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<sup>434</sup> Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707713](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707713)

<sup>435</sup> Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707713](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707713)

<sup>436</sup> Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsSn=707767)

<sup>437</sup> Training Workshop on ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All, ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (Seoul), 19 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.aseanrofund.com/news/training-workshop-on-asean-guideline-on-gender-mainstreaming-into-labour-and-employment-policies-towards-decent-work-for-all>

<sup>438</sup> Training Workshop on ASEAN Guideline on Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies Towards Decent Work For All, ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (Seoul), 19 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

<https://www.aseanrofund.com/news/training-workshop-on-asean-guideline-on-gender-mainstreaming-into-labour-and-employment-policies-towards-decent-work-for-all>

<sup>439</sup> MOEL holds the "Online job fair week 2021" and a youth conference for overseas employment, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1598](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1598)

<sup>440</sup> MOEL holds the "Online job fair week 2021" and a youth conference for overseas employment, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1598](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1598)

<sup>441</sup> MOEL holds the "Online job fair week 2021" and a youth conference for overseas employment, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1598](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1598)

<sup>442</sup> Laying the institutional foundation in guaranteeing labor rights for domestic workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1599](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1599)

enjoyed their rights as workers since the enactment of the Labor Standards Act in 1953.”<sup>443</sup> The act also prepares the Korean Labour Market with low birth rate and increased female participation.<sup>444</sup>

On 25 May 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family launched the Butter Knife Crew Round 3 (Youths’ corps for the promotion of gender equality culture).<sup>445</sup> “The Corps aims to create a future vision from a gender equality perspective with 20/30-somethings playing a leading role.”<sup>446</sup> The Corps allows young adults in their 20s to 30s to engage in activities like film-watching, workshops, and expert-led discussions. The selected members are from various locations across Korea and industries.<sup>447</sup>

On 8 June 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced the improvements of ways of providing support for one-parent family/non-adult child support enforcement. <sup>448</sup> The improvements include “Improvement of child support enforcement procedure and reduction of proceeding period,” “Imposing stronger restriction of default on child support obligation,” “Expansion of support for emergency assistance for temporary child support and child support-related assistance,” and “Strengthening the basis for child support enforcement.”<sup>449</sup> The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family hopes to speed up the rate of enforcement on child support proceeding procedures.<sup>450</sup>

On 18 June 2021, MOEL made an announcement to support employment post COVID-19.<sup>451</sup> MOEL plans to provide recruitment support to companies that are looking for people to recruit. It will also establish a remote system that links job seekers and hiring companies.<sup>452</sup> The system can ensure the participants’ safety during COVID-19. Finally, it expands the employment safety net for the vulnerable; it will “increase the content and quality of employment support services and expand

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<sup>443</sup> Laying the institutional foundation in guaranteeing labor rights for domestic workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1599](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1599)

<sup>444</sup> Laying the institutional foundation in guaranteeing labor rights for domestic workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1599](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1599)

<sup>445</sup> Youths bridge divide in thoughts on gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820)

<sup>446</sup> Youths bridge divide in thoughts on gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820)

<sup>447</sup> Youths bridge divide in thoughts on gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707820)

<sup>448</sup> Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869)

<sup>449</sup> Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869)

<sup>450</sup> Strengthening non-custodial parent’s child support enforcement responsibility; expansion of child support for one-parent families, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707869)

<sup>451</sup> MOEL announces “Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services” to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. [https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1605](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605)

<sup>452</sup> MOEL announces “Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services” to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. [https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1605](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605)

the connections and collaborations with related organizations for specialized support for the recipient of these services.”<sup>453</sup>

On 23 June 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family signed the memorandum of understanding with UN Women and the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality is to be established in Korea.<sup>454</sup> The centre will promote gender equality by providing protection for women’s human rights and education for experts.<sup>455</sup>

On 1 July 2021, the Worker’s Compensation and Welfare Service implemented employment insurance for the dependent self-employed.<sup>456</sup> “The dependent self-employed who are covered by employment insurance from July 1 are workers in 12 occupations, including insurance agents, parcel delivery workers, and credit card solicitors.”<sup>457</sup> This is a part of the “National Employment Insurance Roadmap” to ensure all working citizens receive employment insurance. <sup>458</sup>

On 22 July 2021, Korea announced new measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes.<sup>459</sup> These measures will address the recent changes due to digitalization and development towards a carbon-neutral economy. The measures include “[developing and promoting] projects supporting internal combustion engine vehicle, coal-fired power generation, [providing] support for company’s business reorganization/transition and worker’s job transition, job change/reemployment, [and establishing] a structured support base such as consulting centers and labor transition analysis centers.”<sup>460</sup> The government will provide training to ensure workers’ reemployment and adapting to the changes from digitalization.<sup>461</sup> The government will also closely monitor structural changes in employment for some industries. <sup>462</sup>

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<sup>453</sup> MOEL announces “Measures to Strengthen Public Employment Services” to Support Economic and Employment Recovery and Prepare for Post COVID-19, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. [https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1605](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1605)

<sup>454</sup> UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896)

<sup>455</sup> UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality to be established in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707896)

<sup>456</sup> Employment insurance for dependent self-employed to be implemented from July 1, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1606](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1606)

<sup>457</sup> Employment insurance for dependent self-employed to be implemented from July 1, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1606](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1606)

<sup>458</sup> Employment insurance for dependent self-employed to be implemented from July 1, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1606](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1606)

<sup>459</sup> Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1607](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607)

<sup>460</sup> Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1607](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607)

<sup>461</sup> Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1607](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607)

<sup>462</sup> Government announces “Measures to support just labor transition in response to industrial structure changes”, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

[https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews\\_view.jsp?idx=1607](https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1607)

On 23 July 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced measures to promote women's economic activities to cope with population decline. These measures were suggested by the Pan-government 3rd round Population Policy TF - Women Employment/Family Policy Team.<sup>463</sup> First, to promote women's participation in economic activities, the Ministry will provide more opportunities for vocational training, increase tax reduction businesses hiring women experiencing career interruptions, and provide support for young women wishing to work in the engineering and natural sciences industries.<sup>464</sup> Second, to create equal labor conditions, the Ministry will provide customized counseling for women who wish to stay in the workforce but have concerns about childcare, human rights support for houseworkers and nurses, promotion to come up with "an integrated analysis framework concerning the gender equality status of businesses and government institutions."<sup>465</sup> Third, to mitigate parents' childcare burden, the Ministry will extend community childcare centres' operating hours and operate youths after-school academies on the weekends, expand childcare services during busy seasons in rural areas.<sup>466</sup> Finally, the Ministry will strengthen policy support to help all families live more stably.<sup>467</sup>

From 30 to 31 August 2021, the 20th Korean Women's International Network was held online.<sup>468</sup> The event has been a platform to connect Korean women both at home and abroad. "The session [included] keynote lectures, Global Women Leaders' Forum, and small-group discussions on activities carried out in each sector."<sup>469</sup>

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

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jenny Liu*

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<sup>463</sup> Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973)

<sup>464</sup> Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973)

<sup>465</sup> Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973)

<sup>466</sup> Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973)

<sup>467</sup> Government to cope with population decline by strengthening childcare and through promotion of women economic activities/respect for family diversity, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707973)

<sup>468</sup> 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=708039](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=708039)

<sup>469</sup> 20th Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN) held, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.doh?mid=eng001&bbsn=708039](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.doh?mid=eng001&bbsn=708039)

## **Mexico: +1**

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

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Welfare announced new social policies aimed at supporting youth and fostering greater inclusivity of women in the workforce.<sup>470</sup> In particular, the Support Programs for Girls and Boys, Children of Working Mothers programs is targeted towards women in rural areas, with the expectation that they “form a community, exchange knowledge, in addition to promoting their autonomy and access to a well-paid job.”<sup>471</sup>

On 27 January 2021, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare Luisa Alcade and Secretary of Tourism Miguel Torruco announced funding of MXN2.5 billion to support scholarships for youth seeking employment in the tourism sector.<sup>472</sup> Approximately 50,000 youth would be eligible for this program, which would be overseen by the Youth Building the Future Program, working in conjunction with companies to hire and train those between the ages of 18 and 29.<sup>473</sup> As of 2020, tourism accounted for nearly 17 per cent of Mexico’s gross domestic product, and has taken a strong hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>474</sup>

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Welfare allocated more than MXN143 billion worth of investment towards vulnerable groups, including working mothers.<sup>475</sup> Over 190,000 women were beneficiaries of social investment totaling MXN2 billion, with approximately MXN3,600 provided on a bimonthly basis for working mothers with children, with a focus on those with disabled children.<sup>476</sup>

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced a grant of MXN1.5 billion to support 60,000 microenterprises.<sup>477</sup> The support is divided among family micro-businesses, “completed”

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<sup>470</sup> The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

<sup>471</sup> The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

<sup>472</sup> Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

<sup>473</sup> Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

<sup>474</sup> Coronavirus hits Mexico’s economy where it hurts most: Oil, tourism, remittances and trade, Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/coronavirus-mexico-economy-oil-tourism-remittance-trade-amlo/2020/04/22/ed4b7532-7f68-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/coronavirus-mexico-economy-oil-tourism-remittance-trade-amlo/2020/04/22/ed4b7532-7f68-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911_story.html)

<sup>475</sup> The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

<sup>476</sup> The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

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

<sup>477</sup> The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

microbusinesses and those facilitating women's solidarity, whereby each business would receive a loan of MXN25,000.<sup>478</sup>

On 21 February 2021, the Superior Audit of the Federation concluded that the Ministry of Welfare had fully complied with its social program goals, with its total budget of MXN150 billion having been distributed to all target demographics, including working mothers.<sup>479</sup>

On 2 March 2021, the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents and the General Directorate of Open Institutions of the Decentralized Administrative Body for Prevention and Social Readaptation rolled out a pilot "Needs Identification Card."<sup>480</sup> This card is an instrument that will allow the government to better monitor and assist children with parents deprived of liberty to "live in a favorable family context, grow and develop free of all discrimination, violence, access education, health and receive timely support for their basic needs from federal and state authorities."<sup>481</sup>

On 2 March 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano launched the first meeting of the Gender Links Network.<sup>482</sup> This three-day symposium aimed to encourage discussion about gender violence to promote "international cooperation on substantive equality, girls' empowerment, and inclusion of a gender perspective" in society.<sup>483</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the National Migration Institute signed the Labour Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy.<sup>484</sup> This policy aims to eliminate workplace violence and institutionalize equal opportunities for all public servants, with particular focus on approaching the problem from a gender perspective.<sup>485</sup>

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

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<sup>478</sup> The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

<sup>479</sup> ASF concludes that in 2019 the Ministry of Welfare complied with its social programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/concluye-asf-que-en-2019-secretaria-de-bienestar-cumplio-en-sus-programas-sociales?idiom=es>

<sup>480</sup> Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

<sup>481</sup> Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

<sup>482</sup> First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

<sup>483</sup> First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

<sup>484</sup> INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

<sup>485</sup> INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

growth “with a gender perspective.”<sup>486</sup> The program focuses on micro-enterprises led by women, and expands upon the “Digital Transformation in Electronic Commerce” business training program, which offers courses on developing “digital and financial skills in entrepreneurs.”<sup>487</sup> Data from the project demonstrated that women who participated in the program had increased their income by 270 per cent.<sup>488</sup>

On 22 March 2021, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard and Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez co-chaired the second inter-institutional meeting.<sup>489</sup> Their discussion brought together the Ministries of Finance, Education and Labor, and the heads of the Mexican Social Security Institute, Bank of Wellbeing and Infonavit, who together announced specific actions relating to the migrant population.<sup>490</sup> In the meeting, Labor Secretary Luisa María Alcalde furthered assistance for migrants. In particular, she stated that the Youths Building the Future program will expand to train 18 to 29 years-old migrants.<sup>491</sup> Furthermore, Education Secretary Delfina Gómez stated that the Education Ministry will expand its commitment to revalidating the studies and certifications of Mexicans returning from abroad.<sup>492</sup> The Labour Mobility Program and National Employment Service will also assist in ensuring that these migrants can find jobs in the fields and locations in which they wish to work.<sup>493</sup>

On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of the Interior presented the National Protocol for Inter-institutional Coordination for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence.<sup>494</sup> This guideline will serve as a reference for territorial governments such as authorities in the state of

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<sup>486</sup> Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

<sup>487</sup> Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

<sup>488</sup> Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

<sup>489</sup> The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

<sup>490</sup> The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

<sup>491</sup> The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

<sup>492</sup> The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

<sup>493</sup> The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

<sup>494</sup> Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

Campeche to develop their own protocol in protecting the below 17-years-old population from violence.<sup>495</sup>

On 13 April 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador led a press conference on how the Government of Mexico is responding to the rise of unaccompanied minor migrants from Central America.<sup>496</sup> Secretary Ebrard stated that the government has increased the number of state workers involved with immigration to approximately 12,000 people.<sup>497</sup> Secretary Ebrard also stated that the National System for Integral Family Development will be expanding its capacity to care for more children since minors cannot stay in immigration stations.<sup>498</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Director of Institutional Coordination of the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Francisco Castellanos García proposed several measures to benefit adolescents in conflict with the law during the Permanent Session of the Commission of Executive Secretaries of Integral Protection of the National Systems and the Federative Entities.<sup>499</sup> Director García's recommendations included a directory to catalog effective programs for social reintegration between organizations and state authorities and reinforcement of sanitary protection measures for women.<sup>500</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Mexico led a virtual meeting on the "Economic empowerment of women in the Pacific Alliance: Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusive recovery."<sup>501</sup> There were over 200 participants at the meeting, including female leaders and representatives from the public sector, international organizations, civil society organizations and academia.<sup>502</sup> Senior officials from the Pacific Alliance countries were also in attendance.<sup>503</sup> Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Luz María de la Mora Sánchez moderated a discussion on the impact of the coronavirus on women and received recommendations on tools and policies that may help reactivate women-led companies in the Pacific.<sup>504</sup> Gender Affairs Director Ana Güzmes from the United Nations Economic Commission

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<sup>495</sup> Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

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

<sup>496</sup> Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

<sup>497</sup> Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

<sup>498</sup> Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

<sup>499</sup> Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

<sup>500</sup> Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

<sup>501</sup> Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

<sup>502</sup> Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

<sup>503</sup> Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

<sup>504</sup> Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

for Latin America and the Caribbean also offered suggestions on how countries can support women's economic autonomy.<sup>505</sup>

On 30 April 2021, Secretary Ebrard spoke with Spain's Minister of Science and Innovation Pedro Duque in Madrid.<sup>506</sup> During the meeting, the ministers reached a consensus on the importance of promoting cooperation in scientific research and professional training.<sup>507</sup> They also noted that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular would benefit from training and increased access to technology for production and trade.<sup>508</sup>

On 25 June 2021, the Ministry of the Interior strengthened the Mechanism for Follow-up of Cases of Sexual Torture with new guidelines that expanded the number of authorities involved in criminal cases of sexual torture.<sup>509</sup> Other changes include the addition of a permanent office to process these matters and related resources as well as the expanding the definition of women victims of sexual torture to include transsexual women.<sup>510</sup>

On 2 July 2021, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean Maximiliano Reyes co-chaired the sixth meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Mexico-Argentina Strategic Partnership Agreement with Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentina Pablo Anselmo Tettamanti.<sup>511</sup> During the meeting, the two parties agreed to continue and update their cooperation in areas of gender and strengthen training between their diplomatic academies.<sup>512</sup>

On 14 July 2021, the 47th session of the Human Rights Council concluded.<sup>513</sup> During the session, Mexico participated in debates about gender equality and rights of women and girls.<sup>514</sup> This action

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<sup>505</sup> Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

<sup>506</sup> Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

<sup>507</sup> Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

<sup>508</sup> Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

<sup>509</sup> Follow-up Mechanism for Cases of Sexual Torture committed against Women meets, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/sesion-mecanismo-de-seguimiento-de-casos-de-tortura-sexual-cometida-contramujeres?idiom=es>

<sup>510</sup> Follow-up Mechanism for Cases of Sexual Torture committed against Women meets, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/sesion-mecanismo-de-seguimiento-de-casos-de-tortura-sexual-cometida-contramujeres?idiom=es>

<sup>511</sup> 6th Meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Mexico-Argentina Strategic Partnership Agreement, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/6th-meeting-of-the-political-affairs-committee-of-the-mexico-argentina-strategic-partnership-agreement?idiom=en>

<sup>512</sup> 6th Meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Mexico-Argentina Strategic Partnership Agreement, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/6th-meeting-of-the-political-affairs-committee-of-the-mexico-argentina-strategic-partnership-agreement?idiom=en>

<sup>513</sup> Conclusion of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/conclusion-of-the-47th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council?idiom=en>

<sup>514</sup> Conclusion of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/conclusion-of-the-47th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council?idiom=en>

further affirms Mexico's support for increasing women's access to opportunities. Additionally, Mexico participated in debates about business rights.<sup>515</sup>

On 5 August 2021, the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Martha Delgado and the Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Mexico Lorenzo Jiménez de Luis presented the Global Economic Promotion Project.<sup>516</sup> The new initiative aims to encourage economic development in strategic sectors by attracting foreign investment to Mexico while promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusion and human rights.<sup>517</sup>

On 9 September 2021, Mexico and the United States relaunched their bilateral High-Level Economic Dialogue.<sup>518</sup> This initiative has the goal of promoting regional economic growth through labour upskilling and reducing inequalities. Four pillars support this vision for economic development. For the pillar "Promoting Sustainable Economic and Social Development in Southern Mexico and Central America," the United States will support the Mexican government's Sowing Life and Youths Building the Future programs to better invest in youths.<sup>519</sup> On reducing inequalities, there will also be a focus on training women, youths, Indigenous people and the LGBTQ+ community through collaboration with local small and medium sized enterprises.<sup>520</sup>

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

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tammy Cheng*

## **Russia: 0**

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

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<sup>515</sup> Conclusion of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 August 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/conclusion-of-the-47th-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council?idiom=en>

<sup>516</sup> Foreign Ministry, UNDP launch a Global Economic Promotion Project, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/foreign-ministry-undp-launch-a-global-economic-promotion-project?idiom=en>

<sup>517</sup> Foreign Ministry, UNDP launch a Global Economic Promotion Project, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/foreign-ministry-undp-launch-a-global-economic-promotion-project?idiom=en>

<sup>518</sup> Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

<sup>519</sup> Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

<sup>520</sup> Relaunch of the Mexico-US High-Level Economic Dialogue (Mexico City) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/relaunch-of-the-mexico-us-high-level-economic-dialogue-282325?idiom=en>

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Education announced the success of its specialized educational research centre, partnered with various Russian universities, providing students with grants and subsidies for specialized education and research as well as training initiatives.<sup>521</sup>

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Education noted that more than 600,000 youth took part in the XIV International Congress [of] Young Professionals to discuss issues on improving and developing college education further in the country.<sup>522</sup> First Deputy Minister of Education Dmitry Glushko “recalled the need to involve business representatives in the secondary vocational educational system so that the enterprises [and] customers [could participate] in assessing the quality of training,” and prepare college students for the workforce.<sup>523</sup> Furthermore, Director of WorldSkills Russia Academy Svetlana Kraichinskaya stressed the need for greater vocational training programs that could adapt to the modern economy.<sup>524</sup>

On 16 January 2021, the Russian Institute for Development of Vocational Education and Center for Advanced Vocational Training announced a joint agreement with Uzbekistan to facilitate greater interaction and cooperation among vocational institutes in both countries.<sup>525</sup> “In particular, the parties discussed convergence of approaches to formation of professional standards and content of vocational education, development of cooperation within ...World Skills International ...[and organizing] early vocational guidance for schoolchildren.”<sup>526</sup>

On 24 February 2021, the Ministry of Education announced the creation of the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, intended to “become a platform uniting students and alumni, as well as teachers and employers in the system of vocational education and training for persons with disabilities and health limitations.”<sup>527</sup>

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Education announced that Russian teachers would resume full-time teaching at schools in Kyrgyzstan.<sup>528</sup> Around 29 teachers were sent to Kyrgyzstan in 2021 to teach schoolchildren Russian and other general subjects as part of the Russian Teacher Abroad

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<sup>521</sup> Specialized educational research center at SFedU: first successes, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Date Accessed: 1 May 2021. <https://sfedu.ru/www2/web/press-center/news/65503>

<sup>522</sup> More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

<sup>523</sup> More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

<sup>524</sup> More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

<sup>525</sup> Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

<sup>526</sup> Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

<sup>527</sup> Ministry of Education of Russia created the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2261/ministry-of-education-of-russia-created-the-federal-methodological-center-for-inclusive-education/>

<sup>528</sup> Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

program.<sup>529</sup> The program, which was started in 2019, has seen local children “improve their reading skills, show interest in literature and participate in Russian Olympiads.”<sup>530</sup>

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Education Sergey Kravtsov announced that more than 60 centres for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021.<sup>531</sup> He said, “Such centres will inform about the opportunities for advanced training in the region and provide methodological support for supplementary education programs for teachers.”<sup>532</sup> The centres are aimed at analyzing the existing system of supplementary education in the country.<sup>533</sup>

On 22 March 2021, Deputy Minister Glushko met with Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyzstan Nadira Dzhusupbekova.<sup>534</sup> During the meeting, they announced that the two countries will continue their collaborative efforts in the field of education, including the implementation of the joint project “Russian Teacher Abroad.”<sup>535</sup> The project requires Russia to share in the organization of hot school meals and creation of educational infrastructure.<sup>536</sup> Deputy Minister Glushko reiterated Russia’s commitment by pledging to send more Russian teachers to Kyrgyzstan.<sup>537</sup>

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin met with the President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades.<sup>538</sup> He supported the continued bilateral relations between the two countries and called for a strengthening of ties.<sup>539</sup> Further, he reaffirmed expanding cooperation in education and youth exchanges and stressed that many Cypriot students are attending Russian Universities with financial aid granted by the federal government.<sup>540</sup>

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<sup>529</sup> Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

<sup>530</sup> Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

<sup>531</sup> More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

<sup>532</sup> More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

<sup>533</sup> More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

<sup>534</sup> Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

<sup>535</sup> Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

<sup>536</sup> Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

<sup>537</sup> Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

<sup>538</sup> Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

<sup>539</sup> Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

<sup>540</sup> Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

On 29 March 2021, during a meeting with deputy prime ministers, Prime Minister Mishustin remarked that loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be fast tracked.<sup>541</sup> This initiative comes off the back of last year's reduction in preferential rates for SMEs and the self-employed.<sup>542</sup> Prime Minister Mishustin concluded, "small businesses will be able to simply apply for preferential leasing support which will make it possible for them to expand or upgrade their production at no extra cost."<sup>543</sup>

On 20 July 2021, Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko launched an educational course for heads of digital transformation to further digital development in Russia.<sup>544</sup>

On 13 September, First Deputy Minister of Education of the Russian Federation Alexander Bugaev announced the development of the WorldSkills projects to transform Russia's vocational education.<sup>545</sup>

Russia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers through working with regional partners to improve education opportunities, renovating and expanding training programs for discouraged workers, and providing extensive financial support for SMEs and entrepreneurs to promote innovation. Russia has taken no action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for women.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra*

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

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

On 5 January 2021, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman signed several legal reforms as a part of the Saudi Vision 2030 that are designed to diversify the economy away from oil and achieve justice, especially for women, and accountability in a move towards codified law.<sup>546</sup> The announcement of the reforms made special mention of women who have long held an inferior status to men.<sup>547</sup> Prince bin Salman stated, "discrepancies in court rulings have led to a lack of clarity in the rules governing

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<sup>541</sup>Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

<sup>542</sup>Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

<sup>543</sup>Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

<sup>544</sup> Dmitry Chernyshenko: The task of the regions is to ensure high-quality implementation of digital transformation strategies, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 July 2021. Date Accessed: 23 July 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42817/>

<sup>545</sup> Alexander Bugaev: Through WorldSkills projects we update the entire system of secondary vocational education in Russia, The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 September 2021. Date Accessed: 13 September 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2343/alexander-bugaev-through-worldskills-projects-we-update-the-entire-system-of-secondary-vocational-education-in-russia/>

<sup>546</sup> Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

<sup>547</sup> Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

the incidents and practices, and has hurt many, mostly women.”<sup>548</sup> The reforms are expected to bring clarity to the legal system and spur women’s rights in the countries.<sup>549</sup>

On 10 February 2021, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) General Authority announced the launch of the fourth edition of the Intelligence Pioneers Program.<sup>550</sup> The goal of the program is to help SMEs “reduce operational costs, raise efficiency and find new sources of income.”<sup>551</sup> The SMEs that sign up for the program will be assigned a mentor for each facility to aid in adoption of technology and achievement of the Kingdom’s 2030 vision.<sup>552</sup>

On 7 March 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) launched the Professional Verification program.<sup>553</sup> The program will introduce examinations in specialized fields to assess workers’ skills and improve the quality of labor in the country.<sup>554</sup> It is expected that the new regulation will create job opportunities in the private sector and in SMEs.<sup>555</sup> Further, young Saudis have been encouraged to join newly created professional centres to enhance their capabilities.<sup>556</sup>

On 9 March 2021, HRSD held a meeting for the Under Secretary for Empowerment of Women Hind Al Zahid who spoke about efforts to empower women and the role of women in economic development.<sup>557</sup>

On 29 March 2021, SMEs General Authority launched the SME Bank.<sup>558</sup> The bank focuses on providing for all of SMEs financial needs through the digital platform, ensuring quick and easy access.<sup>559</sup> The initiative is in line with the national strategy for SMEs and will act as an umbrella for

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<sup>548</sup> Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

<sup>549</sup> Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

<sup>550</sup> Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

<sup>551</sup> Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

<sup>552</sup> Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

<sup>553</sup> Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

<sup>554</sup> Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

<sup>555</sup> Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

<sup>556</sup> Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

<sup>557</sup> The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development celebrates the International Women’s Day, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://hrsd.gov.sa/ar/node/810122>

<sup>558</sup> Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

<sup>559</sup> Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

all financing solution including lending.<sup>560</sup> It is hoped that the bank will increase opportunities for growth and prosperity for SMEs.<sup>561</sup>

On 4 April 2021, the King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba) announced the discovery of more than 11,000 students from its National Program for Gifted Students.<sup>562</sup> The recognized students received access to the specialized services of Mawhiba, facilitating greater exposure of these youth to world-class educational opportunities.<sup>563</sup>

On 12 April 2021, the Digital Cooperation Organization met for the first time, appointing Saudi national Deemah Alyahya as its first secretary general.<sup>564</sup> The meeting passed five initiatives regarding women empowerment and the promotion of SMEs, focusing on digital transformation.<sup>565</sup>

On 20 April 2021, the Future Women Society (FWS), which was founded under the HRSD, launched a research, innovation and development unit to further advance the position of women and their inclusion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.<sup>566</sup> This unit was launched in recognition of the fact that the role of women in technology still remains low, and forms a part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030's goals.<sup>567</sup> Chairperson of the FWS Gareebah Al-Twaiher noted that "FWS is working on building its own financial model to achieve financial sustainability that relies on inventing knowledge-based products generating a capital for investment."<sup>568</sup>

On 8 July 2021, the Industrial Development Fund Academy announced the completion of 15 training programs for the first half of 2021.<sup>569</sup> Those programs were attended by 1,400 trainees from 370 entities.<sup>570</sup> The program included specialized areas in the fields of finance, business, innovation, and digitization. They were also organized in collaboration with training providers from all around the world. The Academy aims to expand the programs for non-specialized candidates.<sup>571</sup>

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<sup>560</sup> Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

<sup>561</sup> Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

<sup>562</sup> Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

<sup>563</sup> Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

<sup>564</sup> Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

<sup>565</sup> Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

<sup>566</sup> Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

<sup>567</sup> Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

<sup>568</sup> Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

<sup>569</sup> Government and Private Entities Benefit from SIDF Academy Programs 370, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2252733>

<sup>570</sup> Government and Private Entities Benefit from SIDF Academy Programs 370, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2252733>

<sup>571</sup> Government and Private Entities Benefit from SIDF Academy Programs 370, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 26 July 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2252733>

On 9 July 2021, the Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones called on women aged over 18 to apply to the Apple Developer Academy.<sup>572</sup> This program was open to all females regardless of their prior coding background and allowed Tuwaiq to become Apple's first educational training center on the Middle East.<sup>573</sup> Selected candidates receive skills and training to find and create jobs.<sup>574</sup>

On 12 July 2021, the SME Bank and the French Public Investment Bank signed an agreement to transfer expertise and best practices for the SME sector.<sup>575</sup> This agreement aligns with Saudi Vision 2030 because it aims to increase the contribution of SMEs to the GDP by 35 per cent by 2030.<sup>576</sup>

On 13 July 2021, the Social Development Bank (SDB) announced a plan to increase lending to small businesses.<sup>577</sup> The SDB has already provided SR1.6 billion in the first half of 2021.<sup>578</sup> The aim of this plan is to support projects without the need for financial guarantees.<sup>579</sup>

On 12 August 2021, the Saudi General Authority for Competition imposed USD9.3 million in fines on companies that violated competition rules. Those nine fined companies were abusing a dominant position without informing the authorities, which negatively impacts SMEs. Therefore, fining companies that breach competition laws provides protection for the operation of SMEs.<sup>580</sup>

On 22 August 2021, Saudi Arabia had achieved unparalleled achievement in entrepreneurship indicators this year, according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report. This achievement was made across different variables including availability of good opportunities to start a business, ease of starting a business, entrepreneurs' response to the pandemic, and the Kingdom's government response to the pandemic. This is in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 to empower entrepreneurship. Despite the obstacles imposed by COVID-19, the Ministry of Commerce was able to contribute greatly to place Saudi Arabia among the top countries in the world.<sup>581</sup>

On 22 August 2021, the Ministry of Commerce announced that SMEs will be exempt from commerce fees register for three years to help increase the number of startups in the country. Following this exemption, the Ministry also plans to resume fees in the fourth and fifth year, but at a

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<sup>572</sup> Call for women to apply to Apple academy in Riyadh, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 July 2021. Access Date: July 26 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1891076/saudi-arabia>

<sup>573</sup> Call for women to apply to Apple academy in Riyadh, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 July 2021. Access Date: July 26 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1891076/saudi-arabia>

<sup>574</sup> Call for women to apply to Apple academy in Riyadh, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 July 2021. Access Date: July 26 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1891076/saudi-arabia>

<sup>575</sup> BPI France and Saudi SME Bank sign best practice agreement, Arab News (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1893096/business-economy>

<sup>576</sup> BPI France and Saudi SME Bank sign best practice agreement, Arab News (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1893096/business-economy>

<sup>577</sup> Saudi Social Development Bank plans to boost lending, Zawya (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi\\_Social\\_Development\\_Bank\\_plans\\_to\\_boost\\_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi_Social_Development_Bank_plans_to_boost_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/)

<sup>578</sup> Saudi Social Development Bank plans to boost lending, Zawya (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi\\_Social\\_Development\\_Bank\\_plans\\_to\\_boost\\_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi_Social_Development_Bank_plans_to_boost_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/)

<sup>579</sup> Saudi Social Development Bank plans to boost lending, Zawya (Riyadh) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi\\_Social\\_Development\\_Bank\\_plans\\_to\\_boost\\_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Saudi_Social_Development_Bank_plans_to_boost_lending-ZAWYA20210713042922/)

<sup>580</sup> Saudi trade body hands out \$9.3m in anti-competition fines in 2020, Arab News (Riyadh) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1910121/business-economy>

<sup>581</sup> Saudi Arabia ranks first globally in four entrepreneurship indicators, Zawya (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Saudi\\_Arabia\\_ranks\\_first\\_globally\\_in\\_four\\_entrepreneurship\\_indicators-ZAWYA20210822081100/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Saudi_Arabia_ranks_first_globally_in_four_entrepreneurship_indicators-ZAWYA20210822081100/)

reduced rate of SAR500 for entrepreneurs and SAR200 for entrepreneurs with a capital of less than SAR375,000 and whose employees do not exceed five.<sup>582</sup>

On 25 August 2021, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology launched a series of initiatives that aim to improve Saudi Arabia's global ranking in digital areas. One of such programs is called Hima, which encourages innovation in enterprises with a value of USD670 million. Therefore, this initiative will be beneficial for the growth of SMEs.<sup>583</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, as well as in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth and upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sara Mostafa*

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

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

On 29 November 2020, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane led the South African youth delegates to the 6th BRICS Summit.<sup>584</sup> The BRICS Youth Summit aims to increase youth participation in programmes and address policies to empower young people.<sup>585</sup> The specific goal of South Africa at the summit was to provide youth with skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields.<sup>586</sup> South Africa's priorities included "creating employment in areas with high absorption capacity such as the fourth industrial revolution, ocean economy, green economy, mineral resources and energy, tourism, manufacturing; supporting young entrepreneurs; promoting market access as well as free and fair trade amongst the BRICS nations; and youth volunteer exchange promotion."<sup>587</sup>

On 18 December 2020, the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs partnered with Standard Bank to announce the launch of the Yes4Youth Programme.<sup>588</sup> This programme provides unemployed youth with work experience and introduces

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<sup>582</sup> Saudi SMEs get 3-year exemption from commerce fees, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1915356/business-economy>

<sup>583</sup> Saudi Arabia launches tech initiatives to boost Kingdom's global ranking and create more start-ups, Arab News (Riyadh) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1917156/business-economy>

<sup>584</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

<sup>585</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

<sup>586</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

<sup>587</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

<sup>588</sup> Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

them to business and entrepreneurship by placing them in micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the province.<sup>589</sup>

On 18 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with the China National Academy of Governance to offer courses to middle and senior managers in public service on governance and emergency management.<sup>590</sup> This partnership aims to train public servants in governance and emergency response.<sup>591</sup> The course will cover China's governance model for development outcomes, the capacity of the state to deal with emergencies and the Chinese model of disaster management and the management of Covid-19.<sup>592</sup>

On 19 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France to offer courses on Public Affairs Management in the Digital Era and Leadership in Times of Crisis and Complexity to public servants.<sup>593</sup> This partnership aims to train public servants in leadership management and digital transformation in order to reduce the gap between public administration and the changing digital world.<sup>594</sup>

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Small Business Development along with its agency Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) partnered with the Department of Tourism to launch the Tourism Equity Fund.<sup>595</sup> The SEFA will provide up to ZAR15 million per enterprise. MSMEs will also receive mentorship support, market access, and investment monitoring.<sup>596</sup> The Tourism Equity Fund seeks to provide both financial and non-financial support for MSMEs in the growing tourism industry.<sup>597</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Minister for Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni and the National Youth Development Agency hosted a webinar to follow up on the MSME and cooperative

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<sup>589</sup> Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>590</sup> School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>591</sup> School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>592</sup> School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>593</sup> School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>594</sup> School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>595</sup> Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

<sup>596</sup> Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

<sup>597</sup> Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

commitments made in the 2020 State of the National Address.<sup>598</sup> The goal is to update the public on the progress of the 1,000 small, micro and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives that participated in the programme supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa.<sup>599</sup>

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni presented the 2021 budget.<sup>600</sup> The budget includes a ZAR11 billion increase devoted to public employment programs to fund the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative.<sup>601</sup> The budget also includes an allocation of ZAR4 billion over the medium term to township and rural enterprises.<sup>602</sup> These budget allocations aim to create jobs for young people, as well as increased funding for MSMEs.<sup>603</sup>

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the virtual engagement MSMEs and Cooperatives to follow up on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan presented in October 2020.<sup>604</sup> President Ramaphosa acknowledged the success of the actions taken to aid MSMEs and cooperatives as well as specified further action that will be taken to aid these enterprises.<sup>605</sup>

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa held a virtual discussion with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to discuss commitments to advancing economic inclusion for women in Africa.<sup>606</sup> The goal was to address the challenges of empowerment for African women and to develop tangible action for economic and digital liberation.<sup>607</sup>

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane hosted a webinar to commemorate International Women Day.<sup>608</sup> The webinar provided a platform for the Women in Tourism Programme to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and mitigation methods.<sup>609</sup>

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<sup>598</sup> Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

<sup>599</sup> Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

<sup>600</sup> Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>601</sup> Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>602</sup> Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>603</sup> Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>604</sup> Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>605</sup> Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

<sup>606</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>  
<sup>607</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

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

<sup>608</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza announced the commitment to improving opportunities for youth post-COVID-19.<sup>610</sup> This commitment aims to develop strategies to deal with poverty and inequality and achieve social cohesion by targeting women, youth, and people with disabilities.<sup>611</sup>

On 25 March 2021, President Ramaphosa chaired the 30th African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).<sup>612</sup> The goal of the APRM is to “promote the African Union’s shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development.”<sup>613</sup> The APRM has developed workshops and training programmes focused on vocational education in order to meet the goals of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.<sup>614</sup>

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande welcomed the partnership of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA), Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun at the PSETA-Microsoft-Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa (GSISA) Launch.<sup>615</sup> The GSISA is a public-private partnership between the PSETA, Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun to provide digital skills to youth in South Africa.<sup>616</sup>

On 7 May 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza visited Nkomazi Local Municipality in Ehlanzeni District of the Mpumalanga Province for the Digital Skills Outreach Programme through the invitation by Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.<sup>617</sup> The programme is part of Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams’s effort to maximize investment in the

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<sup>609</sup> Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

<sup>610</sup> Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

<sup>611</sup> Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

<sup>612</sup> Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

<sup>613</sup> Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

<sup>614</sup> Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

<sup>615</sup> Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

<sup>616</sup> Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

<sup>617</sup> Deputy President David Mabuza visits the Mpumalanga Province for digital skills outreach programme, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/deputy-president-david-mabuza-visits-mpumalanga-province-digital-skills-outreach-programme>

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in order to create competitive business opportunities and stimulate growth of the ICT industry.<sup>618</sup>

On 21 May 2021, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma partnered with Chief Executive Officer of the National Youth Development Agency Waseem Carrim to host a Youth Hackathon Consultative Session.<sup>619</sup> The goal of the hackathon is to involve youth in the building of new democratic cities.<sup>620</sup> Minister Dlamini Zuma acknowledged the important role that youth have on the future of development of democratic cities.<sup>621</sup>

On 1 June 2021, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and the National Youth Development Agency partnered with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to launch Youth Month 2021.<sup>622</sup> This year's Youth Month was themed "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society" to commemorate the 150 year birth anniversary of human rights campaigner Charlotte Mannya Maxeke.<sup>623</sup> The goal of Youth Month is to promote inclusive growth and constitutional rights for all youth.<sup>624</sup>

On 1 June 2021 the Department of Water and Sanitation made available bursaries for students interested in the water and sanitation industry.<sup>625</sup> The bursaries are available to students that have been accepted into mainstream South African Institutions of Higher Learning and cover "full tuition fees, accommodation and food as per university guidance, books and stationery allowance and a

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<sup>618</sup> Deputy President David Mabuza visits the Mpumalanga Province for digital skills outreach programme, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/deputy-president-david-mabuza-visits-mpumalanga-province-digital-skills-outreach-programme>

<sup>619</sup> Minister Dlamini Zuma in Partnership with the NYDA will Host a Consultative Session (Hackathon) with the Youth on Building New Democratic Cities, Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2021/05/20/minister-dlamini-zuma-in-partnership-with-the-nyda-will-host-a-consultative-session-hackathon-with-the-youth-on-building-new-democratic-cities/>

<sup>620</sup> Minister Dlamini Zuma in Partnership with the NYDA will Host a Consultative Session (Hackathon) with the Youth on Building New Democratic Cities, Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2021/05/20/minister-dlamini-zuma-in-partnership-with-the-nyda-will-host-a-consultative-session-hackathon-with-the-youth-on-building-new-democratic-cities/>

<sup>621</sup> Minister Dlamini Zuma in Partnership with the NYDA will Host a Consultative Session (Hackathon) with the Youth on Building New Democratic Cities, Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs (Pretoria) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2021/05/20/minister-dlamini-zuma-in-partnership-with-the-nyda-will-host-a-consultative-session-hackathon-with-the-youth-on-building-new-democratic-cities/>

<sup>622</sup> Government launches Youth Month 2021 under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-launches-youth-month-2021-under-theme-year-charlotte-mannya-maxeke-growing-youth>

<sup>623</sup> Government launches Youth Month 2021 under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-launches-youth-month-2021-under-theme-year-charlotte-mannya-maxeke-growing-youth>

<sup>624</sup> Government launches Youth Month 2021 under the theme: "The year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke: Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society", Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-launches-youth-month-2021-under-theme-year-charlotte-mannya-maxeke-growing-youth>

<sup>625</sup> Water and Sanitation on bursaries available for youth interested in the sector, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-department-makes-bursaries-available-youth-interested-sector-8-jun>

monthly stipend.”<sup>626</sup> The bursaries are available for the first and second year of study and aim to target disadvantaged and impoverished students.<sup>627</sup>

On 5 June 2021, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu opened the Lulwazi Lwethu Youth Skills Centre in Nyanga Township, Cape Town.<sup>628</sup> Minister Zulu launched the centre in response to rising youth unemployment rates. The centre will offer youth training programmes to enhance skills and prepare youth for the future of work.<sup>629</sup>

On 11 June 2021, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela hosted a Mining Skills Workshop with the Mining Qualification Authority at the Waterberg Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Campus in Limpopo.<sup>630</sup> The goal was to introduce TVET students, high school students and unemployed youth to opportunities in the local mining sector, as well as build a relationship between mining companies and the college to increase future employment opportunities.<sup>631</sup>

On 13 June 2021, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosted a webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day.<sup>632</sup> The goal of the webinar was to bring awareness to the daily challenges faced by people with albinism, including human rights violations

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<sup>626</sup> Water and Sanitation on bursaries available for youth interested in the sector, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-department-makes-bursaries-available-youth-interested-sector-8-jun>

<sup>627</sup> Water and Sanitation on bursaries available for youth interested in the sector, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-department-makes-bursaries-available-youth-interested-sector-8-jun>

<sup>628</sup> Minister Zulu To Officially Open Lulwazi Lethu Youth Skills Centre In Nyanga, Department of Social Development (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php/21-latest-news/364-03-june-2021-cape-town-the-latest-quarterly-labour-force-survey-recently-released-by-statistics-south-africa-stats-sa-paints-a-grim-picture-on-youth-unemployment-it-shows-that-unemployment-increased-by-0-1-to-32-6-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021-from-32-5-in-the-last-quarter-of-2020?highlight=WyJsdWx3YXppliwbGV0aHUilLCJ5b3V0aCIsInNraWxscylInNraWxscyciLCJjZW50cmUiLCJjZW50cmUncylslmx1bHdhemkGbGV0aHUilLCJsdWx3YXppIGxldGh1IHlvdXRoliwbGV0aHUgeW91dGgiLCJsZXRodSB5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMgY2VudHJliiwic2tpbGxzIGNlbnRyZSjd>

<sup>629</sup> Minister Zulu To Officially Open Lulwazi Lethu Youth Skills Centre In Nyanga, Department of Social Development (Pretoria) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php/21-latest-news/364-03-june-2021-cape-town-the-latest-quarterly-labour-force-survey-recently-released-by-statistics-south-africa-stats-sa-paints-a-grim-picture-on-youth-unemployment-it-shows-that-unemployment-increased-by-0-1-to-32-6-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021-from-32-5-in-the-last-quarter-of-2020?highlight=WyJsdWx3YXppliwbGV0aHUilLCJ5b3V0aCIsInNraWxscylInNraWxscyciLCJjZW50cmUiLCJjZW50cmUncylslmx1bHdhemkGbGV0aHUilLCJsdWx3YXppIGxldGh1IHlvdXRoliwbGV0aHUgeW91dGgiLCJsZXRodSB5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMiLCJ5b3V0aCBza2lsbHMgY2VudHJliiwic2tpbGxzIGNlbnRyZSjd>

<sup>630</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts Mining Skills Workshop, 11 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-mining-skills-workshop-11-jun-10-jun-2021-0000>

<sup>631</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts Mining Skills Workshop, 11 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-mining-skills-workshop-11-jun-10-jun-2021-0000>

<sup>632</sup> Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosts webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, 13 Jun, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-hosts-webinar-commemorate-international-albinism>

and violent crimes.<sup>633</sup> The department acknowledges that children with albinism are especially in need of protection due to risks of being kidnapped and murdered as part of “barbaric practises.”<sup>634</sup>

On 15 June 2021, the Government Communications and Information System partnered with the Ministry of Communication and Digital Technologies to host a Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities.<sup>635</sup> The goal of the class is to give youth the digital skills for the changing technological landscape.<sup>636</sup>

On 16 June 2021, President Ramaphosa delivered a speech celebrating Youth Day.<sup>637</sup> President Ramaphosa acknowledged the high youth employment rate and stated that youth are at the centre of national recovery.<sup>638</sup> President Ramaphosa announced the launch of mPowa, a platform that aims to provide unemployed youth and entrepreneurs information about services and support in their area.<sup>639</sup> President Ramaphosa stated the commitment of the administration to ensuring youth have access to opportunities in order to better themselves, their communities, and the economy.<sup>640</sup>

On 24 June 2021, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Buti Manamela hosted the “backchat” session which focuses on youth and entrepreneurship.<sup>641</sup> The backchat sessions allow for unmediated discussions between Deputy Minister Manamela and youth including

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<sup>633</sup> Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosts webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, 13 Jun, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-hosts-webinar-commemorate-international-albinism>

<sup>634</sup> Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities hosts webinar to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, 13 Jun, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-hosts-webinar-commemorate-international-albinism>

<sup>635</sup> Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities: 15 Jun, Government Communications and Information System (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-15-jun>

<sup>636</sup> Youth Masterclass on Digital Skills Development Opportunities: 15 Jun, Government Communications and Information System (Pretoria) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/youth-masterclass-digital-skills-development-opportunities-15-jun>

<sup>637</sup> Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

<sup>638</sup> Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

<sup>639</sup> Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

<sup>640</sup> Virtual Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of Youth Day, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/virtual-address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-youth-day-16-june-2021>

<sup>641</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts virtual "backchat" session in celebration of Youth Month, 24 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-virtual-backchat-session-celebration-youth-month-23-jun>

young writers, activists, and students.<sup>642</sup> The goal of the session was to help South African youth realize and reach their potential.<sup>643</sup>

On 12 July 2021, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renewed the call to end gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).<sup>644</sup> Cases of GBVF remain high in the country and evidence suggests that COVID-19 lockdowns in the country impacted the ability of women to report incidents or seek help through typical channels.<sup>645</sup> Minister Nkoana-Mashabane urged citizens to be part of the fight against GBVF.<sup>646</sup>

On 20 July 2021, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Nomalungelo Gina acknowledged the virtual launch of the Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry Policy report.<sup>647</sup> The report is part of the Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry” programme, a joint collaboration between the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, United Nations Women and the German government.<sup>648</sup> The goal of the report is to assist policymakers in adopting and implementing a framework to integrate gender into the green industry policies and encourage women into the green industry.<sup>649</sup>

On 20 July 2021, President Ramaphosa convened a virtual meeting of government and business leaders to discuss priorities for economic recovery.<sup>650</sup> The business leaders in attendance included

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<sup>642</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts virtual "backchat" session in celebration of Youth Month, 24 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-virtual-backchat-session-celebration-youth-month-23-jun>

<sup>643</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela hosts virtual "backchat" session in celebration of Youth Month, 24 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-hosts-virtual-backchat-session-celebration-youth-month-23-jun>

<sup>644</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renews calls to end gender-based violence and femicide, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-renews-calls-end-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-12-jul>

<sup>645</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renews calls to end gender-based violence and femicide, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-renews-calls-end-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-12-jul>

<sup>646</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane renews calls to end gender-based violence and femicide, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-renews-calls-end-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-12-jul>

<sup>647</sup> Deputy Minister Gina welcomes report on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/deputy-minister-gina-welcomes-report-on-empowerment-of-women-in-the-green-industry/?hilitte=%27empowerment%27%2C%27women%27>

<sup>648</sup> Deputy Minister Gina welcomes report on Empowerment of Women in the Green Industry, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/deputy-minister-gina-welcomes-report-on-empowerment-of-women-in-the-green-industry/?hilitte=%27empowerment%27%2C%27women%27>

<sup>649</sup>How can more women power the transition to green industry?, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/how-can-more-women-power-transition-green-industry>

<sup>650</sup> Government and business leaders agree on priorities for economic recovery, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/government-and-business-leaders-agree-priorities-economic-recovery>

those that were affected by the civil unrest that occurred in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.<sup>651</sup> Discussions in the meeting included steps to help small businesses claim insurance and access support, as well as suggestions for long term inclusive economic growth.<sup>652</sup>

On 29 July 2021, Deputy Minister Manamela held a Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment.<sup>653</sup> The session included a diverse panel including ministers, CEOs, and project managers.<sup>654</sup> The session aimed to develop practical solutions to youth unemployment and to improve youth skills.<sup>655</sup>

On 30 July 2021, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane virtually launched Women's Month 2021.<sup>656</sup> This year's Women's Month was themed "The year of Charlotte Maxeke: Realizing Women's Rights" to further commemorate the 150 year birth anniversary of Charlotte Manna Maxeke.<sup>657</sup> The goal of observing Women's Month is to end gender discrimination, confront the challenges faced by women, improve rights for women, acknowledge the achievements made by women role models, and guide women away from poverty and toward generational wealth.<sup>658</sup>

On 9 August 2021, President Ramaphosa celebrated National Women's Day.<sup>659</sup> President Ramaphosa announced the release of the one-year progress report of the National Strategic Plan which aims to end gender-based violence and femicide.<sup>660</sup> Since its implementation, the plan has

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<sup>651</sup> Government and business leaders agree on priorities for economic recovery, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/government-and-business-leaders-agree-priorities-economic-recovery>

<sup>652</sup> Government and business leaders agree on priorities for economic recovery, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/government-and-business-leaders-agree-priorities-economic-recovery>

<sup>653</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela holds Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-holds-backchat-session-youth-skills-and-unemployment-29-jul>

<sup>654</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela holds Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-holds-backchat-session-youth-skills-and-unemployment-29-jul>

<sup>655</sup> Deputy Minister Buti Manamela holds Backchat Session on youth skills and unemployment, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-holds-backchat-session-youth-skills-and-unemployment-29-jul>

<sup>656</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>657</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane: Launch of Women's Month, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launch-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>658</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane launches Women's Month, 30 Jul, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-maite-nkoana-mashabane-launches-women%E2%80%99s-month-30-jul-29-jul-2021-0000>

<sup>659</sup> Message from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of women's day, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/message-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-women%E2%80%99s-day%2C-9-august-2021>

<sup>660</sup> Message from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of women's day, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/message-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-women%E2%80%99s-day%2C-9-august-2021>

helped to train approximately 3500 Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences investigating officers and improve legislation to protect victims of domestic violence.<sup>661</sup>

On 17 August 2021, the Department of Trade Industry and Competition and J.P. Morgan announced a new fund to assist small and medium South African business in the manufacturing and green sectors.<sup>662</sup> The program launched by Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel and Senior Country Officer of J.P. Morgan South Africa Kevin Latter offers ZAR340 million in financing support to qualifying businesses over an eight-year period.<sup>663</sup>

On 25 August 2021, Minister for the Public Service and Administration Ayanda Dlodlo invited public servants to enrol in a four-week, online course offered by the National School of Government to improve their policy drafting skills.<sup>664</sup> The course focuses on the Socio Economic Impact Assessment System which aims to improve the quality of legislation.<sup>665</sup> The course targets government officials and public office bearers at the national, provincial, and local level.<sup>666</sup>

On 30 August 2021, the Government Communication and Information System's International Media Engagement hosted a webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality.<sup>667</sup> The event focused on providing a platform for women across sectors to speak under the banner of "What Women Want."<sup>668</sup> The goal of the event was to allow the media and various stakeholders to have a conversation on empowering women and gender equality in order to achieve inclusive growth.<sup>669</sup>

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<sup>661</sup> Message from President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of women's day, The Presidency (Pretoria) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/message-president-cyril-ramaphosa-occasion-women%E2%80%99s-day%2C-9-august-2021>

<sup>662</sup> The dtic and J.P. Morgan Announce First Equity Equivalent Investment Programme, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/the-dtic-and-j-p-morgan-announce-first-equity-equivalent-investment-programme/?hilite=%27morgan%27>

<sup>663</sup> The dtic and J.P. Morgan Announce First Equity Equivalent Investment Programme, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (Pretoria) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/the-dtic-and-j-p-morgan-announce-first-equity-equivalent-investment-programme/?hilite=%27morgan%27>

<sup>664</sup> Minister Dlodlo invites public servants to sharpen their policy making skills through NSG Course, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ayanda-dlodlo-invites-public-servants-sharpen-their-policy-making-skills-through>

<sup>665</sup> Minister Dlodlo invites public servants to sharpen their policy making skills through NSG Course, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ayanda-dlodlo-invites-public-servants-sharpen-their-policy-making-skills-through>

<sup>666</sup> Minister Dlodlo invites public servants to sharpen their policy making skills through NSG Course, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ayanda-dlodlo-invites-public-servants-sharpen-their-policy-making-skills-through>

<sup>667</sup> Government hosts Africa's Webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-hosts-africa%E2%80%99s-webinar-informing-empowering-women-and-enhancing>

<sup>668</sup> Government hosts Africa's Webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-hosts-africa%E2%80%99s-webinar-informing-empowering-women-and-enhancing>

<sup>669</sup> Government hosts Africa's Webinar on Informing, Empowering Women and Enhancing Gender Equality, Government Communication and Information System (Pretoria) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.gcis.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-hosts-africa%E2%80%99s-webinar-informing-empowering-women-and-enhancing>

On 31 August 2021, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe launched the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy.<sup>670</sup> The strategy is built on four pillars that prioritize creating an environment for policy-making, equal opportunity, gender mainstreaming, and ensuring a barrier-free workplace.<sup>671</sup> The goal of this strategy is to encourage women participants in the energy sector through equal rights, opportunities, and economic empowerment.<sup>672</sup> The strategy is planned to be implemented over a five year period.<sup>673</sup>

On 31 August 2021, the Department of Basic Education briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the progress of the Matric Second Chance Programme and on the training of science and mathematics teachers in targeted low performing districts.<sup>674</sup> The Matric Second Chance Programme, which was first piloted in January 2016, aims to increase participation and performance in the National Senior Certificate or Senior Certificate examinations and improve the access to resources for subjects with high enrolment.<sup>675</sup> This year, the programme was responsible for the establishment of 105 face-to-face support centres for high enrolment subjects.<sup>676</sup>

On 31 August 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that the Department of Higher Education and Training began creating the Scarce, Critical Skills and the Occupations in High Demand lists to facilitate programme offerings and student enrolments in Post-school Education and Training institutions.<sup>677</sup> The Skills Strategy is being finalized by the Department of Higher Education and Training, and the Innovation Strategy is being finalized by the Department of Science and

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<sup>670</sup> Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>671</sup> Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>672</sup> Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>673</sup> Launch of Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/pr/2021/Launch-of-Women-Empowerment-and-Gender-Equality-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>674</sup> Basic Education briefs portfolio committees on Matric Second Chance Programme and training of Mathematics and Science teachers in targeted districts, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-briefs-portfolio-committees-matric-second-chance-programme-and-training>

<sup>675</sup> Basic Education briefs portfolio committees on Matric Second Chance Programme and training of Mathematics and Science teachers in targeted districts, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-briefs-portfolio-committees-matric-second-chance-programme-and-training>

<sup>676</sup> Basic Education briefs portfolio committees on Matric Second Chance Programme and training of Mathematics and Science teachers in targeted districts, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-briefs-portfolio-committees-matric-second-chance-programme-and-training>

<sup>677</sup> Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation statement on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Advisory%20and%20Statements%202021/STATEMENT%20ON%20SCARCE,%20CRITICAL%20SKILLS%20AND%20ALIGNMENT%20ON%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

Innovation.<sup>678</sup> Placements for graduates are being planned for an easy transition into the workforce and assist with the work experience required for permanent employment.<sup>679</sup>

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

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Rebecca Jones*

### **Turkey: +1**

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

On October 8, 2020, Turkey introduced the “My Digital Job Project,” to be run from January 2020 to June 2021 by the Turkish Vodafone Foundation and Turkish Occupation Institution.<sup>680</sup> The aim of the project is to increase the literacy and digital vocational competencies of women to increase their employability through training in digital and technology education as well as boosting social media and marketing literacy skills.<sup>681</sup>

On 28 January 2021, Youth and Sports Minister Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoglu met with Sivas Mayor Hilmi Bilgin, Sivas Governor Salih Ayhan and others to discuss protocols regarding youth and sports investment.<sup>682</sup> Kasapoglu said, “Our youth investments show a serious development all over our country. We have to move higher within the framework of the cooperation I have just mentioned. We strengthen this with investments. so far, there is a youth and sports investment of over TRY1 billion.”<sup>683</sup>

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<sup>678</sup> Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation statement on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Advisory%20and%20Statements%202021/STATEMENT%20ON%20SCARCE,%20CRITICAL%20SKILLS%20AND%20ALIGNMENT%20ON%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

<sup>679</sup> Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation statement on scarce, critical skills and the alignment of curriculum for skills development and job creation, Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Media%20Advisory%20and%20Statements%202021/STATEMENT%20ON%20SCARCE,%20CRITICAL%20SKILLS%20AND%20ALIGNMENT%20ON%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

<sup>680</sup> National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en)

<sup>681</sup> National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en)

<sup>682</sup> Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

<sup>683</sup> Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a memorandum with secondary education institutions to provide 100 per cent scholarship opportunities to national athletes.<sup>684</sup> Minister Kasapoglu remarked that this agreement paves the way for free education of and offers youth both a sporting and an academic career.<sup>685</sup> He added that the goal going forward is to implement this practice in all levels of education.<sup>686</sup>

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology announced it would support 30,000 entrepreneurs and 132 SMEs “to improve their knowledge and skills in starting and running a business” by assisting them in opening up to international markets and facilitating production and manufacturing.<sup>687</sup>

On 3 April 2021, Minister of Family, Labor and Social Services Zehra Selçuk announced that the “Turkey’s Daughters Engineer Project” has reached 22,500 high school students.<sup>688</sup> She said, “we launched in support of girls who want to be engineers’ Turkey’s Project Engineer in the form of two daughters are continuing program, including high school and college.” According to the program, 150 volunteer teachers will introduce Engineering activities to female students through training, games, virtual reality and role model meetings.

On 4 April 2021, Minister Kasapoğlu delivered remarks at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Young Businessmen Congress, noting that “Today, young entrepreneurs are the locomotive of the world economy.”<sup>689</sup> Minister Kasapoğlu outlined several initiatives Turkey has implemented, including providing “comprehensive services to young people in all fields, with workshops [for] coding, robotics, software studies and support for initiative project,” through “youth centers, youth camps, academies and youth clubs.”<sup>690</sup>

On 6 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced that the Female Entrepreneurship Rate had increased to 19.3 per cent upwards from 15 per cent as of the last count.<sup>691</sup> Through the establishment of “women’s cooperatives” that take into account Turkey’s cultural and religious values, approximately 216 thousand women were involved, with plans to expand the number of cooperatives across the

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<sup>684</sup> Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

<sup>685</sup> Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

<sup>686</sup> Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

<sup>687</sup> KOSGEB Will Support 30 Thousand Entrepreneurs This Year, KOSGEB (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.kosgeb.gov.tr/site/tr/genel/detay/7745/kosgeb-bu-yil-30-bin-girisimciyi-destekleyecek>

<sup>688</sup> Selçuk Minister: “Turkey’s Daughters Project Engineer 22,500 75 high school students Reaching”, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 3 April 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/tr-tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-turkiye-nin-muhendis-kizlari-projesi-ile-75-lisede-22-500-ogrenciye-ulastik/>

<sup>689</sup> Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

<sup>690</sup> Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

<sup>691</sup> Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

country over the coming year through the novel “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives.”<sup>692</sup>

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced the implementation of the “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives,” aiming “to provide awareness training to eight thousand people in order to increase women’s employment and strengthen women’s cooperatives.” Approximately 3,500 cooperatives are expected to be established in conjunction with non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, unions and universities, along with new provisions for consultant groups for women’s entrepreneurship.<sup>693</sup>

On 15 June 2021, Minister of Family and Social Services Derya Yanık announced the appointment of 890 young people trained under the state to public institutions and organizations.<sup>694</sup> The selection process which began in May added to the approximately 55 thousand young people already appointed so far.<sup>695</sup> He said, “The future of Turkey is entrusted to our youth. Our young people are ready for duty and responsibility to ensure that our services are delivered to all of Turkey.”<sup>696</sup> During the appointment ceremony he added, “You are unique for us in two respects. First, because you are our beacon of hope that will carry the country into the future and build its future, and secondly, because you are an example to your brothers in institutions and organizations, and to all young people of Turkey.”<sup>697</sup>

On 21 June 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security announced that it will provide occupational health and safety training to 10,000 mining workers within the scope of the Project for the Improvement of Occupational Health and Safety in Mining.<sup>698</sup> In accordance to the project, financial resources are provided to underground coal and metal mines and to other dangerous classes.<sup>699</sup> These training seminars will be held in places where mining enterprises are present or where workers usually reside.<sup>700</sup>

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<sup>692</sup> Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

<sup>693</sup> Minister Selçuk: “We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People to Increase Female Employment,” Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

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

<sup>694</sup> Minister Yanık: “We will employ 890 children who were brought up under state protection in the public sector,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-yanik-devlet-korumasinda-yetismis-890-evladimizi-kamuda-istihdam-edecegiz/>

<sup>695</sup> Minister Yanık: “We will employ 890 children who were brought up under state protection in the public sector,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-yanik-devlet-korumasinda-yetismis-890-evladimizi-kamuda-istihdam-edecegiz/>

<sup>696</sup> Minister Yanık: “We will employ 890 children who were brought up under state protection in the public sector,” Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-yanik-devlet-korumasinda-yetismis-890-evladimizi-kamuda-istihdam-edecegiz/>

<sup>697</sup> 890 Young People under State Protection were Appointed to Public Institutions and Organizations, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021.

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/devlet-korumasindaki-890-gencin-kamu-kurum-ve-kuruluslarina-atamasi-yapildi/>

<sup>698</sup> Our Ministry Will Provide OHS Training to Mining Workers, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ankara) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/haberler/bakanligimiz-maden-calisanlarina-isg-egitimi-verecek/>

<sup>699</sup> Our Ministry Will Provide OHS Training to Mining Workers, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ankara) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/haberler/bakanligimiz-maden-calisanlarina-isg-egitimi-verecek/>

<sup>700</sup> Our Ministry Will Provide OHS Training to Mining Workers, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (Ankara) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.csgb.gov.tr/haberler/bakanligimiz-maden-calisanlarina-isg-egitimi-verecek/>

On 25 June 2021, the Ministry of Family and Social Services issued a press release to show continued support for young people and women to participate in business life.<sup>701</sup> The ministry stressed that it would continue to aid women who receive services in shelters so that they can gain knowledge and skills to take on more qualified jobs.<sup>702</sup> The ministry reiterated that with the help of ISKUR, online job club trainings have been provisioned. As of May 2021, 860 women attended these training sessions.<sup>703</sup>

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

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Simran Arulraj, Malhaar Moharir and Srijan Sabu*

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

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

On 8 February 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions increased the number of “retraining places on the Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) to 80,000 for the next financial year – building on the 40,000 already successfully delivered over the last eight months.”<sup>704</sup> The program is a six-week program which enables participants to “learn new skills, gain hands-on work experience and build their contacts in a new line of work.”<sup>705</sup> At the end of the program, “every SWAP participant is guaranteed an interview at the end of their course for a live job vacancy.”<sup>706</sup>

On 10 February 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced the Assistive Technology Impact Fund funded through UK Aid and led by the Global Disability

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<sup>701</sup> Women Stand on Their Feet with Job Club Trainings in Women's Shelter, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kadin-konukevlerinde-is-kulubu-egitimleri-ile-kadinlar-kendi-ayaklari-uzerinde-duruyor/>

<sup>702</sup> Women Stand on Their Feet with Job Club Trainings in Women's Shelter, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kadin-konukevlerinde-is-kulubu-egitimleri-ile-kadinlar-kendi-ayaklari-uzerinde-duruyor/>

<sup>703</sup> Women Stand on Their Feet with Job Club Trainings in Women's Shelter, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 10 August 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/kadin-konukevlerinde-is-kulubu-egitimleri-ile-kadinlar-kendi-ayaklari-uzerinde-duruyor/>

<sup>704</sup> Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

<sup>705</sup> Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

<sup>706</sup> Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

Innovation Hub.<sup>707</sup> Over five years, the fund will Assistive Technology ventures in Africa with up to GBP200,000 in grant capital, enabling “innovative technology solutions to better reach people with disabilities in Africa.”<sup>708</sup>

On 10 February 2021, UK Aid provided 14 charities based in the UK with Small Charities Challenge Fund grants of up to GBP50,000.<sup>709</sup> These grants will support projects that support disability inclusion, education, health, and prosperity in 10 developing countries across Africa and Asia.<sup>710</sup>

On 11 February 2021, the UK and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove announced GBP20 million in funding for the SME Brexit Support Fund.<sup>711</sup> The new fund will “support businesses prepare for the new import controls coming into force from April and July.”<sup>712</sup> Chancellor Gove stated that the “new targeted funding will see small businesses get more of the practical support they need to adjust to the new processes and prepare for future changes.”<sup>713</sup>

On 3 March 2021, the United Kingdom announced as part of its 2021 budget a new UK-wide program to upskill over 30,000 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) over 3 years and will be 90 per cent subsidized by the government.<sup>714</sup> Furthermore, the government announced it will launch a new initiative to help 100,000 SMEs save time and money by adopting productivity-enhancing software, featuring a combined voucher of GBP5,000 that covers up to half the costs of software.<sup>715</sup>

On 3 March 2021, the UK published the 2021 budget which expands and increases “the intensive support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain to young jobseekers, providing a guaranteed foundation of support to all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit.”<sup>716</sup>

On 11 March 2021, Deputy Head of the UK Delegation to the Organization for Safety and Cooperation in Europe Nicola Murray stated that empowering “women and girls, and preventing violence against them, is a UK priority.”<sup>717</sup> She reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to “to ensuring

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<sup>707</sup> Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

<sup>708</sup> Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

<sup>709</sup> 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

<sup>710</sup> 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

<sup>711</sup> Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

<sup>712</sup> Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

<sup>713</sup> Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

<sup>714</sup> Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

<sup>715</sup> Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

<sup>716</sup> Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

<sup>717</sup> International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

every girl receives at least 12 years of quality education, and to ending the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030.”<sup>718</sup> She stated that, during the UK’s COP26 presidency, they would “champion diversity,” encouraging other countries in “stepping up their commitments to center gender equality in climate action and finance.”<sup>719</sup>

On 19 March 2021, the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Support launched a GBP5 billion government infrastructure project to build Gigabit broadband that will support high growth tech sectors, creative industries, and job creation across rural areas.<sup>720</sup> Additionally, the government launched GBP210 million in speed increasing vouchers and GBP110m to connect up to 7,000 rural public buildings such as GP surgeries, libraries and schools.<sup>721</sup>

On 19 March 2021, the Department of Education announced the awarding of over GBP500,000 “to expand successful work programs to help more people gain in demand sector-specific skills.”<sup>722</sup> The money will be directed towards two regions to “expand the delivery of the successful construction skills bootcamps,” which “offer free, flexible courses lasting up to 16 weeks covering areas including construction, digital and technical.”<sup>723</sup> Minister for Apprenticeships Gillian Keegan said “Skills bootcamps are unique, giving people the chance to upskill or retrain for free over a short period of time, with a clear line of sight to a job at the end.”<sup>724</sup>

On 25 March 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women, Elizabeth Rose Berridge spoke of the appointment of Helen Grant to the role of Special Envoy on Girl’s Education, in which she will “champion the UK’s global expertise on education and secure backing for ambitious initiatives to achieve our global objectives.”<sup>725</sup> Furthermore, she announced that in the capacity of the 2021 UN climate change conference (COP26) host, the UK will host a conference that “advances gender-responsive climate action and finance” and “will amplify the voices of women, girls and marginalized people and empower them to act as decision-makers, advocates and leaders.”<sup>726</sup>

On 26 March 2021, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick and Minister for Housing and Rough Sleeping Eddie Hughes announced the next phase of a GBP165 million program for vulnerable families, now

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<sup>718</sup> International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

<sup>719</sup> International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

<sup>720</sup> Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

<sup>721</sup> Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

<sup>722</sup> Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

<sup>723</sup> Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

<sup>724</sup> Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

<sup>725</sup> Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

<sup>726</sup> Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

known as the Supporting Families program.<sup>727</sup> The program has supported over 400,000 vulnerable families in the United Kingdom, including supporting people leaving abusive relationships, ensuring people with mental health issues get the support they need and helping people find employment through a “whole family” approach.<sup>728</sup> The new phase will provide more funding to tackle the UK’s “moral mission to tackle intergenerational unemployment, crime, domestic abuse and family breakdown.”<sup>729</sup>

On 8 April 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Mims Davies announced that the Department would recruit “an extra 150 specialist Youth Employability Coaches across the UK,” enabling thousands of more young people to “benefit from six-month intensive employment support packages.”<sup>730</sup> Youth Employability Coaches “are specially trained to support young jobseekers facing significant barriers to get on the first rung of the jobs ladder.”<sup>731</sup>

On 9 April 2021, Minister for the School System Vicky Berridge announced that children “with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or requiring alternative provision in England will benefit from” a GBP280 million investment.<sup>732</sup> She stated that “Every child or young person with SEND should go to school feeling confident that they will get the tailored support they need at school, and every teacher should be equipped with the right facilities to teach those pupils.”<sup>733</sup>

On 29 April 2021, the Trade Act was granted Royal Assent and officially became law, which “bestows powers necessary to bring new trade deals into being” and “allows the UK to put the agreements it strikes as a newly independent 21-century trading nation on to the statute books.”<sup>734</sup> The new law allows for “British householders’ and businesses’ interests to be put first in future agreements” and “will provide a platform for UK businesses to access new fast-growing markets, which in turn will help create jobs, encourage investment and aid the recovery from COVID-19.”<sup>735</sup>

On 11 May 2021, the UK unveiled its new legislative programme in the Queen’s Speech, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighting reforms that will support the nation’s recovery from the

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<sup>727</sup> Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

<sup>728</sup> Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

<sup>729</sup> Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

<sup>730</sup> Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

<sup>731</sup> Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

<sup>732</sup> £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

<sup>733</sup> £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

<sup>734</sup> Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

<sup>735</sup> Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

pandemic, building on the progress made so far to level up the country and ensure equal opportunities for all.<sup>736</sup> The Prime Minister’s Lifetime Skills Guarantee will create a post-16 and adult education and training system that will provide the skills that people need for well-paid jobs and opportunities to train throughout their lifetime.<sup>737</sup> The legislative measures include the creation of a new student finance system that will give every adult access to a flexible loan for higher-level education and training, useable at any point in their lives.<sup>738</sup> They also include the creation of a statutory role for employers in planning publicly-funded training programmes with education providers, through a “Skills Accelerator” programme.<sup>739</sup> Furthermore, the Secretary of State for Education will be given more powers to intervene in colleges that fail to meet local needs, and to direct structural change where needed to ensure the provider improves.<sup>740</sup>

On 18 June 2021, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Gillian Keegan announced more support for further professional development for further education teaching staff. This support is worth GBP9.5 million in total and will allow further education teachers to continue to deliver top class education and training to young people and adults. Minister Keegan stated that the United Kingdom is “transforming further and technical education so everyone has the opportunity to gain the skills they need to succeed.”<sup>741</sup>

On 15 July 2021, the Defence and Security Accelerator, Ministry of Defense, and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory awarded contracts worth GBP2 million to three small and medium-sized businesses.<sup>742</sup>

On 15 July 2021, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced further measures to boost the nation’s skills, level up opportunities, and get more people into better paid jobs.<sup>743</sup> The United Kingdom’s Skills Bootcamp training programs will be expanded across the country, offering an extra

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<sup>736</sup> Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

<sup>737</sup> Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

<sup>738</sup> Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

<sup>739</sup> Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

<sup>740</sup> Prime Minister to revolutionise skills and training opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 5 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>

<sup>741</sup> More support for further education teachers to develop, Department for Education and Gillian Keegan MP (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 21 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-further-education-teachers-to-develop>

<sup>742</sup> £2 million in contracts awarded to enhance Army Engineers with autonomous wet gap survey systems, Defense and Security Accelerator, Ministry of Defence, and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-million-in-contracts-awarded-to-enhance-army-engineers-with-autonomous-wet-gap-survey-systems>

<sup>743</sup> Skills training boosted across the country, Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

16,000 fully funded places for adults to upskill or retrain.<sup>744</sup> The expansion covers a range of digital and technical training including in green skills along with coding and software development.<sup>745</sup>

On 1 September 2021, the Prime Minister's Office announced that "Operation Warm Welcome" is well underway to ensure that the Afghan refugees have the resources to rebuild their lives.<sup>746</sup> As part of the initiative, approximately GBP12 million has been made available to ensure school places for the refugee children.<sup>747</sup> Additionally, funding is promised for about 300 post-secondary scholarships for Afghan youths at UK universities.<sup>748</sup>

On 6 September 2021, the Department of Education announced the introduction of a new program that would train up to 2000 early years practitioners and teachers in improving their abilities to transfer language, numeracy, social, emotional and personal skills to pre-school children.<sup>749</sup> The department has pledged a further GBP10 million to the previously assigned GBP20 million program.<sup>750</sup> Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford said, "This programme will play a central role in equipping our important early years staff with the high-quality training they deserve, so that they can support children at the very beginning of their education."<sup>751</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through new domestic job and upskilling opportunities for youth, extensive financial support and initiatives to increase the competitiveness of UK SMEs in the global economy, and its promotion of gender equality policies in the workforce domestically and internationally, the UK has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

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

*Analyst: Derek Thiele*

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<sup>744</sup> Skills training boosted across the country, Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

<sup>745</sup> Skills training boosted across the country, Department for Education and The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE (London) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-training-boosted-across-the-country>

<sup>746</sup> Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, Home Office (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

<sup>747</sup> Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, Home Office (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

<sup>748</sup> Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK, Home Office (London) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

<sup>749</sup> Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Department for Education (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

<sup>750</sup> Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Department for Education (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

<sup>751</sup> Targeted training for staff to teach early language and numeracy skills, Department for Education (London) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/targeted-training-for-staff-to-teach-early-language-and-numeracy-skills>

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

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

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden announced the American Rescue Plan.<sup>752</sup> Part of this plan allocates USD10 billion to state and tribal governments which will be used to fund small business credit expansion initiatives.<sup>753</sup> The plan also includes support for businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people, as well as support for businesses with fewer than 10 employees.<sup>754</sup> In addition, the American Rescue Plan outlines an expansion of the Child Tax Credit aimed at reducing child poverty.<sup>755</sup>

On 9 February 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced the second extension of a rule to allow certain bank directors and shareholders to apply to their banks for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for their small businesses.<sup>756</sup> This extension aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.<sup>757</sup>

On 17 February 2021, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with a group of labor leaders to discuss the American Rescue Plan and President Biden's plan for infrastructure. At this meeting, President Biden endorsed Congressman Bobby Scott's bipartisan National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 to expand registered apprenticeships which is estimated to create nearly one million apprenticeship opportunities.<sup>758</sup> President Biden also planned to reinstate the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships which appoints diverse stakeholders to develop registered apprenticeships in all communities.<sup>759</sup> Finally, President Biden rescinded Executive Order 13801 to

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<sup>752</sup> President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, The White House (Washington) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>

<sup>753</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

<sup>754</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

<sup>755</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

<sup>756</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

<sup>757</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

<sup>758</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

<sup>759</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

reverse industry-recognized apprenticeship programs, which is claimed to have fewer quality standards than registered apprenticeship programs.<sup>760</sup>

On 18 February 2021, Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice and White House Public Engagement Director and Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond hosted a virtual meeting with various youth advocates to discuss community violence prevention.<sup>761</sup> The discussion prioritized having youth present for violence prevention policy making in their communities.<sup>762</sup>

On 22 February 2021, President Biden announced further changes to the PPP.<sup>763</sup> Among these changes were a 14-day PPP loan application period exclusively for small business and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees, removal of barriers to apply for these loans and ease of access to forgivable loans for one person businesses.<sup>764</sup>

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau outlined the Roadmap for a renewed partnership between the United States and Canada.<sup>765</sup> The Roadmap outlined the general joint efforts of the United States and Canada including action to combat COVID-19 and accelerate economic recovery for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), develop sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and underrepresented groups, and advance diversity and inclusion to promote gender equality and women empowerment.<sup>766</sup>

On 17 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD25 million for grants to “provide education and employment training to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who left high school before graduation, or are currently or have been involved previously with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system.”<sup>767</sup> The Young Adult Reentry Partnership Grants would “support partnerships with community colleges, the criminal justice system and employers, employer associations, unions providing training, or labor-management partnerships and focus on occupations”

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<sup>760</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

<sup>761</sup> Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

<sup>762</sup> Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

<sup>763</sup> Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

<sup>764</sup> Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

<sup>765</sup> Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington, DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

<sup>766</sup> Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

<sup>767</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

to offer apprenticeships, accelerated learning and work-specific skills training.”<sup>768</sup> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Suzi LeVine highlighted that business partners associated with these programs “will create the best possible pathways for participants to succeed.”<sup>769</sup>

On 18 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD87.5 million for grants to expand apprenticeship programs across the state, “with up to [USD40] million of those funds in grants awarded to states that implement required diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.”<sup>770</sup>

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD31 million in funding to “support the expansion and modernization of technical assistance” for apprenticeships programs.<sup>771</sup> Specifically, the funding would go towards establishing Registered Apprenticeship Technical Centers of Excellence” and focus on diversity and inclusion as well as forging strategic partnerships with local and national stakeholders.<sup>772</sup>

On 24 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 24 March 2021 as National Equal Pay Day.<sup>773</sup> National Equal Pay Day aims to acknowledge the value of women’s skills and their contributions to the labor force.<sup>774</sup> President Biden stated that he and Vice President Harris are committed to building back the economy better for everyone and recognizes the role that equal pay plays in this goal.<sup>775</sup>

On 31 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 31 March 2021 as Transgender Day of Visibility.<sup>776</sup> Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the importance of full equality for all transgender people.<sup>777</sup>

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<sup>768</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$25M in funding to support education, employment training for workforce entry by justice-involved young adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

<sup>769</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

<sup>770</sup> US Department of Labor announces availability of \$87.5M in Funding to states to expand, diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210318-0>

<sup>771</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>

<sup>772</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>

<sup>773</sup> A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

<sup>774</sup> A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

<sup>775</sup> A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

<sup>776</sup> A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

<sup>777</sup> A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

President Joe Biden urged for the passing of the Equality Act and that Federal civil rights protections be provided on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.<sup>778</sup>

On 31 March 2021, President Biden released the American Jobs Plan.<sup>779</sup> The American Jobs Plan aims to create jobs and improve the country's infrastructure by investing in transportation infrastructure, rebuilding drinking water infrastructure, modernizing schools, residential, commercial and federal buildings, raising wages and benefits for homecare workers, investing in innovation to stimulate American manufacturing, creating union jobs and upskilling workers.<sup>780</sup> The plan also aims to help small businesses by improving access to federal contracts and investing over USD110 billion in financing and technical assistance programs.<sup>781</sup> Part of the plan also includes an investment of USD5 billion in evidence-based community violence intervention programs over eight years to train at-risk individuals for jobs.<sup>782</sup>

On 15 April 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act.<sup>783</sup> The goals of the Paycheck Fairness Act are to “[address] wage gaps by closing loopholes that have allowed employers to justify gender pay disparities, [strengthen] provisions for holding employers accountable for systemic pay discrimination [and help] level the playing field for women and people of color by making it easier for workers to challenge pay disparities as a group.”<sup>784</sup> President Biden urged the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to meet these goals.<sup>785</sup>

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in funding to increase the number of women in its apprenticeships programs and better facilitate their inclusion in “nontraditional” occupations including “manufacturing, infrastructure, cybersecurity and healthcare industries.”<sup>786</sup>

On 28 April 2021, President Biden announced the American Families Plan.<sup>787</sup> The American Families Plan aims to make education more affordable, provide economic security for families and expand tax

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<sup>778</sup> A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

<sup>779</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

<sup>780</sup> American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-jobs-plan/>

<sup>781</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Supports Small Businesses, The White House (Washington) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/13/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-supports-small-businesses/>

<sup>782</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Will Support Women's Employment, The White House (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/21/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-will-support-womens-employment/>

<sup>783</sup> Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

<sup>784</sup> Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

<sup>785</sup> Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

<sup>786</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$3.5M funding opportunity to place more women in Registered Apprenticeships, nontraditional occupations, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>.

<sup>787</sup> Fact Sheet: The American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan/>

credits to help families and workers.<sup>788</sup> The plan includes free universal preschool to three-year-old and four-year-old children, two free years of community college and over USD80 billion invested in the Pell Grant award for students.<sup>789</sup>

On 7 May 2021, President Biden proclaimed the week of 9 to 15 May 2021 as National Women's Health Week.<sup>790</sup> The theme of the week was "Ending the Pandemic and Elevating Women's Health" to encourage vaccinations in order to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden announced increased access to COVID-19 vaccines and an expansion of the vaccine eligibility.<sup>791</sup> President Biden also addressed the disparities in maternal health outcomes for women of color, and committed to building an equitable healthcare system for all women.<sup>792</sup>

On 13 May 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a plan to invest USD7 billion from the American Rescue Plan which will be used to hire and train healthcare workers in response to COVID-19.<sup>793</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will use USD3 billion from the American Rescue Plan to modernize, expand and train the public health workforce.<sup>794</sup> The plan also includes an USD80 million investment by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to train public health professionals in order to improve public health data infrastructure.<sup>795</sup>

On 27 May 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris announced a Call to Action for businesses and social enterprises to promote economic activity in the Northern Triangle which consists of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in order to address the root cause of migration from this region.<sup>796</sup> As part of this call, Pro Mujer one of 12 businesses and organizations committed to supporting inclusive

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<sup>788</sup>American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-families-plan/>

<sup>789</sup> FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Will Support Children, Teachers, and Working Families in Rural America, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-will-support-children-teachers-and-working-families-in-rural-america/>

<sup>790</sup> A Proclamation on National Women's Health Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/a-proclamation-on-national-womens-health-week-2021/>

<sup>791</sup> A Proclamation on National Women's Health Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/a-proclamation-on-national-womens-health-week-2021/>

<sup>792</sup> A Proclamation on National Women's Health Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/a-proclamation-on-national-womens-health-week-2021/>

<sup>793</sup> FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

<sup>794</sup> FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

<sup>795</sup> FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

<sup>796</sup> FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

economic development in the Northern Triangle.<sup>797</sup> Part of Pro Mujer's efforts include providing capital, technical support and capacity building support to micro, small and medium Enterprises in the Northern Triangle.<sup>798</sup>

On 10 June 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD89 million through the YouthBuild program to provide pre-apprenticeship opportunities for youth where they will receive in-class education as well as on the job training in in-demand industries.<sup>799</sup> The program offers support to youth including mentoring, trauma-informed care, and personal counseling services.<sup>800</sup>

On 10 June 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD20 million to four grantee organizations through its Workforce Pathways for Youth program.<sup>801</sup> The funding will expand youth workforce development activities during non-school hours in various cities across the country.<sup>802</sup> The grantee organizations will provide support to youth including career exploration services, career counseling and work experience.<sup>803</sup>

On 15 June 2021, the US-EU Summit statement outlined the renewed transatlantic partnership between the US and EU.<sup>804</sup> One of the goals of the partnership is to strengthen trade, investment, and technological cooperation. To facilitate this goal, a high-level US-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was established.<sup>805</sup> The TTC will initially include working groups committed to promoting the access and use of digital technologies to SMEs.<sup>806</sup>

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<sup>797</sup> FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/27/fact-sheet-vice-president-harris-launches-a-call-to-action-to-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-the-northern-triangle/>

<sup>798</sup> FACT SHEET: Vice President Harris Launches a Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle, The White House (Washington) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

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<sup>799</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<sup>800</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<sup>801</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<sup>802</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<sup>803</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

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<sup>804</sup> U.S.-EU Summit Statement, The White House (Washington) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/>

<sup>805</sup> U.S.-EU Summit Statement, The White House (Washington) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/>

<sup>806</sup> U.S.-EU Summit Statement, The White House (Washington) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/u-s-eu-summit-statement/>

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On 23 June 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a comprehensive strategy to prevent gun violence and other violent crime.<sup>807</sup> One of the goals of the strategy is to expand summer programs, employment opportunities and support for youth to reduce their involvement in violent crime.<sup>808</sup>

On 29 June 2021, President Biden addressed the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Congressional Report.<sup>809</sup> The goal of the report is to empower women globally to ensure they are involved in decision-making processes and hold positions of leadership.<sup>810</sup> The report evaluates both the domestic and international progress made by the United States Government in promoting the WPS's four lines of effort which are participation in decision-making processes related to conflict and crises, protection, internal capabilities and partnership.<sup>811</sup> The Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Agency for International Development each submitted agency-specific Implementation Plans to assess the progress.<sup>812</sup>

On 3 September 2021, Gender Policy Council Co-Chairs Jennifer Klein and Julissa Reynoso, White House Counsel Dana Remus and Deputy White House Counsel Danielle Conley, Director of the Office of Political Strategy and Outreach Emmy Ruiz and Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council Christen Linke Young hosted a roundtable readout with women's rights and reproductive health leaders.<sup>813</sup> These leaders included President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America Alexis McGill Johnson, President of Catholics for Choice Jamie Mason and President and CEO of National Women's Law Center Fatima Goss Graves.<sup>814</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to discuss the ruling the Supreme Court's ruling of Texas' SB8 abortion law.<sup>815</sup> The discussion

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<sup>807</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<sup>808</sup> Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety, The White House (Washington) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<sup>809</sup> Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

<sup>810</sup> Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

<sup>811</sup> Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

<sup>812</sup> Statement by President Joseph Biden on the Women, Peace, and Security Report, The White House (Washington) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/01/statement-by-president-joseph-biden-on-the-women-peace-and-security-report/>

<sup>813</sup> Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

<sup>814</sup> Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

<sup>815</sup> Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women's Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

highlighted the potential impacts the law could have on racial equity, gender-based violence, and public health.<sup>816</sup>

On 10 September 2021, President Biden proclaimed the week of 12 to 18 September 2021 as National Small Business Week.<sup>817</sup> The week celebrates the importance of small business to the American economy and encourages continued support for them.<sup>818</sup> President Biden acknowledged the contributions that the American Rescue Plan, Paycheck Protection Program, and the Paycheck Protection Program have had on the success of small businesses during the pandemic.<sup>819</sup>

The United States has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the Memorandum on Protecting Women's Health at Home and Abroad, proposal of the American Rescue Plan, the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, the proclamation of numerous days of awareness and acknowledgement for women and youth and adjustments to the PPP, the United States has fully complied with its commitment to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

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

*Analysts: Rebecca Jones and Malhaar Mobarir*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament announced its blueprint for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the post-pandemic recovery.<sup>820</sup> The blueprint advocates for measures to help SMEs deal with the “twin challenges of digitalization and decarbonization.”<sup>821</sup> Furthermore, the report “highlights the need to update the European Commission’s SME strategy in the light of the COVID crisis while keeping the focus on advancing the transition toward a socially, economically, and environmentally resilient society and a competitive economy.”<sup>822</sup> Among the recommendations

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<sup>816</sup> Readout of White House Roundtable Meeting with Women’s Rights and Reproductive Health Leaders, The White House (Washington) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/03/readout-of-white-house-roundtable-meeting-with-womens-rights-and-reproductive-health-leaders/>

<sup>817</sup> A Proclamation on Small Business Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/10/a-proclamation-on-small-business-week-2021/>

<sup>818</sup> A Proclamation on Small Business Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/10/a-proclamation-on-small-business-week-2021/>

<sup>819</sup> A Proclamation on Small Business Week, 2021, The White House (Washington) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/10/a-proclamation-on-small-business-week-2021/>

<sup>820</sup> MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

<sup>821</sup> MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

<sup>822</sup> MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

included ensuring liquidity and funding for SMEs and developing initiatives to support SMEs in adopting new digital and e-commerce solutions.<sup>823</sup>

On 30 December 2020, the European Union's Delegation to Cambodia announced a joint investment with Germany and France to finance the development of rural infrastructure in Cambodia.<sup>824</sup> Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project received USD115 million to improve the road network in the country's central plains and construct complementary infrastructure in the drinking water and sanitation, agriculture, health and education sectors.<sup>825</sup> The EU Ambassador to Cambodia Carmen Moreno stated that a "better connectivity to access markets and services is key to reduce poverty and economic disparities as well as to create new job opportunities," particularly in the pandemic recovery process.<sup>826</sup>

On 18 February 2021, High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell convened the Global Tech Panel for the first time, bringing together diplomatic, technology, and civil society leaders together to "reflect on how to join forces to deal with the opportunities and risks that the world faces as it emerges from the pandemic."<sup>827</sup> The Panel will work together to "explore potential areas of engagement ranging from pandemic recovery to education and security to working with partners in Africa on digital transformation, among others."<sup>828</sup>

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>829</sup> The recommendation outlined a strategic action plan to transition from emergency economic measures to new measures to support a "job-rich recovery."<sup>830</sup> The Commission provided guidance to Member States on labour market policies, which includes three components: hiring incentives and entrepreneurial support, upskilling and reskilling opportunities and enhanced support by employment services, especially for youth and sectors most

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<sup>823</sup> MEP's blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

<sup>824</sup> European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en)

<sup>825</sup> European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en)

<sup>826</sup> European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en)

<sup>827</sup> Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en)

<sup>828</sup> Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. [https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en)

<sup>829</sup> Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_971](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971)

<sup>830</sup> Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_971](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971)

impacted.<sup>831</sup> The Commission calls on Member States “to make full use of support available at EU level.”<sup>832</sup>

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission affirmed their commitment to ensuring gender equality will “be at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery.”<sup>833</sup> The Commission announced that later in 2021, they will “present a new proposal to combat gender-based violence in the EU.”<sup>834</sup> Furthermore, the Commission published its 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, which reaffirmed the European Union’s commitment to its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and its new Gender Action Plan for 2021-2025.<sup>835</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the European Commission called on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce through the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition.<sup>836</sup> Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel stated “digitisation is transforming the way we work and leave. It leads to the creation of new jobs, requiring new digital skills. Most of the time, however, it makes traditional jobs more digital, requiring all workers to develop or improve their digital skills. We have to be active and to prepare ourselves for the requirements of the work of the future.”<sup>837</sup> The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition has opened a call for pledges specifically addressing re-skilling and upskilling workers.<sup>838</sup>

On 8 March 2021, the European Commission published the Interim Report of the Pilot Project on digital skills: New Professions, New Educational Methods, New Jobs which will design training solution in digital skills to upskill SMEs’ labour force.<sup>839</sup> The project will develop a structured programme for training of SME employees and the unemployed in digital skills required in the modern workplace.<sup>840</sup>

On 18 March 2021, the European Commission announced the launch of the European Innovation Council. The Council will have a budget of EUR10 billion for 2021-2027 to “develop and expand

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<sup>831</sup> Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_971](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971)

<sup>832</sup> Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_971](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971)

<sup>833</sup> Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_21\\_890](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890)

<sup>834</sup> Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_21\\_890](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890)

<sup>835</sup> Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_21\\_890](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890)

<sup>836</sup> The European Commission calls on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2001](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001)

<sup>837</sup> The European Commission calls on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2001](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001)

<sup>838</sup> The European Commission calls on companies in all sectors to commit to upskill their workforce, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2001](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001)

<sup>839</sup> Upskilling Europe’s small businesses for the digital age, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/upskilling-europes-small-businesses-digital-age>

<sup>840</sup> Upskilling Europe’s small businesses for the digital age, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/upskilling-europes-small-businesses-digital-age>

breakthrough innovations.”<sup>841</sup> Executive Vice President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager stated that the European Union now has a fund “to support small and medium sized companies that do breakthrough innovation, access equity and scale up innovative start-ups.”<sup>842</sup> This is a way to convert research results into business and to develop visions for technological and innovation breakthroughs.”<sup>843</sup> European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said the Council is “Europe’s most ambitious initiative to support the breakthroughs Europe needs to recover from the economic crisis and accelerate the transition to a green and digital economy.”<sup>844</sup>

On 22 March 2021, the European Investment Bank announced that it will provide support for COVID-19 impacted SMEs in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná, in Brazil.<sup>845</sup> The new agreement will widen the eligibility criteria of the current EUR80 million Regional Development Bank of the Far South Climate Action Framework Loan to support and accelerate lending to private sector business.<sup>846</sup>

On 25 March 2021, the European Investment Bank announced that it has joined forces with Pravex Bank of Ukraine to enhance access to finance for SMEs affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the Ukraine.<sup>847</sup> The two organizations signed an EUR30 million credit line to support Ukrainian private sector businesses, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>848</sup>

On 25 March 2021, the European Commission adopted the first annual work program of Erasmus+ 2021-2027, which provides EUR26.2 billion to “fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million Europeans of all ages and backgrounds,” will “seek to be even more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions,” and will “support the resilience of education and

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<sup>841</sup> Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>842</sup> Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>843</sup> Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>844</sup> Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>845</sup> Brazil: EIB and BRDE support SMEs impacted by COVID-19, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 22 March 2021.

Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-099-eib-and-brde-support-smes-impacted-by-covid-19-in-brazil>

<sup>846</sup> Brazil: EIB and BRDE support SMEs impacted by COVID-19, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 22 March 2021.

Access Date: 10 July 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-099-eib-and-brde-support-smes-impacted-by-covid-19-in-brazil>

<sup>847</sup> Ukraine: EIB and PRAVEX BANK join forces to enhance access to finance for SMEs affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-107-eib-and-pravex-bank-join-forces-to-enhance-access-to-finance-for-ukrainian-smes-affected-by-the-economic-impact-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

<sup>848</sup> Ukraine: EIB and PRAVEX BANK join forces to enhance access to finance for SMEs affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 10 July 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-107-eib-and-pravex-bank-join-forces-to-enhance-access-to-finance-for-ukrainian-smes-affected-by-the-economic-impact-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

training systems in the face of the pandemic.”<sup>849</sup> The new program “provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport.”<sup>850</sup>

On 9 April 2021, the European Commission opened its first European Innovation Council (EIC) calls worth over EUR1 billion in funding.<sup>851</sup> The program includes EIC Accelerator funding which “aims to help scale up start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses that have the potential to achieve high impact,” with EUR495 million “earmarked for innovations that support the European Green Deal as well as digital and health technologies.”<sup>852</sup> Through the EIC Pathfinder, researchers can apply for “research and innovation grants” which range from EUR3 to 4 million.<sup>853</sup>

On 15 April 2021, the European Commission launched its first call for proposals under its new European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027, which “supports young people wishing to engage in volunteering activities in a variety of areas.”<sup>854</sup> The program has a dedicated budget of over EUR1 billion for 2021-2027 and will offer “opportunities to some 275,000 young people to help address societal and humanitarian challenges through volunteering or by setting up their own solidarity projects.”<sup>855</sup> One of the main political priorities the European Solidarity Corps supports is supporting “the digital transition through projects and activities that boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and develop understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.”<sup>856</sup>

On 28 April 2021, the European Union announced that the European Investment Fund and European Institute of Innovation of Technology (EIT) Digital will be teaming up to support the European Union’s digital transformation by offering “deferred payment schemes for students and learners participating in its courses, thus improving access to education.”<sup>857</sup> The new scheme is expected to benefit around 500 future EIT Digital students.<sup>858</sup> Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas said “The digital transition profoundly changes the way we

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<sup>849</sup> Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1326](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326)

<sup>850</sup> Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1326](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326)

<sup>851</sup> Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. [https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09\\_en](https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en)

<sup>852</sup> Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. [https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09\\_en](https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en)

<sup>853</sup> Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. [https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09\\_en](https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en)

<sup>854</sup> European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>855</sup> European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>856</sup> European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_1185](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185)

<sup>857</sup> European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2001](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001)

<sup>858</sup> European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2001](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001)

live, study and work. We must equip people with the right skills to master this transition and make the most out of the opportunities the future brings.”<sup>859</sup>

On 7 July 2021, Commissioner Gabriel held a dialogue on European education technology (EdTech).<sup>860</sup> The discussions were held to foster the growing the cooperation between the government and the EdTech sector.<sup>861</sup> An issue that was covered in these discussions as the need to boost teacher training in innovative methods.<sup>862</sup> It is understood that by working together, educational innovation will thrive.<sup>863</sup>

The European Union has taken strong action in all four areas of promoting increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for SMEs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. They have developed plans to support SMEs and create opportunities for youth and skills development, particularly in the areas of post-pandemic recovery, digital transformation, and tackling environmental challenges. They have developed plans to support gender equality and promote the role of women in the economy. They have given additional foreign aid to foster inclusive growth in other countries.

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

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<sup>859</sup> European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2001](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001)

<sup>860</sup> A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/commissioner-mariya-gabriel-european-education-technology\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/commissioner-mariya-gabriel-european-education-technology_en)  
<sup>861</sup> A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

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<sup>862</sup> A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

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<sup>863</sup> A structured dialogue on European education technology (EdTech) took place on 7 July 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

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