

9. Trade: Flow of Goods and Services

“Consistent with the needs of our citizens, we will work to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.”

Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19

Assessment

| | Lack of Compliance | Work in Progress | Full Compliance |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Argentina | | 0 | |
| Australia | | | +1 |
| Brazil | | 0 | |
| Canada | | | +1 |
| China | | | +1 |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| India | | 0 | |
| Indonesia | | 0 | |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| Korea | | | +1 |
| Mexico | | | +1 |
| Russia | | 0 | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | +1 |
| South Africa | | 0 | |
| Turkey | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | 0 | |
| United States | | 0 | |
| European Union | | 0 | |
| Overall Score | | +0.50 (75%) | |

Background

Since the first G20 summit in 2008, the G20 has shown strong support for free and fair trade. They consider international trade and investment to be engines of economic growth, job creation and development. At the 2010 Seoul Summit, the leaders focused on anti-protectionism following the global financial crisis of 2008.¹¹³⁶ Soon afterwards, the emphasis shifted towards trade liberalization and facilitation. The G20 has also shown strong support for the multilateral trading system and the successful completion of the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The failure of the Doha Round resulted in a rapid growth of bilateral and regional trade agreements. As a result, during the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit the leaders issued a separate document dedicated to trade, *Advancing Transparency in Regional Trade Agreements*, to ensure those agreements are WTO-consistent.¹¹³⁷ At the WTO members concluded negotiations at the 2013 Bali Ministerial

¹¹³⁶ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Seoul Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 7 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.pdf>.

¹¹³⁷ *Advancing Transparency in Regional Trade Agreements*, 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 6 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-rta.html>.

Conference on the landmark Trade Facilitation Agreement, which entered into force on 22 February 2017 following its ratification by two-thirds of the WTO membership.¹¹³⁸

In recent years, protectionism has been on the rise, including in G20 countries. An increase in protectionist policies and trade tensions caused shifts and disruptions in long established agreements, global value chains and trade routes. Although the G20 has been calling on its members to reject protectionism, at the G20 summit in Buenos Aires in 2018 the leaders could not come to a consensus on any of the trade issues, except for the reform of the WTO.¹¹³⁹ However, at the last G20 summit in Osaka in 2019, leaders stated that they “strive to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment, and to keep our markets open. International trade and investment are important engines of growth, productivity, innovation, job creation and development.”¹¹⁴⁰

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.¹¹⁴¹

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread around the world in early 2020, countries locked down their economies and closed borders, limiting trade to bare essential goods and services. The current global health crisis has already shown to have extensive and profound implications in all socioeconomic areas, including on international trade. The rise in protectionism around the world, frictions in the US-China trade relations and Brexit, have already destabilized the global economy. As the pandemic spread, ensuring safety and securing sufficient essential medical and other supplies for its citizens became an overarching priority for G20 and other world leaders. As borders closed, governments began to work on reorganizing their production and supply chains.

In response to the pandemic, on 26 March 2020, the G20 leaders met over videoconference for the Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit on COVID-19. The leaders committed to working with the WHO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, United Nations and other international organizations to overcome the pandemic. They pledged to “protect lives; safeguard people’s jobs and incomes; restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger; minimize disruptions to trade and global supply chains; provide help to all countries in need of assistance; [and] coordinate on public health and financial measures.”¹¹⁴²

Commitment Features

The G20 commitment is “consistent with the needs of our citizens, we will work to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.”

¹¹³⁸ Trade facilitation, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 April 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

¹¹³⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, Buenos Aires Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 5 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>.

¹¹⁴⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>.

¹¹⁴¹ WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 11 March 2020, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

¹¹⁴² Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>.

Definitions

“Citizens” is a member of a particular country or region, in this case G20 members, and who has certain legal rights.¹¹⁴³

“To ensure” is to make something certain to happen.¹¹⁴⁴

“Other goods and services” refer to “the products and services that are bought and sold in an economy.”¹¹⁴⁵

“Across borders” involves the movement or activity across a border between two or more countries.¹¹⁴⁶

Concepts

“Consistent with the needs of our citizens” is understood as the number of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services that are required by the member’s citizens for health and socioeconomic reasons given the circumstances.

“Work to” emphasizes the G20 members’ efforts to employ international diplomacy tools, “such as, drafting proposals, putting forth new ideas, encouraging new initiatives, etc.” to ensure that the flow of goods and services are not massively disrupted.¹¹⁴⁷

“The flow of” is interpreted as trade without new restrictions, making certain that all the goods and services mentioned are delivered as promised in a timely fashion without difficulties crossing borders. This includes facilitating timely transport of said goods by air, sea, or land freight, and ensuring that export restrictions are not imposed, or trade barriers are implemented that are contrary to WTO rules.

“Vital medical supplies” are understood as those medical supplies essential to fighting or protecting one from the COVID-19 virus. This includes for example personal protective equipment (e.g., face shields, masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles),¹¹⁴⁸ thermometers, ventilators, medication, testing kits, soap, disinfectants, oxygen masks, equipment for intensive care units, and medications.¹¹⁴⁹

“Critical agricultural products” refer to any products which are necessary for the continuance of food and agricultural systems. Therefore, critical agricultural products can represent anything from fertilizer and seed for farmers to nutritious products at the supermarkets for consumers.

¹¹⁴³ Citizen, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 8 May 2020.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/citizen>.

¹¹⁴⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹¹⁴⁵ Goods and services, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 8 May 2020.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/goods-and-services>.

¹¹⁴⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹¹⁴⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹¹⁴⁸ Medical devices: Personal protective equipment, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 25 April 2020. https://www.who.int/medical_devices/meddev_ppe/en/.

¹¹⁴⁹ First UN solidarity flight departs Addis Ababa carrying vital COVID-19 medical supplies to all African nations, World Health Organization (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/14-04-2020-first-un-solidarity-flight-departs-addis-ababa-carrying-vital-covid-19-medical-supplies-to-all-african-nations>.

General Interpretive Guidelines

The commitment is part of the longer sentence that reads as follows: “Consistent with the needs of our citizens, we will work to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders, and work to resolve disruptions to the global supply chains, to support the health and well-being of all people.”

The sentence shows that the G20 leaders remain committed to the health and well-being of all people, which is the core welfare target of the commitment. The G20 also recognizes that ensuring uninterrupted trade of the aforementioned goods and services are essential, although there are severe supply chain disruptions.

Thus, the commitment calls for continued flow across borders of 1) vital medical supplies; 2) critical agricultural products; and 3) other goods and services.

The first recognizes the importance of trade in vital medical supplies to combat the spread of the virus. As previously defined, these medical supplies can include supplies that are essential in fighting or protecting citizens, as well as those on the frontline, from the COVID-19 virus. This also includes other lifesaving medical supplies that may not be associated with fighting COVID-19.

The second includes critical agricultural products which refer to any products that are necessary for the continuance of food and agricultural systems. This does not only include finished food products but also fertilizers, seeds, and other essential materials that are necessary for ensuring the growth of critical agricultural products. It is essential to take into account the different circumstances faced in each G20 member and food products that are present in the global supply chain.

The third includes other goods and services previously defined as products and services that are bought and sold on the economy other than vital medical supplies or critical agricultural products.

The key component of this commitment is ensuring that the flow of these three areas of goods and services are steady given recent circumstances. In order to do so, individual G20 members can do the following, based on national requirements: expedite customs procedures to reduce processing times in accordance with laws and regulations, ensure smooth operations by air, sea and land freight through cooperative agreements (either bilaterally or multilaterally) in order to expedite approval procedures or through the utilization of additional transportation mechanisms, and refrain from introducing trade barriers or export restrictions or bans.

In order to differentiate between full and partial compliance, this report uses a depth and breadth analysis as per the Compliance Coding Manual. For full compliance, members must take strong action to ensure the flow across borders of the three components of this commitment: vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services. For this report, strong is defined as “effective; of a good quality or level and likely to be successful.” Thus, in order to receive a score of +1, the G20 member must take strong action to ensure the flow of all three of the goods and services.

For partial compliance, countries must take strong action through at least one or two of the following: vital medical supplies; critical agricultural products; and other goods and services. Alternatively, partial compliance can be achieved through a country taking a less than strong action in ensuring the flow of goods and services in all three.

It is assumed that in the assessment of a strong action, the order of the points as well as their relevance to addressing the pandemic are also considered. For example, freeing trade in vital medical supplies for dealing with COVID-19 are given priority to freeing trade in goods not relevant to the pandemic. Therefore, when assessing a “less than strong action” the order of the points as well as the relevance of the products and services to address COVID-19 must be examined. Examples of partial

compliance include restricting trade on certain agricultural goods while maintaining free trade on vital medical supplies. An example of full compliance would be freeing or maintaining current trade policy measures in all those areas to ensure uninterrupted flow of goods and services.

This report acknowledges that actions in which a G20 member only demonstrates a verbal declaration will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance, given that the compliance time frame is still short, and as the pandemic progresses, some countries are still assessing their own needs and are in the process of making trade policy decisions and changes.

Lastly, actions taken against this commitment, such as announcing and implementing trade restrictions in terms of tariffs, quotas, export bans and others to the above-mentioned products and services, will be recognized as a –1 compliance.

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

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|--|
| –1 | G20 member took insufficient action to ensure the flow across borders of 1) vital medical supplies; 2) critical agricultural products; and 3) other goods and services. |
| 0 | G20 member took strong action to ensure the flow across borders of at least one or two of the following: 1) vital medical supplies; 2) critical agricultural products; and 3) other goods and services OR took some action in all three areas. |
| +1 | G20 member took strong action to ensure the flow across borders of 1) vital medical supplies; 2) critical agricultural products; AND 3) other goods and services. |

Compliance Directors: Sonja Dobson and Maria Marchyshyn

Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 28 March 2020, the Executive of Argentina adopted new legislation approving the establishment of export licensing requirements on 29 products related to medical equipment and medicines in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Among the products affected by the new measures are disinfectants, ethyl alcohol, paracetamol, surgical rubber and other rubber gloves, protective garments, face masks and ventilators. Previously none of the affected products was subject to export licensing requirements. The new licensing requirement serves as an export restriction.¹¹⁵⁰

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹¹⁵¹

¹¹⁵⁰ Global Trade Alert. 28 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43529/argentina-government-imposes-export-licensing-requirements-on-certain-medical-equipment-in-response-to-the-coronavirus-outbreak>.

¹¹⁵¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

On 2 April 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development of Argentina adopted a resolution eliminating temporarily the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition set on certain personal protective equipment. The Declaration is a special certificate required to all imports of textile products and shoes related to the composition of the imported goods. This certificate requires the authorization of the customs authorities and it is necessary in order to process with the customs clearance. The elimination of this requirement allows faster and easier clearance of customs.¹¹⁵²

Argentina enacted two other liberalizing measures on 2 April 2020. First, the Argentine Executive adopted a Decree eliminating import duties on 52 medical products. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the import tariffs were reduced from values ranging between 3.5 per cent and 35 per cent to 0 per cent. The new duties were adopted within the context of the Coronavirus pandemic and only apply to non-MERCOSUR member states. Second, another decree was adopted eliminating the statistical fee set on imports of 52 medical products. The previously applicable tax was 2.5 per cent. This duty applies to all imports, including those declared on a temporary basis or under special promotional regimes.¹¹⁵³

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹¹⁵⁴

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹¹⁵⁵

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹¹⁵⁶

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and

¹¹⁵² Global Trade Alert. 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79220/import-licensing-requirement/argentina-temporary-elimination-of-import-licensing-requirement-on-certain-products-in-reaction-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>.

¹¹⁵³ Global Trade Alert. 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79220/import-licensing-requirement/argentina-temporary-elimination-of-import-licensing-requirement-on-certain-products-in-reaction-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>.

¹¹⁵⁴ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹¹⁵⁵ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹¹⁵⁶ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹¹⁵⁷

On 22 April 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹¹⁵⁸

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹¹⁵⁹

On 24 April 2020, Argentina announced that as a trade facilitation measure, it will be accepting digital ways to submit phytosanitary certificates to prevent delays or disruptions to trade. Previously only paper-based certificates were accepted.¹¹⁶⁰

On 11 May 2020, the Government of Argentina increased the list of products with granted duty-free import duties due to the pandemic. The affected products are also exempt from the statistical fee paid on imports.¹¹⁶¹

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹¹⁶²

Argentina enacted a number of liberalizing measures. However, it also put in place export restrictions on medical equipment and medicines and, therefore, receives a score of 0 for partial compliance.¹¹⁶³

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Australia: +1

Australia fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

¹¹⁵⁷ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹¹⁵⁸ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹¹⁵⁹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹¹⁶⁰ Measures Concerning Phytosanitary Certificates Aimed at the Facilitation of Trade in View of Issues Arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹¹⁶¹ Global Trade Alert. 11 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43978/argentina-new-list-of-medical-supplies-subject-to-duty-free-import-duties>.

¹¹⁶² Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹¹⁶³ Sources consulted include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government agencies, trade policy trackers such as from the IMF, WTO and private sector entities, and news agencies found through Google News including The Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, etc.

On 27 March 2020, Australia attended the second teleconference with the US, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on how to work together to preserve the global supply chain.¹¹⁶⁴

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹¹⁶⁵

On 1 April 2020, the Australian government announced measures to help secure freight access for Australian agriculture and fisheries exporters. The new AUD 110 million International Freight Assistance Mechanism will assist Australia’s agricultural and fisheries sector by helping them export their high-quality produce into key overseas markets, with return flights bringing back vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment.¹¹⁶⁶

On 1 April 2020, the government also announced increased funding for the Export Market Development Grant (EMDG). Funding for the scheme will increase by AUD 49.8 million in the 2019-20 financial year, allowing exporters and tourism businesses to get additional reimbursements for costs incurred in marketing their products and services around the world. This supplements the additional AUD 60 million already committed by the government and brings EMDG funding to its highest level in more than 20 years at AUD 207.7 million for the 2019-20 financial year.¹¹⁶⁷

On 3 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the third teleconference with the US, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹¹⁶⁸

On 9 April 2020 Australia gave a notice to the World Trade Organization (WTO) about a new measure — quantitative restriction on personal protective equipment. It explains it as a “temporary measure covering non-commercial exports of personal protective equipment and sanitizers essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure seeks to prevent individuals and criminal syndicates from hoarding, price-gouging and profiteering on non-commercial exports from Australia.

¹¹⁶⁴ Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=.

¹¹⁶⁵ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹¹⁶⁶ Support for businesses impacted by Coronavirus, Australian Trade and Investment Commission. Access Date: 7 May 2020. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/news/novel-coronavirus>.

¹¹⁶⁷ Support for businesses impacted by Coronavirus, Australian Trade and Investment Commission. Access Date: 7 May 2020. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/news/novel-coronavirus>.

¹¹⁶⁸ 3rd Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=.

Legitimate commercial and humanitarian exports are exempt, as are care packages to family overseas, although products cannot be sent through the mail.”¹¹⁶⁹

On 9 April 2020, Australia announced a Joint Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health with Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Korea. The Foreign Ministers stated they will work together to facilitate the movement of vital goods and services and avoid unnecessary interference with trade.¹¹⁷⁰

On 10 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the fourth teleconference with the US, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to continue collaboration to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹¹⁷¹

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On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Australia made a joint declaration with Korea, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs to purpose their indispensable work.”¹¹⁷⁴

¹¹⁶⁹ “Notification pursuant to the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions,” World Trade Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹¹⁷⁰ Five MIKTA Countries Adopt Foreign Ministers’ Joint Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320091&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=.

¹¹⁷¹ 4th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320094&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=.

¹¹⁷² METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹¹⁷³ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹¹⁷⁴ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹¹⁷⁵

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹¹⁷⁶

On 22 April 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹¹⁷⁷

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹¹⁷⁸

On 24 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the sixth teleconference with the US, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, and maintain the global supply chain, among other topics.¹¹⁷⁹

On 1 May 2020 Australia announced a temporary tariff concession measure — zero tariff on the importation of vital medical supplies required to manage the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure will be in place from 1 May 2020 until 31 July 2020, with refunds available for customs duty paid on prescribed goods imported from 1 February 2020. In addition, the measure may be extended following a review.¹¹⁸⁰

On 1 May 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the seventh teleconference with the US, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services,

¹¹⁷⁵ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹¹⁷⁶ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹¹⁷⁷ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹¹⁷⁸ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹¹⁷⁹ 6th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response Held among Vice Foreign Ministers of 7 Countries in Asia-Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320115&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=2&titleNm=

¹¹⁸⁰ “Unilateral Measures Relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Measures to Facilitate the Importation of Vital Medical Supplies” World Trade Organization (Geneva) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

among other topics. Korean Vice Minister Cho Sei-young emphasized the importance of restoring global supply chains.¹¹⁸¹

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group's G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹¹⁸²

As a result, Australia receives +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Brazil: 0

Brazil partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹¹⁸³

On 1 April 2020, the Brazilian authorities announced the elimination of the tax on imports of certain medical products critical to fighting the COVID-19 outbreak.¹¹⁸⁴

On 3 April 2020, the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (Camex) issued a Resolution eliminating the import tariffs on 236 capital goods enclosed in 123 eight-digit tariff lines. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), previous applicable duties ranged between 3.5 per cent and 16.67 per cent depending on the product.¹¹⁸⁵

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹¹⁸⁶

On 13 April 2020, the Ministry of Health of Brazil adopted a Resolution including 12 drugs to the list of medical products subject to export licensing requirements due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The

¹¹⁸¹ 7th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320122&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=

¹¹⁸² Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹¹⁸³ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹¹⁸⁴ Global Trade Alert 1 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43779/brazil-elimination-of-the-ipis-tax-for-certain-imports-due-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹¹⁸⁵ Global Trade Alert 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/44029/brazil-camex-eliminates-the-import-tariffs-on-236-capital-goods>.

¹¹⁸⁶ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

products added to the list were chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, fentanyl, midazolam, ethosuximide, propofol, pancuronium, vancuronium, rocuronium, succinylcholine and ivermectin, in the form of the raw material, semi-finished product, bulk product or finished product.¹¹⁸⁷ Export licensing requirements are generally considered as a trade restriction.

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹¹⁸⁸

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Brazil made a joint Declaration with Korea, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment [PPE], medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to purpose their indispensable work.”¹¹⁸⁹

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹¹⁹⁰

On 20 April 2020, Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt released a joint statement following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the impact of COVID-19 on food availability and supply on 17 April 2020. In the statement they said: “we stand committed to supporting the UN system at the global, regional and country level, engaging the WTO, the IFIs [international financial institutions] and the G20 to ensure that trade measures do not restrict the flow of food and critical agricultural inputs across borders in the short and long term. Open, transparent, and predictable trade is critical to keep food supply chains going and prices stable during and after the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.”¹¹⁹¹

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that

¹¹⁸⁷ Global Trade Alert 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43948/brazili-approval-of-export-licensing-requirement-on-certain-drugs-used-in-the-fight-against-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹¹⁸⁸ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹¹⁸⁹ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹¹⁹⁰ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹¹⁹¹ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the impact of COVID-19 on food availability and supply ----, Italy’s Permanent Mission to the UN (New York) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/04/evento-gruppo-di-amici-per-food_0.html.

sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹¹⁹²

On 22 April 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹¹⁹³

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹¹⁹⁴

On 24 April 2020, the Brazilian government imposed an export ban on pulmonary ventilators, hospital beds, medical monitors and individual protective equipment including face masks and goggles.¹¹⁹⁵

On 29 April 2020, the Brazilian government announced the temporary elimination of import tariffs set on 81 medical and hospital products needed to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.¹¹⁹⁶

On 7 May 2020, Brazil attended a video conference with fellow BRICS members Russia, India, China and South Africa to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. The BRICS members pledged to create “favourable conditions for the supply of medicines and diagnostics, immunobiological preparations and medical equipment.”¹¹⁹⁷

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹¹⁹⁸

According to the WTO report published on 20 May 2020, Brazil took a number of actions to streamline certification and authorization of medical goods including: exempted PPE (including surgical masks, N95, PFF2 or equivalent particulate respirators, goggles, face shields, disposable hospital gowns, caps and props, valves, circuits and respiratory connections) and related medical equipment from usual authorization requirements and consolidated PPE product requirements;

¹¹⁹² FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹¹⁹³ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹¹⁹⁴ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹¹⁹⁵ Global Trade Alert 23 April 2020 Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43833/brazil-government-establishes-an-export-ban-on-several-medical-related-products-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹¹⁹⁶ Global Trade Alert 29 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43985/brazil-elimination-of-import-tariffs-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹¹⁹⁷ Минздрав России провел виртуальную встречу старших должностных лиц стран БРИКС по вопросам здравоохранения, Министерство здравоохранения Российской Федерации (Moscow) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/05/08/13911-minzdrav-rossii-provel-virtualnyu-vstrechu-starshih-dolzhnostnyh-lits-stran-briks-po-voprosam-zdravoohraneniya>.

¹¹⁹⁸ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

suspended compulsory certification of medical gloves; relaxed authorization and production requirements for sanitizers and antiseptics; and introduced facilitated procedures for conditional approval for registration (and post-registration changes) of drugs and biological products.¹¹⁹⁹

Since Brazil has enacted both restrictive and liberalizing measures, it receives 0 for partial compliance.¹²⁰⁰

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Canada: +1

Canada fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹²⁰¹

On 31 March 2020, Canada introduced measures to facilitate the importation of vital medical supplies and provide cash flow and liquidity supports to importers.¹²⁰²

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which Canada is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹²⁰³

On 6 April 2020 Canada joined other countries, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore and Uruguay, in issuing a Joint Ministerial Statement by affirming the commitment to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation. They affirmed the importance of refraining from the imposition of export controls or tariffs and non-tariff barriers and of removing any existing trade restrictive measures on essential goods, especially medical supplies, at this time.¹²⁰⁴

¹¹⁹⁹ Standards, Regulations and COVID-19-What actions taken by WTO members? Report. 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/standards_report_e.pdf.

¹²⁰⁰ Sources consulted include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government agencies, trade policy trackers such as from the IMF, WTO and private sector entities, and news agencies found through Google News including Correio Braziliense and Estado de Minas.

¹²⁰¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹²⁰² World Trade Organization 31 March 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹²⁰³ Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹²⁰⁴ Joint Ministerial Statement affirming commitment to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation. New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade 14 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/ministry-statements-and-speeches/joint-ministerial-statement-affirming-commitment-to-ensuring-supply-chain-connectivity-amidst-the-covid-19-situation/>.

On 6 April 2020, Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne spoke with US Secretary Michael Pompeo to discuss, among other topics, working together to ensure the viability of international supply chains for vital medical supplies.¹²⁰⁵

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹²⁰⁶

On 14 April 2020, in light of the unprecedented demand and urgent need for products that can help limit the spread of COVID-19, Health Canada announced that it will be facilitating access to products that may not fully meet current regulatory requirements, as an interim measure. This would result in expedited access to disinfectants, hand sanitizers and personal protective equipment to help limit the spread of COVID-19, as well as swabs for testing.¹²⁰⁷

On 14 April 2020, Canada issued a communication of an additional unilateral trade facilitative measure undertaken in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Effective 5 May 2020, Canada waved otherwise applicable customs duties on imports of specified medical supplies. Key categories of products covered by the measure include diagnostic test kits, face and eye protection, gloves, protective garments, disinfectants/sterilization products, medical devices, thermometers, wipes, and medical consumables, and other goods (e.g., soap).¹²⁰⁸

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Canada made a joint Declaration with Brazil, Korea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to purpose their indispensable work.”¹²⁰⁹

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with the WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹²¹⁰

¹²⁰⁵ Secretary Pompeo’s Call with Canadian Foreign Minister Champagne, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-pompeos-call-with-canadian-foreign-minister-champagne-3/>.

¹²⁰⁶ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹²⁰⁷ World Trade Organization 14 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹²⁰⁸ World Trade Organization. 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹²⁰⁹ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹²¹⁰ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹²¹¹

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹²¹²

On 22 April 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹²¹³

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹²¹⁴

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹²¹⁵

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹²¹⁶

On the website of Canada’s Trade Commissioner Service it states: “At this time, COVID-19 is not affecting the import and export of food and there is currently no evidence that food is a likely source or route of transmission of COVID-19 ... The Government of Canada is taking the necessary steps to ensure that producers and processors can continue to operate effectively and keep supply lines open, while informing industry of the latest developments.”¹²¹⁷

¹²¹¹ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²¹² FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹²¹³ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹²¹⁴ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²¹⁵ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹²¹⁶ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹²¹⁷ COVID-19 and Canada’s International Trade Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/commerce-international-COVID-19-international-trade.aspx?lang=eng>.

Given that Canada has taken measures to support the flow of vital medical supplies, agricultural products and other goods and services, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

China: +1

China fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹²¹⁸

On 31 March 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce announced new controls on monitoring the quality of COVID-19-related medical exports. On 31 March 2020, four Chinese ministries released an announcement which introduced new certification and inspection requirements on certain medical supplies bought by other nations to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, such as surgical face masks, testing kits and infrared thermometers. Previously, firms exporting the products had to acquire quality accreditation for the export destination (e.g. for the European market) before being allowed to export; accreditation with the Chinese National Medical Products Association was not required. The Announcement newly required this accreditation as well as reinforcing the requirement for the export destination’s accreditation, also stating that such goods would be subject to stringent inspection before being exported. Given that several shipments of goods were rejected for being of substandard quality, the Chinese government made this policy change to try and prevent repeat incidents in the future and ensure export of safe medical goods.¹²¹⁹

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹²²⁰

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¹²¹⁸ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹²¹⁹ Global Trade Alert 31 March 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43595/china-ministry-introduces-strict-quality-controls-on-covid-19-related-medical-exports>.

¹²²⁰ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹²²¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with the WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹²²²

On 17 April 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Yucheng had a telephone conference with Korean Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young. Among topics discussed was the agreement that both countries should make active contributions through sharing their experiences with the international community and providing supplies.¹²²³

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹²²⁴

On 20 April 2020, Canada, Brazil, Italy and Egypt released a joint statement following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the impact of COVID-19 on food availability and supply on 17 April 2020. In the statement they said: “we stand committed to supporting the UN system at the global, regional and country level, engaging the WTO, the IFIs and the G20 to ensure that trade measures do not restrict the flow of food and critical agricultural inputs across borders in the short and long term. Open, transparent, and predictable trade is critical to keep food supply chains going and prices stable during and after the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.”¹²²⁵

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹²²⁶

On 22 April 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹²²⁷

¹²²² Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹²²³ Video Conference between ROK and Chinese Vice Foreign Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320097&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=3&titleNm=.

¹²²⁴ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²²⁵ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the impact of COVID-19 on food availability and supply ----, Italy’s Permanent Mission to the UN (New York) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/04/evento-gruppo-di-amici-per-food_0.html.

¹²²⁶ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹²²⁷ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹²²⁸

On 30 April 2020 China filed a notice with the WTO with regards to the Trade Facilitation Agreement and a number of temporary measures China has adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures originate from numerous Ministries related to trade (Commerce, Customs, Agriculture, Transport, Finance, etc.) and show various efforts to facilitate trade during the pandemic by optimizing customs and approval procedures.¹²²⁹

On 7 May 2020, China attended a video conference with its fellow BRICS members of Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. The BRICS members pledged to create “favourable conditions for the supply of medicines and diagnostics, immunobiological preparations and medical equipment.”¹²³⁰

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹²³¹

During a Press Conference on 18 May 2020, Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan stated the following: “Since the outbreak, the CPC [Communist Party of China] Central Committee and the State Council have studied many times on how to solve practical difficulties and problems and help enterprises tide over difficulties. The recent situation shows that some policies and measures have also played a positive role. For example, the timeframe of export tax rebate has been shortened from more than ten days in the past to about a week now. This is conducive to the capital turnover of enterprises. Another is to expand the scale of enterprise credit and help enterprises in financing. The coverage of credit insurance is also expanded as Sinosure has helped 110,000 enterprises. Most foreign trade enterprises used to export only. Now, after the export faces difficulties, the government supports them to sell goods intended for export on the domestic market.”

Furthermore, Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative commented on the second Extraordinary Trade and Investment Ministers Virtual Meeting of the G20 and reiterated the belief that it is in the interests of all sides to ensure openness, security and stability of global industrial and supply chains.¹²³²

¹²²⁸ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²²⁹ World Trade Organization 30 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹²³⁰ Минздрав России провел виртуальную встречу старших должностных лиц стран БРИКС по вопросам здравоохранения, Министерство здравоохранения Российской Федерации (Moscow) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/05/08/13911-minzdrav-rossii-provel-virtualnuyu-vstrechu-starshih-dolzhnostnyh-lits-stran-briks-po-voprosam-zdravooohraneniya>.

¹²³¹ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹²³² Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan Attends State Council Information Office Press Conference on Stabilizing the Fundamentals of Foreign Trade and Investment and Promoting the Quality Development of Commerce. Ministry of Commerce, People’s Republic of China 18 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/press/202005/20200502965867.shtml>.

As a result, China is awarded +1 for taking action to ensure the flow across borders of vital medical supplies; critical agricultural products; and other goods and services.

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

France: 0

France partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

France is a member of the European Union and, as such, the EU determines France's external trade policy.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹²³³

On 31 March 2020, Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Economy and Finance, and Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, State Secretary to the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, announced a special support plan for French exporting companies in response to the economic slowdown linked to the COVID-19 epidemic. It includes four special measures to support exporting companies. The first indicates the granting of State guarantees through Bpifrance Assurance Export for guarantees and pre-financing of export projects will be reinforced in order to secure the cash flow of exporting companies. The guaranteed quotas will thus be increased to 90 per cent for all small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps. The period of validity of export pre-financing guarantee agreements will be extended to six months. The second includes the following: Prospecting insurance in progress will be extended by one year, allowing an extension of the prospecting period covered. The third includes the following: A capacity of EUR 2 billion will be provided to short-term export credit insurance thanks to the expansion of the Cap Francexport public reinsurance system. This system will cover all the countries of the globe. The fourth includes the following: Support and information by the operators of Team France Export (Bpifrance, Business France and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry) will be strengthened.¹²³⁴

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which France is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹²³⁵

On 7 April 2020 the European Commission sent a letter to the French government urging it to lift export restrictions on dozens of vital medicines imposed by France on 25 March to treat coronavirus

¹²³³ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹²³⁴ Support plan for French exporting companies in response to the Covid-19 epidemic. Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (France) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/actualites-du-ministere/informations-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-declarations-et-communications/article/communiqu%C3%A9-de-presse-plan-de-soutien-aux-entreprises-fran%C3%A7aises-exportatrices>.

¹²³⁵ Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

patients. Instead Paris has vastly extended the list of drugs covered by restrictions, according to a letter seen by Reuters that was sent by the French drugs regulator ANSM to pharmaceutical distributors on 21 April. The temporary restrictions apply to those distributors. Manufacturers, such as French pharmaceuticals giant Sanofi, are exempted from the export curbs. Among drugs that distributors cannot export from France are antibiotics, painkillers, sedatives and muscle relaxants, insulin, as well as several drugs being tested as possible treatments for COVID-19, including remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir and ritonavir, ANSM lists show. France, is a key hub for drugs distribution across Europe and these measures, which vary from fully-fledged bans to requirements for export authorisations, risk causing shortages in other countries of the European Union bloc.¹²³⁶

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹²³⁷

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with the WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹²³⁸

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, France made a joint Declaration with Australia, Brazil, Canada, Korea, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to purpose their indispensable work.”¹²³⁹

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹²⁴⁰

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that

¹²³⁶ France ignores EU calls to lift export bans on Covid-19 drugs. France 24 (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200423-france-ignores-eu-calls-to-lift-export-bans-on-covid-19-drugs>

¹²³⁷ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹²³⁸ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹²³⁹ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹²⁴⁰ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹²⁴¹

On 22 April 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹²⁴²

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹²⁴³

On 4 May 2020, President Emmanuel Macron co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹²⁴⁴

On 14 May 2020, Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, State Secretary to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, took part in an extraordinary meeting of the G20 trade ministers. He underscored the importance of ensuring greater predictability in the trade of goods and services and improving the business climate to limit the pandemic’s economic impact. This will come about through the resiliency of value chains in the health sector, which demands a high degree of coordination with the WTO.¹²⁴⁵

On 18 May 2020, the French government announced a French-German initiative for the European recovery from the coronavirus crisis. In the section on “Enhancing EU Economic and Industrial Resilience and Sovereignty and Give a New Impulse to the Single Market” the proposal states: “Open markets, free and fair trade are a crucial part of the solution. We therefore shall: a) support the diversification of supply chains through the promotion of an ambitious and balanced free trade agenda with the WTO at its core and including new initiatives, inter alia on trade of health products, develop our anti-subsidies mechanisms, ensure effective reciprocity for public procurement with third countries and strengthen EU and national investment screening towards non-EU investors in strategic sectors (including health — pharmaceuticals, biotech etc.), while at the same time encouraging investments (re)located in the EU.”¹²⁴⁶

¹²⁴¹ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹²⁴² G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹²⁴³ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²⁴⁴ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹²⁴⁵ G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne’s participation in the conference call of foreign trade ministers, Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères (France) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-conference-call-of-foreign>.

¹²⁴⁶ European Union – French-German initiative for the European recovery from the coronavirus crisis, Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères (France) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/european-union-french-german-initiative-for-the-european-recovery-from-the>.

Since France has made numerous statements about ensuring predictability of trade in goods and services, it has refused to lift the export ban on crucial COVID-19 medicines and thus has only partially complied with the commitment. Therefore, it receives a score of 0.¹²⁴⁷

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Germany: +1

Germany fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

Germany is a member of the European Union and, as such, the EU determines Germany's external trade policy.

On 27 March 2020, the European Commission decided to amend the Short-term export-credit insurance Communication to make this possible. More specifically, the European Commission decided to temporarily strike all countries from the list of "marketable risk" countries, meaning the list of countries for which government-sponsored export guarantees can normally not be provided.¹²⁴⁸

On 30 March 2020, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy has agreed with the Federal Ministry of Finance to make it possible for the Federal Government to issue export guarantees for transactions with short-term payment obligations (of up to 24 months) within the EU and with certain members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Co-operation (OECD) (Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the UK and the US.) This is to help with potential bottlenecks in the private market for export-credit insurance and will allow Germany to take quick and decisive action if the private market for export-credit insurance begins to dry up. This move follows one by the European Commission.¹²⁴⁹

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to "ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks" and called on international organizations to "provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains." The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹²⁵⁰

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which Germany is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical

¹²⁴⁷ Sources checked include Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and other government agencies, respective EU government sources such as the European Commission, trade policy trackers by international organizations and private sector entities, as well as news agencies such as Le Monde.

¹²⁴⁸ Federal Government widens scope for export guarantees in response to coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020.
<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-federal-government-widens-scope-for-export-guarantees-in-response-to-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

¹²⁴⁹ Federal Government widens scope for export guarantees in response to coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020.
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¹²⁵⁰ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020.
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agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹²⁵¹

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On 17 April 2020, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy has set up a Contact Point for Supply Chain Security. The aim is to ensure, wherever possible, that the production and supply of necessary component products run smoothly again. The Supply Chain Contact Point is the Federal Government’s key port of call for companies. It will handle all issues related either to the production and delivery of component products or to the supply of raw materials in general. Furthermore, an exchange and solutions network involving federal ministries, state ministries for economic affairs, and associations has been created to be able to take timely and tailored action and share experience efficiently.¹²⁵⁵ This measure will be effective for trade facilitation for trading German enterprises and for ensuring the stability of the supply chains.

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative

¹²⁵¹ Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹²⁵² METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹²⁵³ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹²⁵⁴ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹²⁵⁵ Federal contact point established to safeguard cross-border supply chains, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Germany) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200427-federal-contact-point-established-to-safeguard-cross-border-supply-chains.html>.

measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹²⁵⁶

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On 4 May 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹²⁶⁰

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Groups’ “G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹²⁶¹

On 18 May 2020, the German and French governments announced a French-German initiative for the European recovery from the coronavirus crisis. They advocated for an ambitious EUR 500 billion reconstruction fund.¹²⁶² In the section on “Enhancing EU Economic and Industrial Resilience and Sovereignty and Give a New Impulse to the Single Market” the proposal states: “Open markets, free and fair trade are a crucial part of the solution. We therefore shall: a) support the diversification of supply chains through the promotion of an ambitious and balanced free trade agenda with the WTO at its core and including new initiatives, inter alia on trade of health products, develop our anti-subsventions mechanisms, ensure effective reciprocity for public procurement with third countries and strengthen EU and national investment screening towards non-EU investors in strategic sectors

¹²⁵⁶ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²⁵⁷ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹²⁵⁸ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹²⁵⁹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²⁶⁰ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹²⁶¹ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹²⁶² Franco-German Initiative: Emerging Strong from the Crisis 18 May 2020. Date of Access: 24 May 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-en/news/dt-franz-initiative-1753890>.

(including health — pharmaceuticals, biotech etc.), while at the same time encouraging investments (re)located in the EU.”¹²⁶³

Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel showed a strong position that rejecting protectionism is one of the ways to exit the pandemic crisis. On 20 May 2020 during an annual meeting with the heads of the international organizations (International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, WTO and OECD) she stressed that one of the key points on the agenda is maintaining supply chains. Chancellor stressed that “The world economy is based on supply chains. Export restrictions, say in the food sector, lead to unemployment in weaker states, resulting in poverty and hunger.”¹²⁶⁴

Even though Germany’s external trade policy is set by the EU, Germany still showed clear support for maintaining strong supply chains through measures and statements. As a result, Germany receives +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

India: 0

India partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 27 March 2020, India attended the second teleconference with the US, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on how to work together to preserve the global supply chain.¹²⁶⁵

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹²⁶⁶

On 3 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 3rd teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹²⁶⁷

¹²⁶³ European Union – French-German initiative for the European recovery from the coronavirus crisis, *Ministere de L’Europe et des Affaires Etrangères* 18 May 2020. Access Date: 21 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/european-union-french-german-initiative-for-the-european-recovery-from-the>.

¹²⁶⁴ Rejecting Protectionism, *Der Bundeskanzler* 20 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-en/news/absage-an-protektionismus-1754520>.

¹²⁶⁵ Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul)* 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=.

¹²⁶⁶ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, *Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo)* 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹²⁶⁷ 3rd Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul)* 7 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=.

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade through Notification No. 1/2015-2020 announced a complete export ban on Hydroxychloroquine and formulations made from Hydroxychloroquine. Earlier, on 25 March 2020, India had notified the export prohibition of these drugs, except under certain conditions. However, the policy has now been amended to remove these exceptions and have a complete prohibition on these exports.¹²⁶⁸ Afterwards, on 7 April 2020, India's Ministry of External Affairs said that the exports of drugs paracetamol and Hydroxychloroquine will be allowed through an export license to India's neighbouring countries and to some nations "who have been particularly badly affected by the pandemic."¹²⁶⁹

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade has changed the export policy of COVID-19 Diagnostic Kits from "Free" to "Restricted." The amended policy will therefore now require an export license to be obtained from the department for exporting such Diagnostic Kits.

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade lifted a restriction on exports of certain pharmaceutical products, imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The change in policy means that no license will be required to be obtained for exports of these products.¹²⁷⁰

On 9 April 2020, the Ministry of Finance has through a Customs Notification exempted the imports of ventilators, face and surgical masks, personal protection equipment, COVID-19 testing kits, and inputs for the manufacture of any of these products from the customs duty and the health cess. The customs duty on the goods varies depending on the product, however, the health cess applicable is 5 per cent on imports of ventilators.¹²⁷¹ India imports about 80 per cent of its medical device requirement.¹²⁷²

On 10 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the fourth teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to continue collaboration to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹²⁷³

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to "take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy."¹²⁷⁴

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed "that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted,

¹²⁶⁸ Global Trade Alert 4 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79012/export-ban/india-exports-of-hydroxychloroquine-and-its-formulations-further-restricted>.

¹²⁶⁹ Global Trade Alert 4 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43709/india-relaxations-announced-on-exports-of-hydroxychloroquine-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹²⁷⁰ Global Trade Alert 4 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43645/india-export-restriction-on-certain-pharmaceutical-products-imposed-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-lifted>.

¹²⁷¹ Global Trade Alert 4 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79124/import-tariff/india-import-duty-exemption-on-certain-medical-goods-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹²⁷² Covid-19: Customs Duty of 5% and Health Cess of 7.5% on Select Medical Equipment Gone, Entrepreneur 10 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/349070>.

¹²⁷³ 4th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320094&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

¹²⁷⁴ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with the WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹²⁷⁵

Effective 17 April 2020, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has amended the Foreign Direct Investment policy with the objective to “curb opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.” The policy now states that any entity from a country that shares a land border with India or where the beneficial owner of the investment is situated in or is a citizen of such a country will require prior government approval for any foreign direct investment in an Indian entity. India shares land borders with seven countries namely Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.¹²⁷⁶

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹²⁷⁷

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹²⁷⁸

On 22 April 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹²⁷⁹

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹²⁸⁰

On 24 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the sixth teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The

¹²⁷⁵ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹²⁷⁶ Global Trade Alert 4 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79266/fdi-entry-and-ownership-rule/india-fdi-regime-restricts-investments-by-neighbouring-countries-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹²⁷⁷ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²⁷⁸ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹²⁷⁹ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹²⁸⁰ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, and maintain the global supply chain, among other topics.¹²⁸¹

On 1 May 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the seventh teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, among other topics. Korean Vice Minister Cho Sei-young emphasized the importance of restoring global supply chains.¹²⁸²

On 2 May 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting to discuss ways to boost the country's agriculture sector. Special emphasis was given on reforms in agriculture marketing, management of marketable surplus, access of farmers to institutional credit and freeing agriculture sector of various restrictions with appropriate backing of statute. Developing Brand India, creation of commodity specific boards/councils and promotion of agri-clusters/contract farming are some of the interventions that were discussed to boost agriculture commodity export. Modi emphasised on the dissemination of technology to make Indian farmers more competitive in the global value chain.¹²⁸³

On 6 May 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade amended the export prohibition on sanitizers imposed on 24 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the Notification in March, exports of all sanitizers were prohibited which has been amended and now exports of only Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers will be prohibited.¹²⁸⁴

On 7 May 2020, India attended a video conference with fellow BRICS members Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. The BRICS members pledged to create "favourable conditions for the supply of medicines and diagnostics, immunobiological preparations and medical equipment."¹²⁸⁵

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group's G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹²⁸⁶

¹²⁸¹ 6th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response Held among Vice Foreign Ministers of 7 Countries in Asia-Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320115&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=2&titleNm=.

¹²⁸² 7th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320122&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=.

¹²⁸³ PM Modi holds a meeting to discuss ways to boost agriculture sector, Prime Minister's Office 2 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1620364>.

¹²⁸⁴ Global Trade Alert 4 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43894/india-exports-of-non-alcohol-based-sanitizers-permitted>.

¹²⁸⁵ Минздрав России провел виртуальную встречу старших должностных лиц стран БРИКС по вопросам здравоохранения, Министерство здравоохранения Российской Федерации (Moscow) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/05/08/13911-minzdrav-rossii-provel-virtualnuyu-vstrechu-starshih-dolzhnostnyh-lits-stran-briks-po-voprosam-zdravooxraneniya>.

¹²⁸⁶ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

India has imposed several restrictive and liberalizing measures and, therefore, receives 0 for partial compliance.¹²⁸⁷

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

Beginning 27 March 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade issued a regulation banning the export of ethyl alcohol. The regulation is an amendment to previous regulation banning the export of masks, antiseptics and medical garments.¹²⁸⁸

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹²⁸⁹

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and disruption in trade, Indonesia encountered difficulties with obtaining certain imported raw materials for food and drink products. The Minister of Agriculture of Indonesia has issued a Decree dated 31 March 2020 regarding Temporary Suspension of Mandatory Indonesia National Standard for White Crystal Sugar. Mandatory implementation of Indonesia National Standard for White Crystal Sugar is temporarily suspended until the emergency of COVID-19 pandemic ends and aims to ensure the availability of sugar for public needs.¹²⁹⁰

On 2 April 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade issued regulation 37/2020 temporarily exempting used ventilators from the import license requirement.¹²⁹¹

The Ministry of Industry issued a letter dated 7 April 2020 regarding the Temporary Exclusion to The Addition of Fortifying Substances for Wheat Flour. As a result, Mandatory Implementation of Indonesia National Standard for Wheat Flour as Foodstuff has been temporarily excluded for the addition of premix components (Fe, Zn, vitamin B1, vitamin B2 and folic acid) to wheat flour.¹²⁹² Indonesia is temporarily easing certain quality requirements for food staples (flour, cooking oil, sugar) to ensure sufficient availability for export.

On 9 April 2020, Indonesia announced a Joint Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health with Mexico, Australia, Turkey and Korea. The Foreign Ministers stated they will work

¹²⁸⁷ Sources checked include Ministry of External Affairs, and other government agencies, trade policy trackers by international organizations and private sector entities, as well as news agencies such as the Times of India and Economic Times and other sources found on Google News.

¹²⁸⁸ Global Trade Alert 26 March 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43518/indonesia-export-ban-of-ethyl-alcohol>.

¹²⁸⁹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹²⁹⁰ World Trade Organization 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm

¹²⁹¹ Global Trade Alert 2 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43855/indonesia-temporary-import-license-exemption-for-used-ventilators>.

¹²⁹² World Trade Organization 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

together to facilitate the movement of vital goods and services and avoid unnecessary interference with trade.¹²⁹³

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹²⁹⁴

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹²⁹⁵

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Indonesia made a joint Declaration with Brazil, Australia, South Africa, Canada, France, Germany, Korea, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to purpose their indispensable work.”¹²⁹⁶

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹²⁹⁷

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹²⁹⁸

On 21 April 2020 Director General of Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine issued a letter requiring any importation of live animals (pet animals and mammals) from any importing country that is not

¹²⁹³ Five MIKTA Countries Adopt Foreign Ministers’ Joint Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320091&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

¹²⁹⁴ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹²⁹⁵ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹²⁹⁶ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹²⁹⁷ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹²⁹⁸ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

free from COVID-19 to be accompanied by Certificate of Declaration free from COVID-19 (SAR S-Cov-2) and Certification of Laboratory Analysis that the consignment (live animals) is negative tested COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) from accredited laboratory or authorised laboratory in the importing country.¹²⁹⁹

On 22 April 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹³⁰⁰

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹³⁰¹

On 28 April 2020 Indonesia filed a notice with the WTO concerning validating electronic/digital/scanned phytosanitary certificates. In order to facilitate international trade during the COVID-19 pandemic situation, Indonesia intends to receive the electronic/digital/scanned Phytosanitary Certificate from all countries. It now requests for a country to officially inform Indonesia that the Phytosanitary Certificate has been validated. The aim is to accelerate inspection works of import documents at entry points in Indonesia.¹³⁰²

On 14 May 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹³⁰³

Indonesia has put in place both liberalizing/trades facilitating measures and restrictive measures in both the medical and agri-food sectors and, therefore, receives 0 for partial compliance.¹³⁰⁴

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Italy: +1

Italy fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

Italy is a member of the European Union and, as such, the EU determines Italy’s external trade policy.

¹²⁹⁹ World Trade Organization 22 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹³⁰⁰ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹³⁰¹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³⁰² World Trade Organization 30 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

¹³⁰³ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹³⁰⁴ Sources checked include Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other government agencies, trade policy trackers by international organizations and private sector entities, as well as news agencies such as the Jakarta Post and other sources found on Google News.

On 27 March 2020, the Italian Customs Authority issued Determination Directorial no. 101115 suspending the import duty imposed on goods “necessary to cope with the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19” (own translation) when imported by certain governmental bodies, charities and first aid entities. Such entities must provide a certificate certifying their eligibility. On 3 April 2020, the European Commission issued Decision (EU) 2020/491 eliminating the import duty and value-added tax on the subject goods and therefore, the present suspension of duties by Italy is terminated and became an EU-wide suspension.¹³⁰⁵

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹³⁰⁶

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which Italy is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹³⁰⁷

On 8 April 2020 two memoranda of understanding were signed between Italy and China, opening the Chinese market to the export of Italian beef meat and rice. It represented an important step towards overcoming the barriers to the export of Italian agri-food products to China. Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Health, along as with their Chinese authorities, sped up the signing of these protocols, which will help Italian exports at this particularly challenging time.¹³⁰⁸

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹³⁰⁹

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with the WTO [World Trade Organization]

¹³⁰⁵ Global Trade Alert, Global Trade Alert. 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020.

<https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79308/import-tariff/italy-temporary-elimination-of-import-duties-and-vat-on-certain-goods-in-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>

¹³⁰⁶ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹³⁰⁷ Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹³⁰⁸ Memoranda of Understanding for the export of beef meat and rice to China Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/protocolli-d-intesa-per-l-esportazione-di-carne-bovina-e-riso-in-cina.html.

¹³⁰⁹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹³¹⁰

On 17 April 2020, Italian Deputy Minister Emanuela Del Re chaired the extraordinary videoconference meeting of the Group of Friends on Food Security and Nutrition, which unites 41 countries to the United Nations. The meeting was co-organized by Italy, the Group of Friends President, together with Canada and Brazil (also G20 members) and Egypt. Ms. Del Re spoke of Italy’s experience in the fight against the spread of the virus, in order to offer food safety considerations to the group with the objective of avoiding a food catastrophe. During the debate, a convergence emerged on the immediate and medium-long term measures to be taken by the international community. “As governments we must do everything we can to keep trade routes and distribution chains functioning,” stated Ms. Del Re. “There is no excuse for restrictions on the national and international food movement, as there is no scientific evidence that COVID-19 can be transmitted through food.” Ms. Del Re has said that Italy is ready to work with FAO to launch a “Food Coalition,” inviting all countries to join. She further stated, “We need to work together with all relevant actors, particularly the scientific community, in order to ensure the sustainability and resilience of the agri-food sector during the recovery from the pandemic.”¹³¹¹

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Italy made a joint Declaration with Brazil, Australia, South Africa, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Korea, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to pursue their indispensable work.”¹³¹²

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹³¹³

On 22 April 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group met virtually to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹³¹⁴

¹³¹⁰ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹³¹¹ COVID-19: Del Re, preventing a global food crisis, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/covid-19-del-re-prevenire-crisi-alimentare-globale.html.

¹³¹² Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹³¹³ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹³¹⁴ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹³¹⁵

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹³¹⁶

On 14 May 2020 while attending the teleconference of the G20 Trade Ministers, Italian Undersecretary Scalfarotto welcomed the ideas that were being discussed, recalling the vital role that international trade could play in boosting economic growth. Mr. Scalfarotto also hoped that the G20 could continue to work with even greater determination to tackle obstacles to free trade, not only in sectors such as medicine or pharmaceuticals, more related to COVID-19 but also in other areas. Next year Italy will hold the presidency of the G20. It will be called upon to pursue its objectives with a greater ambition to safeguard essential aspects for economic growth, such as free trade and global supply chains.¹³¹⁷

On 20 May 2020 on the occasion of the publication of the “Relaunch” Decree-Law in the Official Journal, Italian Undersecretary Manlio Di Stefano drew attention to the important news for trade promotion of Italian companies. He stated “a further EUR 200 million will be allocated to refinance Simest’s Revolving Fund; it is an indispensable tool to help our companies expand abroad and to finance their capitalization, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, feasibility studies, programs to enter non-EU markets; technical assistance programs. Moreover, from today Simest’s funding can be doubled by the Committee in charge of the tax reliefs, exceeding the maximum amounts so far provided for by European regulations; companies can access it, even without bank guarantees...”¹³¹⁸

Italy has fully complied with the commitment and, therefore, is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Maria Marchyshyn

Japan: +1

Japan fully complied with their commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 27 March 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 2nd teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice

¹³¹⁵ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³¹⁶ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹³¹⁷ Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html.

¹³¹⁸ Di Stefano: Decreto Rilancio, 400 milioni per il Fondo di Promozione integrata. Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/di-stefano-decreto-rilancio-400-milioni-per-il-fondo-di-promozione-integrata.html.

Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on how to work together to preserve the global supply chain.¹³¹⁹

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹³²⁰

On 3 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the third teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹³²¹

On 8 April 2020, Japan announced funding of USD 2.2 billion from their economic stimulus package to be used to support Japanese companies shifting production from China back to Japan or to other countries to ensure the continuing of supply chains.¹³²²

On 10 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the fourth teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to continue collaboration to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹³²³

On 10 April 2020, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹³²⁴

On 14 April 2020, Japan attended the Special Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 videoconference. The participants committed to “strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains, especially for essential

¹³¹⁹ Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=

¹³²⁰ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹³²¹ 3rd Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=

¹³²² Japan to Fund Firms to Shift Production Out of China, Bloomberg (New York) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-08/japan-to-fund-firms-to-shift-production-out-of-china>.

¹³²³ 4th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320094&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

¹³²⁴ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

goods such as food, commodities, medicines, and medical supplies through smooth and continued operation of the logistics networks, while ensuring that measures deemed necessary for public health emergency response are targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to regional supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules” and “strengthen efforts to stabilise the manufacturing and supply of essential goods and services, including vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, maintain necessary flow of goods and services and sustain supply chain connectivity within the region and beyond by making the supply chain more resilient, sustainable and less vulnerable to shocks in order to support economic development, reaffirming our commitment described in the Joint Leaders’ Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership released in 2019.”¹³²⁵

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹³²⁶

On 17 April 2020, Minister Hiroshi met virtually with Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh to agree to and release the “ASEAN-Japan Economic Ministers’ Joint Statement on Initiatives on Economic Resilience.” They affirmed their commitment to “make utmost efforts to prevent stagnation of economic activities by ensuring the smooth flow of goods, encouraging the use of digital technology to overcome constraints caused by recent travel restrictions, and to make their best efforts to provide essential goods to the global market as pivotal suppliers in global supply chains.”¹³²⁷

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹³²⁸

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹³²⁹

¹³²⁵ Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (14 April 2020), ASEAN (Jakarta) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://asean.org/storage/2020/04/Final-Joint-Statement-of-the-Special-APT-Summit-on-COVID-19.pdf>.

¹³²⁶ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹³²⁷ “ASEAN-Japan Economic Ministers’ Joint statement on Initiatives on Economic Resilience” Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0422_001.html.

¹³²⁸ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³²⁹ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

On 21 April 2020, Japan was among nearly 50 governments who announced they would “sign a pledge aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions.” This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food. Eight policy actions were recommended “including keeping supply chains open and connected; avoiding export restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”¹³³⁰

On 22 April 2020, Japan attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹³³¹

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹³³²

On 24 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the sixth teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, and maintain the global supply chain, among other topics.¹³³³

On 1 May 2020, Minister Hiroshi met virtually with Singaporean Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing to agree to a Joint Statement on Facilitating Resilient Economic Activities. They also confirmed their commitment to cooperating with one another to maintain the functions of supply chains which supply essential goods and augment a resilient economy for the future in accordance with the “ASEAN-Japan Economic Ministers’ Joint Statement on Initiatives on Economic Resilience.”¹³³⁴

On 1 May 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the seventh teleconference with the US, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, among other topics. Korean Vice Minister Cho Sei-young emphasized the importance of restoring global supply chains.¹³³⁵

¹³³⁰ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

¹³³¹ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹³³² G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³³³ 6th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response Held among Vice Foreign Ministers of 7 Countries in Asia-Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320115&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=2&titleNm=.

¹³³⁴ METI Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore, via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501_004.html.

¹³³⁵ 7th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320122&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=.

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹³³⁶

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Groups’ “G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹³³⁷

On 26 May 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. The leaders committed to cooperation between Japan and EU “to facilitate the flow of medical supplies, agricultural products, raw materials and other goods and services across borders, while ensuring that any necessary emergency measures designed to tackle COVID-19 are targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary, and consistent with WTO rules so that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains.”¹³³⁸ Furthermore, Japan and the EU stressed the important of improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹³³⁹

Japan has fully complied with their commitment through attending meetings of international organizations such as the G20, ASEAN, and countries in the region to discuss and agree to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Japan also made a financial contribution to their own companies to ensure their abilities to continue to trade and co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit at which participants agreed to ensure the continuance of the trade of vital medical supplies.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Korea: +1

Korea fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 27 March 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young attended the second teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on how to work together to preserve the global supply chain.¹³⁴⁰

¹³³⁶ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹³³⁷ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹³³⁸ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders’ meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942.

¹³³⁹ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders’ meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942.

¹³⁴⁰ Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹³⁴¹

On 1 April 2020, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki hosted the third Crisis Management Meeting of 2020 to prepare for potential risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One focus of the government is to help exporters, increase global cooperation and ensure that the global supply chains are not weakened.¹³⁴²

On 3 April 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young attended the 3rd teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains. Vice Minister Cho stated that Korea has been providing medical supplies to vulnerable countries.¹³⁴³

On 7 April 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with the United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan over the phone to discuss cooperation on COVID-19 response. Minister Abdullah expressed gratitude for Korea’s commitment to ensuring the flow of medical equipment and test kits to the United Arab Emirates.¹³⁴⁴

On 9 April 2020, Korea announced a Joint Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health with Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Australia. The Foreign Ministers stated they will work together to facilitate the movement of vital goods and services and avoid unnecessary interference with trade.¹³⁴⁵

On 10 April 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young attended the fourth teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the

¹³⁴¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹³⁴² 3rd Crisis Management Meeting, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

<http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4872>.

¹³⁴³ 3rd Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=.

¹³⁴⁴ Phone Conversation between Foreign Ministers of ROK and UAE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 9 April 2020.

Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/

[view.do?seq=320088&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320088&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=).

¹³⁴⁵ Five MIKTA Countries Adopt Foreign Ministers’ Joint Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320091&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=.

COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to continue collaboration to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹³⁴⁶

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹³⁴⁷

On 14 April 2020, Korea attended the Special Association of South East Asian Nations Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 videoconference. The participants committed to “strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains, especially for essential goods such as food, commodities, medicines, and medical supplies through smooth and continued operation of the logistics networks, while ensuring that measures deemed necessary for public health emergency response are targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to regional supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules” and “strengthen efforts to stabilise the manufacturing and supply of essential goods and services, including vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, maintain necessary flow of goods and services and sustain supply chain connectivity within the region and beyond by making the supply chain more resilient, sustainable and less vulnerable to shocks in order to support economic development, reaffirming our commitment described in the Joint Leader’s Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership released in 2019.”¹³⁴⁸

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹³⁴⁹

On 17 April 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young had a video conference with Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Yucheng. Among topics discussed was the agreement

¹³⁴⁶ 4th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320094&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

¹³⁴⁷ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹³⁴⁸ Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (14 April 2020), ASEAN (Jakarta) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://asean.org/storage/2020/04/Final-Joint-Statement-of-the-Special-APT-Summit-on-COVID-19.pdf>.

¹³⁴⁹ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

that both countries should make active contributions through sharing their experiences with the international community and providing supplies.¹³⁵⁰

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Korea made a joint Declaration with Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to purpose their indispensable work.”¹³⁵¹

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹³⁵²

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹³⁵³ Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Kim Heron-soo called for the global community to keep from imposing an export ban on agricultural products. Minister Kim emphasized how an export ban could potentially worsen the lives of the vulnerable populations in developing countries.¹³⁵⁴

On 21 April 2020, Korea was among nearly 50 governments who announced they would “sign a pledge aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions.” This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food. Eight policy actions were recommended “including keeping supply chains open and connected; avoiding export restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”¹³⁵⁵

On 22 April 2020, Korea attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on

¹³⁵⁰ Video Conference between ROK and Chinese Vice Foreign Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320097&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=3&titleNm=

¹³⁵¹ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹³⁵² G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³⁵³ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹³⁵⁴ S. Korea vows to support global food supply chains amid pandemic, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 22 April 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200422000354>.

¹³⁵⁵ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹³⁵⁶

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Minister’s met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹³⁵⁷

On 24 April 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young attended the 6th teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, and maintain the global supply chain, among other topics.¹³⁵⁸

On 1 May 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young attended the 7th teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, among other topics. Vice Minister Cho emphasized the importance of restoring global supply chains and stated that Korea has attempted to ensure the flow of goods and services by keeping flights open with the US and creating a “fast track” procedure with China.¹³⁵⁹

On 4 May 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Czech Republic Minister of Foreign Affairs Tomáš Petříček over the phone to discuss cooperation on COVID-19 response. Minister Petříček expressed gratitude for Korea’s commitment to ensuring the flow of swab kits to the Czech Republic and sharing its experiences.¹³⁶⁰

On 8 May 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias over the phone to discuss cooperation in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Both ministers welcomed a closer relationship, including Korea exporting COVID-19 test kits to Greece.¹³⁶¹

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment

¹³⁵⁶ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹³⁵⁷ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³⁵⁸ 6th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response Held among Vice Foreign Ministers of 7 Countries in Asia-Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320115&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=2&titleNm=.

¹³⁵⁹ 7th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320122&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=.

¹³⁶⁰ Telephone Conversation between Foreign Ministers of ROK and Czech Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320125&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=.

¹³⁶¹ Telephone Conversation between Foreign Ministers of ROK and Greece, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 12 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320128&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=.

through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹³⁶²

Korea has fully complied with their commitment through attending meetings of international organizations such as the G20 and countries in the region to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Korea also discussed increasing trade with several other countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Greece, the Czech Republic and China. Korea has taken a strong stance on ensuring the flow of critical agricultural products and made several joint statements on ensuring the flow of all goods and services across borders.

Thus, Korea has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Mexico: +1

Mexico fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹³⁶³

On 2 April 2020, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development Víctor Villalobos Arámbula attended a virtual meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of Mesoamerica and the Dominican Republic where Secretary Arámbula affirmed the Government of Mexico’s strategic plan to guarantee food supply in the national market and follow the dynamics of exports. The Ministers agreed to a common goal of ensuring production and supply of food and strengthening supply chains through openness of borders.¹³⁶⁴

On 4 April 2020, Secretary Arámbula attended a virtual meeting with Pacific and South American Ministers of Agriculture to work together to manage surplus and ensure the flow of agricultural products.¹³⁶⁵

On 8 April 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced measures to expedite the entry of agricultural products. The National Service of Health, Safety and Agrifood

¹³⁶² Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹³⁶³ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹³⁶⁴ Preparan países de Mesoamérica estrategia para mitigar efectos del COVID-19 en sistemas de producción y suministro de alimentos, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/preparan-paises-de-mesoamerica-estrategia-para-mitigar-efectos-del-covid-19-en-sistemas-de-produccion-y-suministro-de-alimentos?idiom=es>.

¹³⁶⁵ Establecen ministros de Agricultura de la región Alianza Pacífico y Sudamérica mecanismos de cooperación ante COVID-19, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/establecen-ministros-de-agricultura-de-la-region-alianza-pacifico-y-sudamerica-mecanismos-de-cooperacion-ante-covid-19?idiom=es>.

Quality through the Documentation and Decontamination Center utilizes technology to carry out import procedures and allow agricultural products into the country quicker.¹³⁶⁶

On 9 April 2020, Mexico announced a Joint Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health with Korea, Indonesia, Turkey and Australia. The Foreign Ministers stated they will work together to facilitate the movement of vital goods and services and avoid unnecessary interference with trade.¹³⁶⁷

On 9 April 2020, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard reported on the Government of Mexico's intensive work to ensure a supply of personal protective equipment for the whole health sector in every state. The Government of Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies for health workers and citizens.¹³⁶⁸

On 10 April 2020, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹³⁶⁹

On 15 April 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced a partnership with the International Center for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat to guarantee the flow and production of agricultural products. Furthermore, Mexico announced they would be working to expand food and protection programs for vulnerable populations, linking the programs to foods that promote sustainable production.¹³⁷⁰

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹³⁷¹

¹³⁶⁶ Agiliza Agricultura el despacho de cargamentos de alimentos mediante uso de tecnología, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/agiliza-agricultura-el-despacho-de-cargamentos-de-alimentos-mediante-uso-de-tecnologia?idiom=es>.

¹³⁶⁷ Five MIKTA Countries Adopt Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320091&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

¹³⁶⁸ The Government of Mexico Reports on the Equipment Acquired for the Covid-19 Pandemic, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-reports-on-the-equipment-acquired-for-the-covid-19-pandemic?idiom=en>.

¹³⁶⁹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹³⁷⁰ Responde Agricultura al llamado de líderes globales para asegurar disponibilidad de alimentos, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/responde-agricultura-al-llamado-de-lideres-globales-para-asegurar-disponibilidad-de-alimentos?idiom=es>.

¹³⁷¹ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

On 16 April 2020, Secretary Arámbula attended the second Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)–COVID-19 where he shared Mexican experiences of supporting the production process and smaller-scale producers, strengthening agricultural practices, and coordinating with the Ministry of the Economy to monitor and ensure the flow of agricultural products.¹³⁷²

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Mexico made a joint Declaration with Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Korea, South Africa, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs to purpose their indispensable work.”¹³⁷³

On 17 April 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador gave a press conference on Mexico’s proposed UN resolution “on international cooperation to guarantee equal global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to combat COVID-19.” This resolution was first proposed during the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit on 26 March. The resolution proposes that all member states of the United Nations cease any measures to hide or limit access to vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other necessary goods and services to address the pandemic.¹³⁷⁴

On 17 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced their efforts to airlift vital medical supplies from China to Mexico. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs procured and scheduled the procurement of medical gloves, surgical masks, KN95 masks, face shields and goggles on 8, 10, 18 and 19 April.¹³⁷⁵

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹³⁷⁶

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹³⁷⁷ At this meeting, Secretary Arámbula emphasized the important

¹³⁷² Se suma Agricultura a esfuerzos de la FAO para mitigar efectos del COVID-19 en sistemas alimentarios, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/se-suma-agricultura-a-esfuerzos-de-la-fao-para-mitigar-efectos-del-covid-19-en-sistemas-alimentarios?idiom=es>.

¹³⁷³ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹³⁷⁴ Mexico Proposes UN Resolution Guaranteeing Access to Covid-19 Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Equipment, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-proposes-un-resolution-guaranteeing-access-to-covid-19-medicines-vaccines-and-medical-equipment?idiom=en>.

¹³⁷⁵ Medical Supplies Procured Abroad for Mexico’s Health Workers and Citizens, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/medical-supplies-procured-abroad-for-mexico-s-health-workers-and-citizens?idiom=en>.

¹³⁷⁶ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³⁷⁷ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

of working together to foster international cooperation and “avoid imposing barriers to international trade and ensure the continuous flow of food, products and inputs for agricultural production.”¹³⁷⁸

On 21 April 2020, Mexico was among nearly 50 governments who announced they would “sign a pledge aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions.” This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food. Eight policy actions were recommended “including keeping supply chains open and connected; avoiding export restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”¹³⁷⁹

On 22 April 2020, Mexico attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹³⁸⁰

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹³⁸¹

On 28 April 2020, President López Obrador gave a press conference reporting on the supplies Mexico has received from China, South Korea, Denmark, the US and Switzerland. The Foreign Ministry procured vital medical supplies which are to be distributed by the Defense Minister, Navy and National Guard.¹³⁸²

On 4 May 2020, Foreign Secretary Ebrard attended the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.” Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Foreign Ministry Martha Delgado announced that Mexico would join the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to participation in the development, production and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccination.¹³⁸³

¹³⁷⁸ Exhorta México a países del G20 y organismos internacionales a cooperar para facilitar el flujo de alimentos a nivel global, ante COVID-19, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/exhorta-mexico-a-los-paises-del-g20-y-organismos-internacionales-a-cooperar-para-facilitar-el-flujo-de-alimentos-a-nivel-global-ante-covid19?idiom=es>.

¹³⁷⁹ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmnbusiness-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

¹³⁸⁰ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹³⁸¹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³⁸² Report on International Cooperation on Covid-19 and Consular Assistance for Mexicans Abroad, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/report-on-international-cooperation-on-covid-19-and-consular-assistance-for-mexicans-abroad?idiom=en>.

¹³⁸³ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

On 12 May 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced their work with Canada and the US to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, among other issues.¹³⁸⁴

On 13 May 2020, Secretary Arámbula had a videoconference with general coordinator of the Central de Abasto of Mexico City Héctor García Nieto where they agreed to establish an intersectoral working group that focuses on ensuring the flow of agricultural products in the metropolitan area of Mexico City.¹³⁸⁵

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group's G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹³⁸⁶

Mexico has fully complied with their commitment through attending meetings of international organizations such as the G20 and countries in the region to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders, including its own borders. Mexico has taken a strong stance on ensuring the flow of critical agricultural products, made several joint statements on ensuring the flow of all goods and services across borders and discussed its proposed UN resolution “on international cooperation to guarantee equal global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to combat COVID-19.”¹³⁸⁷

Thus, Mexico has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Russia: 0

Russia partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹³⁸⁸

¹³⁸⁴ The Foreign Ministry Strengthens North American Cooperation on COVID-19 Pandemic, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-foreign-ministry-strengthens-north-american-cooperation-on-covid-19-pandemic>.

¹³⁸⁵ Conjuntan acciones Agricultura y Central de Abasto de la Ciudad de México para optimizar las cadenas de abasto, Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico City) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/prensa/conjuntan-acciones-agricultura-y-central-de-abasto-de-la-ciudad-de-mexico-para-optimizar-las-cadenas-de-abasto?idiom=es>.

¹³⁸⁶ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹³⁸⁷ Mexico Proposes UN Resolution Guaranteeing Access to Covid-19 Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Equipment, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-proposes-un-resolution-guaranteeing-access-to-covid-19-medicines-vaccines-and-medical-equipment?idiom=en>.

¹³⁸⁸ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

On 31 March 2020, Russia passed the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 385 which declared a grain export quota of 7 million tons. Once it has been reached, Russia will cease export of wheat, muslin, rye, barely and corn to non-members of the Eurasian Economic Union until 1 July 2020.¹³⁸⁹

On 1 April 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin spoke on the phone with Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Asadov. The heads of governments discussed the importance of ensuring the flow of goods and services between Russia and Azerbaijan.¹³⁹⁰

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin spoke on the phone with Tajikistani Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda. The prime ministers emphasized the importance of ensuring the flow of goods and services between the two countries remains at the current levels.¹³⁹¹

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹³⁹²

On 10 April 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin attended a videoconference of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council. Prime Minister Mishustin underlined the importance of working together to ensure the flow of goods and services between the union of Eurasian countries. He also spoke about implementing the Eurasian Economic Commission measures which include ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders through import duty exemptions on essential supplies and a temporary collective ban on exporting vital medical equipment from the union.¹³⁹³

On 14 April 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin spoke on the phone with French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. They discussed further developing their trade, economic and investment ties and Prime Minister Philippe thanked Russia for the transit of cargo aircraft with medical supplies.¹³⁹⁴

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with rules of the World Trade

¹³⁸⁹ The Russian grain export quota is completely taken up, Ministry of Agriculture (Moscow) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <http://mcx.ru/en/news/quota-completely-taken-up/>.

¹³⁹⁰ Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin’s telephone conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ali Asadov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39332/>.

¹³⁹¹ Mikhail Mishustin’s telephone conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39421/>.

¹³⁹² METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹³⁹³ Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Moscow) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39472/>

¹³⁹⁴ Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister of the French Republic Edouard Philippe, The Russian Government (Moscow) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39493/>.

Organization. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹³⁹⁵

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹³⁹⁶

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹³⁹⁷

On 22 April 2020, Russia attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹³⁹⁸

On 21 April 2020, Russia refused to sign an initiative to “aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions,” signed by nearly 50 governments. This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food.¹³⁹⁹

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁴⁰⁰

On 26 April 2020, Russia announced that the grain export quota had been exhausted and they would cease all further supply of wheat, muslin, rye, barely and corn to non-members of the Eurasian Economic Union until 1 July 2020. However, Russia also announced that the Federal Customs Service had stopped issuing new export declarations.¹⁴⁰¹

On 7 May 2020, Deputy Minister of Health Oleg Gridnev hosted a video conference with BRICS members of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. The

¹³⁹⁵ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹³⁹⁶ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹³⁹⁷ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹³⁹⁸ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹³⁹⁹ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmnl/business-pmnl/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

¹⁴⁰⁰ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴⁰¹ The Russian grain export quota is completely taken up, Ministry of Agriculture (Moscow) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <http://mcx.ru/en/news/quota-completely-taken-up/>.

BRICS members pledged to create “favourable conditions for the supply of medicines and diagnostics, immunobiological preparations and medical equipment.”¹⁴⁰²

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁴⁰³

On 15 May 2020, the Russian government pledged to support agricultural firms that sign agreements to increase their competitiveness and export of agricultural products through low-interest loans. This measure aims to ensure the flow of critical agricultural products across borders.¹⁴⁰⁴

Russia has partially complied with their commitment through attending meetings of international organizations such as the G20, BRICS and countries in the region to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Russia discussed increasing trade with several other countries, such as Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and France and pledged to ensure the flow of critical agricultural products. However, Russia has implemented export bans on critical agricultural products.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.¹⁴⁰⁵

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹⁴⁰⁶

On 10 April 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Energy Ministers Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The

¹⁴⁰² Минздрав России провел виртуальную встречу старших должностных лиц стран БРИКС по вопросам здравоохранения, Министерство здравоохранения Российской Федерации (Moscow) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/05/08/13911-minzdrav-rossii-provel-virtualnuyu-vstrechu-starshih-dolzhnostnyh-lits-stran-briks-po-voprosam-zdravoohraneniya>.

¹⁴⁰³ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹⁴⁰⁴ The Government eases soft loan rules for exporters of agricultural products, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39692/>.

¹⁴⁰⁵ Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other government agencies, trade policy trackers by international organizations and private sector entities, as well as news agencies including Russia Today and the Moscow Times and TASS Russian News Agency and other sources found through Google News.

¹⁴⁰⁶ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹⁴⁰⁷

On 15 April 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors virtual meeting to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹⁴⁰⁸

On 16 April 2020, Saudi Arabia pledged USD 500 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations and other international and regional health organizations to support global efforts tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. The donation will support many initiatives, including ensuring sufficient flows of vital medical supplies. Saudi Arabia has also called for international efforts of USD 8 billion to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁰⁹

On 19 April 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Health Ministers virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹⁴¹⁰

On 21 April 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Agricultural Ministers virtual meeting with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹⁴¹¹

On 22 April 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹⁴¹²

On 23 April 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers virtual meeting to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all

¹⁴⁰⁷ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹⁴⁰⁸ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹⁴⁰⁹ The Saudi G20 Presidency calls for US\$8 billion in Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_PR_Calls%20for%208bn_EN.pdf.

¹⁴¹⁰ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴¹¹ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹⁴¹² G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁴¹³

On 4 May 2020, Health Minister Tawfig bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹⁴¹⁴

On 14 May 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁴¹⁵

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with their commitment through hosting meetings of the G20 to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Saudi Arabia also co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit and pledged USD 500 million to international organizations to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

South Africa: 0

South Africa partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 27 March 2020, South Africa announced an import duty rebate and/or a value-added tax exemption for goods that are imported to combat COVID-19. These goods include food, cleaning and hygiene products; medical, fuel and basic goods; COVID-19 test kits and apparatus used in diagnostic tests; protective clothing and similar items; thermometers; disinfectants and sterilization products; and medical consumables, immune boosters and other medical devices.¹⁴¹⁶

On 27 March 2020, South Africa introduced a new export control measure that will remain in place until further notice. Alcohol based hand sanitizers, face masks, gas masks, other breathing applications, hydroxychloroquine, antisera and other blood fractions, vaccines for human medicine and medicaments are subject to export control. However, protective masks with no mechanical parts or replaceable filters have been excluded from the export controls.¹⁴¹⁷

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers

¹⁴¹³ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴¹⁴ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹⁴¹⁵ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹⁴¹⁶ South Africa announces VAT exemption and Customs Duty rebate on importation of essential goods, EY Global (London) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/south-africa-announces-vat-exemption-and-customs-duty-rebate-on-importation-of-essential-goods.

¹⁴¹⁷ South Africa – New export controls regulations in South Africa in light of Covid-19, International Trade Compliance Update (Chicago) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.internationaltradecomplianceupdate.com/2020/04/07/south-africa-new-export-controls-regulations-in-south-africa-in-light-of-covid-19/>.

committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹⁴¹⁸

On 9 April 2020, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations Ambassador Jerry Matjila spoke at the Security Council Meeting on COVID-19. Ambassador Matjila emphasized the importance of ensuring the flow of vital medical and food supplies and appealed for the international community to increase its support of ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies.¹⁴¹⁹ Ambassador Matjila also announced South Africa’s support for the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan and the Secretary-General’s call for “waiving of Sanctions that can undermine countries’ capacity to response to the COVID-10 pandemic as well as the call made by the Africa Union and the Southern African Development Community on lifting of economic measures.”¹⁴²⁰ Lifting economic measures and waiving sanctions aims to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.¹⁴²¹

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹⁴²²

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹⁴²³

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, South Africa made a joint Declaration with Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Mexico, Singapore, Turkey and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably

¹⁴¹⁸ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹⁴¹⁹ Statement by Ambassador Jerry Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, during the Security Council VTC Meeting on COVID-19, 9 April 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/matj0409.htm>.

¹⁴²⁰ Statement by Ambassador Jerry Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, during the Security Council VTC Meeting on COVID-19, 9 April 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/matj0409.htm>.

¹⁴²¹ Statement by Ambassador Jerry Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, during the Security Council VTC Meeting on COVID-19, 9 April 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/matj0409.htm>.

¹⁴²² METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹⁴²³ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to pursue their indispensable work.”¹⁴²⁴

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹⁴²⁵

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹⁴²⁶

On 22 April 2020, South Africa attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹⁴²⁷

On 22 April 2020, President of South Africa, and Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Cyril Ramaphosa hosted the virtual meeting of the AU Bureau of Heads of State and Government Meeting with African business leaders. President Ramaphosa spoke on the importance of ensuring the flow of goods and services, which he had addressed at virtual G20 summits as well. He also called on participants of the meeting to work together to improve supply chains to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies and critical agricultural products.¹⁴²⁸

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁴²⁹

On 29 April 2020, President Ramaphosa hosted a teleconference Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government with the Chairpersons of the AU Regional Economic Communities. This was the fourth meeting to discuss joint continental efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Heads of state called for a continental-led platform for pool procurement and distribution of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products and other goods and services. President Ramaphosa announced he had appointed Zimbabwean businessman Strive Masiyiwa to

¹⁴²⁴ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹⁴²⁵ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴²⁶ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹⁴²⁷ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹⁴²⁸ Remarks by African Union Chairperson President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Virtual Meeting of the AU Bureau of Heads of State and Government Meeting with African Business Leaders, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/cram0422.pdf>.

¹⁴²⁹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

coordinate a private sector-led continental effort to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies and essential goods.¹⁴³⁰

On 7 May 2020, South Africa attended a video conference with fellow BRICS members Plus Five Brazil, Russia, India and China to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. The BRICS members pledged to create “favourable conditions for the supply of medicines and diagnostics, immunobiological preparations and medical equipment.”¹⁴³¹

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁴³²

South Africa has partially complied with their commitment through attending meetings of the G20 and BRICS and hosting meetings of the region to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. South Africa also confirmed their support for the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan and lifting of economic measures and sanctions to ensure the flow of goods and services. However, South Africa has also implemented export controls for certain vital medical supplies, which negatively impacts the flow of vital medical supplies across borders.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.¹⁴³³

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

Turkey: +1

Turkey fully complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹⁴³⁴

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which Turkey is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical

¹⁴³⁰ Communiqué of the Teleconference Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government with Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities of the AU, 29 April 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/au0501.htm>.

¹⁴³¹ Минздрав России провел виртуальную встречу старших должностных лиц стран БРИКС по вопросам здравоохранения, Министерство здравоохранения Российской Федерации (Moscow) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/05/08/13911-minzdrav-rossii-provel-virtualnyu-vstrechu-starshih-dolzhnostnyh-lits-stran-briks-po-voprosam-zdravooxraneniya>.

¹⁴³² Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹⁴³³ Sources consulted include the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and other respective government agencies, trade policy tracker and news sources found through Google News including Cape Argus and IOL.

¹⁴³⁴ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹⁴³⁵

On 9 April 2020, Turkey announced a Joint Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health with Mexico, Indonesia, Korea and Australia. The Foreign Ministers stated they will work together to facilitate the movement of vital goods and services and avoid unnecessary interference with trade.¹⁴³⁶

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹⁴³⁷

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹⁴³⁸

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Turkey made a joint Declaration with Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Korea, South Africa, Singapore, Mexico and the UK on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to purpose their indispensable work.”¹⁴³⁹

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹⁴⁴⁰

¹⁴³⁵ Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹⁴³⁶ Five MIKTA Countries Adopt Foreign Ministers’ Joint Statement on COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320091&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

¹⁴³⁷ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹⁴³⁸ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹⁴³⁹ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹⁴⁴⁰ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹⁴⁴¹

On 22 April 2020, Turkey attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹⁴⁴²

On 22 April 2020, Turkey hosted the extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Executive Committee. The foreign ministers discussed how to increase cooperation and coordination to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁴³

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁴⁴⁴

On 2 May 2020, Turkey announced they lifted the restrictions “on the sale abroad of respirators, incubators, and disinfectants such as ethanol.” Previously, the sale of these items was prohibited or subject to export controls.¹⁴⁴⁵

On 4 May 2020, President Erdoğan sent a video message to the Coronavirus Global Response Summit stating their commitment to ensuring the flow of and supplying vital medical supplies. President Erdoğan stated that Turkey had so far provided 57 countries with vital medical supplies.¹⁴⁴⁶

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group’s G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁴⁴⁷

Turkey has fully complied with their commitment through attending meetings of the G20 and hosting meetings of the region to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Turkey also attended the

¹⁴⁴¹ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹⁴⁴² G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹⁴⁴³ No: 88, 21 April 2020, Press Release Regarding the OIC Extraordinary Executive Committee Meeting at the Level of Foreign Ministers on COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-88_-covid-19-konusunda-ii-toplantisi-hk.en.mfa.

¹⁴⁴⁴ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴⁴⁵ Turkey lifts ban on export of medical equipment to fight coronavirus, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 3 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/turkey-lifts-ban-on-export-of-medical-equipment-to-fight-coronavirus/news>.

¹⁴⁴⁶ President Erdoğan sends video message to Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Event, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/119204/president-erdogan-sends-video-message-to-coronavirus-global-response-international-pledging-event>.

¹⁴⁴⁷ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

Coronavirus Global Response Summit and made joint statements on ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom partially complied with their commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 28 March 2020, the UK announced new measures to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies. Regulations, administrative requirements, and barriers of imports will be eased to fast-track supplies. Furthermore, the UK released new guidance for local authorities and ports and borders enforcement officers on importing hand sanitizer.¹⁴⁴⁸

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹⁴⁴⁹

On 31 March 2020, the UK announced an export ban on 52 medicines “due to anticipated shortages in the country following the COVID-19 outbreak.”¹⁴⁵⁰

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which the United Kingdom is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹⁴⁵¹

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹⁴⁵²

¹⁴⁴⁸ Regulations temporarily suspended to fast-track supplies of PPE to NHS staff and protect companies hit by COVID-19, Government of the UK (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulations-temporarily-suspended-to-fast-track-supplies-of-ppe-to-nhs-staff-and-protect-companies-hit-by-covid-19>.

¹⁴⁴⁹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹⁴⁵⁰ United Kingdom: Export ban imposed on 52 medicines in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Global Trade Alert (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43628/united-kingdom-export-ban-imposed-on-52-medicines-in-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>.

¹⁴⁵¹ Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹⁴⁵² METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹⁴⁵³

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, the UK made a joint Declaration with Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey and Mexico on maintaining essential global links. One of their commitments was to ensuring “the necessary flow of goods and services between countries, notably the fair, transparent, efficient and timely access to the distribution of personal protective equipment, medicine and other essential medical material as well as food and enable humanitarian workers and NGOs to purpose their indispensable work.”¹⁴⁵⁴

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹⁴⁵⁵

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹⁴⁵⁶

On 21 April 2020, the UK was among nearly 50 governments who announced they would “sign a pledge aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions.” This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food. Eight policy actions were recommended “including keeping supply chains open and connected; avoiding export restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”¹⁴⁵⁷

On 22 April 2020, the UK attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on

¹⁴⁵³ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹⁴⁵⁴ Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links?idiom=en>.

¹⁴⁵⁵ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴⁵⁶ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹⁴⁵⁷ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹⁴⁵⁸

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁴⁵⁹

On 23 April 2020, the UK announced an export ban on 33 medicines “due to prevent any medicine shortages following the Coronavirus outbreak.”¹⁴⁶⁰

On 24 April 2020, the European Commission published Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 “which prohibits the export from the EU of certain personal protective equipment unless a license is first obtained from an EU Member State authority.” It enters into force on 26 April 2020. Personal protective equipment includes protective spectacles and visors, mouth-nose-protection and protective garments. However, it does lift the restrictions on face shields and gloves.¹⁴⁶¹

On 29 April 2020, the UK government announced their collaboration with China to procure vital medical supplies and ship them to the UK. The UK was granted special permission by the China Civil Aviation Authority to use passenger routes to take the vital medical supplies to the UK. The UK has also donated medical equipment to China.¹⁴⁶²

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹⁴⁶³

On 9 May 2020, the UK announced the outcome of their work to foster new, innovative collaborations with several organizations. By working with Amazon, the Royal Mint, Jaguar Land Rover, eBay Survitec, DTR Medical, Bollé Safety, Don & Low, Ineos and Burberry, the UK has ensured the flow of millions more items of vital medical supplies. These partnerships provide the UK with vital medical supplies, but also with access to new supply chains for sourcing goods and services.¹⁴⁶⁴

¹⁴⁵⁸ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹⁴⁵⁹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴⁶⁰ United Kingdom: Imposition of export ban on 33 medicines in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Global Trade Alert (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43825/united-kingdom-imposition-of-export-ban-on-33-medicines-in-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>.

¹⁴⁶¹ EU updates export controls on personal protective equipment in response to COVID-19, International Trade Compliance Update (Chicago) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.internationaltradecomplianceupdate.com/2020/04/27/eu-updates-export-controls-on-personal-protective-equipment-in-response-to-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁶² Over 22 million pieces of protective equipment shipped to UK from China, Government of the UK (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-22-million-pieces-of-protective-equipment-shipped-to-uk-from-china>.

¹⁴⁶³ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

¹⁴⁶⁴ Millions more items of PPE for frontline staff from new business partnerships, Government of the UK (London) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>.

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group's G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁴⁶⁵

On 15 May 2020, the UK announced an innovative COVID-19 response services for developing countries to assist in ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services. Through funding to the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme, the UK is ensuring the flow of goods and services to developing countries "through better trade facilitation, helping to expedite the movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. This is particularly important with regards to the movement of critical goods such as medical supplies and personal protective equipment."¹⁴⁶⁶

On 15 May 2020, UK Ambassador to the WTO and United Nations in Geneva Julian Braithwaite spoke to the WTO General Council. Ambassador Braithwaite reiterated the UK's commitment to keeping global agricultural supply chains open. Furthermore, the UK intends to hold a meeting on the topic in June.¹⁴⁶⁷

On 15 May 2020, the UK announced a new industry deal with technology company Honeywell to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies to the UK. Over 70 million face masks will be manufactured in the UK as the UK "seeks to unleash the potential of UK industry to scale up domestic PPE [personal protective equipment] manufacturing."¹⁴⁶⁸

The United Kingdom has partially complied with their commitment through attending meetings of the G20 to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Furthermore, the United Kingdom co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, made joint statements on ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders, facilitated partnerships with several companies, as well as China, to ensure flow of vital medical supplies into the United Kingdom, and eased regulations to fast-track the import of essential goods and services. However, the United Kingdom has imposed several export bans on medicines and personal protective equipment.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of 0.¹⁴⁶⁹

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

¹⁴⁶⁵ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹⁴⁶⁶ The United Kingdom announces two COVID-19 response services for eligible developing countries to help combat the impact of the virus on international trade, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-announces-two-covid-19-response-services-for-eligible-developing-countries-to-help-combat-the-impact-of-the-virus-on-international>.

¹⁴⁶⁷ UK Statement to the WTO General Council, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-to-the-wto-trade-negotiations-committee>.

¹⁴⁶⁸ 70 million face masks for NHS and care workers through new industry deal, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/70-million-face-masks-for-nhs-and-care-workers-through-new-industry-deal>.

¹⁴⁶⁹ Sources consulted include the Department for International Trade and other respective government agencies, trade policy trackers, and news sources including BBC, The Guardian, and other sources found through Google News.

United States: 0

The United States partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 27 March 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the second teleconference with Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on how to work together to preserve the global supply chain.¹⁴⁷⁰

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹⁴⁷¹

On 2 April 2020, the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which the United States is a member, announced their commitment to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders by working together to airlift supplies from across the globe.¹⁴⁷²

On 3 April 2020, President Donald Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to ban the export of vital medical supplies, including the export of respirator masks.¹⁴⁷³

On 3 April 2020, President Trump signed a memorandum to implement restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The memorandum set forth the “policy of the United States to prevent domestic brokers, distributors, and other intermediaries from diverting [these products] overseas” so as to “ensure that these scarce or threatened PPE [personal protective equipment] materials remains in the United States for use in responding to the spread of COVID-19.”¹⁴⁷⁴

On 3 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the third teleconference with Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice

¹⁴⁷⁰ Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=

¹⁴⁷¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹⁴⁷² Declaration by NATO Foreign Ministers on the coronavirus pandemic, Government of the UK (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/declaration-by-nato-foreign-ministers-on-the-coronavirus-pandemic>.

¹⁴⁷³ Trump bans export of coronavirus protection gear, says he’s ‘not happy with 3M,’ CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/03/coronavirus-trump-to-ban-export-of-protective-gear-after-slamming-3m.html>.

¹⁴⁷⁴ United States of America: Presidential memorandum and subsequent FEMA rule restricting exports by intermediaries of personal protective equipment, Global Trade Alert (London) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/78995/export-ban/united-states-of-america-presidential-memorandum-and-subsequent-fema-rule-restricting-exports-by-intermediaries-of-personal-protective-equipment>.

Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹⁴⁷⁵

On 6 April 2020, the US attended the ASEAN-US High Level Interagency video conference on combatting COVID-19. The participants at the meeting affirmed to “not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption of global supply chains. All parties emphasized their shared commitment to ensuring the swift and continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, critical agricultural goods, and other essential goods and services across borders, in support of the health of our citizens.”¹⁴⁷⁶ Participants also pledged to strengthen cooperation on facilitating trade and ensuring the flow of supplies.¹⁴⁷⁷

On 6 April 2020, Secretary Michael Pompeo spoke with Canadian Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne to discuss, among other topics, working together to ensure the viability of international supply chains for vital medical supplies.¹⁴⁷⁸

On 10 April 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced a temporary export ban of 120 days on five types of personal protective equipment. The personal protective equipment banned from export are the N-95 filtering facepiece respirators, other filtering facepiece respirators, elastomeric, personal protective equipment surgical masks, and personal protective equipment gloves and surgical gloves.¹⁴⁷⁹

On 10 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the fourth teleconference with Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to continue collaboration to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.¹⁴⁸⁰

On 10 April 2020, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy

¹⁴⁷⁵ 3rd Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=

¹⁴⁷⁶ Joint Statement From Co-Chairs of the ASEAN- U.S. High Level Interagency Video Conference To Counter COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-from-co-chairs-of-the-asean-u-s-high-level-interagency-video-conference-to-counter-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁷⁷ Joint Statement From Co-Chairs of the ASEAN- U.S. High Level Interagency Video Conference To Counter COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-from-co-chairs-of-the-asean-u-s-high-level-interagency-video-conference-to-counter-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁷⁸ Secretary Pompeo’s Call with Canadian Foreign Minister Champagne, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-pompeos-call-with-canadian-foreign-minister-champagne-3/>.

¹⁴⁷⁹ United States of America: Presidential memorandum and subsequent FEMA rule restricting exports by intermediaries of personal protective equipment, Global Trade Alert (London) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/78995/export-ban/united-states-of-america-presidential-memorandum-and-subsequent-fema-rule-restricting-exports-by-intermediaries-of-personal-protective-equipment>.

¹⁴⁸⁰ 4th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320094&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=4&titleNm=

Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹⁴⁸¹

On 11 April 2020, the US pledged to support international organizations and non-governmental organizations that will ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products and other goods and services to Italy. As well, the US pledged to contribute to ensuring the flow of supplies to Italy and aims for these actions to also bolster global supply chains.¹⁴⁸²

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹⁴⁸³

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹⁴⁸⁴

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹⁴⁸⁵

On 21 April 2020, the US announced their work to support COVID-19 response in Pacific island countries, coordinating with Australia and New Zealand to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products and other goods and services to Pacific island countries. The US has provided over USD 32 million in funding for these measures.¹⁴⁸⁶

¹⁴⁸¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹⁴⁸² U.S. Assistance to Italy, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-assistance-to-italy/>.

¹⁴⁸³ Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁴ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁵ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

¹⁴⁸⁶ The United States Is Assisting Pacific Island Countries To Respond to COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-is-assisting-pacific-island-countries-to-respond-to-covid-19/>.

On 21 April 2020, the US refused to sign an initiative to “aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions,” signed by nearly 50 governments. This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food.¹⁴⁸⁷

On 22 April 2020, the US attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹⁴⁸⁸

From 22-23 April 2020, the US attended the Special Association of South East Asian Nations [ASEAN]-US Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on COVID-19. Participants reiterated their commitment to “not create unnecessary barriers to travel and trade or disruption to global supply chains. We emphasized our shared commitment to ensuring, to the maximum extent possible consistent with public health, the stable supply and the swift and continued flow of food, medicines, medical supplies and equipment and other essential goods and commodities as well as the normal flow of trade in other goods and services, and investment across borders to sustain among others, critical economic activities and ensure food security. We highlighted the important role of the private sector in maintaining supply chains and ensuring the production, distribution and delivery of essential products during the crisis.”¹⁴⁸⁹

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁴⁹⁰

On 24 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the sixth teleconference with Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, and maintain the global supply chain, among other topics.¹⁴⁹¹

On 29 April 2020, Secretary Michael Pompeo spoke on the phone with Brazilian Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo. They discussed the importance of working together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic through ensuring the flow of medical supplies in the Americas, among other measures.¹⁴⁹²

¹⁴⁸⁷ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

¹⁴⁸⁸ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Joint Statement From the Co-Chairs of the Special ASEAN-United States Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-from-the-co-chairs-of-the-special-asean-united-states-foreign-ministers-meeting-on-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁹⁰ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁴⁹¹ 6th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response Held among Vice Foreign Ministers of 7 Countries in Asia-Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320115&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=2&titleNm=

¹⁴⁹² Secretary Pompeo’s Call with Brazilian Foreign Minister Araujo, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-pompeos-call-with-brazilian-foreign-minister-araujo-2/>.

On 30 April 2020, the US announced their work to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products and other goods and services. Some of the measures taken have been ensuring cargo planes are able to take off and land quickly, clearing air approvals and addressing customs issues. Furthermore, the US government is identifying how to strengthen, secure and expand American supply chains to ensure the continued flow of goods and services.¹⁴⁹³

On 1 May 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the seventh teleconference with Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed how to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services, among other topics. Korean Vice Minister Cho Sei-young emphasized the importance of restoring global supply chains.¹⁴⁹⁴

On 12 May 2020, the US spoke on the work of their partnership with their North American counterparts, Canada and Mexico, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic,¹⁴⁹⁵ their collaboration with Transatlantic allies,¹⁴⁹⁶ and with Indo-Pacific partners.¹⁴⁹⁷ One of the outcomes of this collaboration has been maintaining the flow of vital medical supplies. They pledged to continue to ensure that global supply chains are not interrupted.^{1498,1499,1500}

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group's G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁵⁰¹

The United States has partially complied with their commitment through attending meetings of the G20 and meetings with several regions of the world to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. The US has also contributed to ensuring the flow of goods and services to Pacific island countries and implemented measures that make the transport of goods and services easier. However, the United States has implemented export bans on personal protective equipment and vital medical supplies.

¹⁴⁹³ U.S. Department of State Doing Its Part To Keep America Safe, Healthy, and Running During the COVID-19 Pandemic, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-doing-its-part-to-keep-america-safe-healthy-and-running-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

¹⁴⁹⁴ 7th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 May 2020. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320122&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=1&titleNm=

¹⁴⁹⁵ North American Cooperation on COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/north-american-cooperation-on-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁹⁶ Transatlantic Cooperation on COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/transatlantic-cooperation-on-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁹⁷ Indo-Pacific Cooperation on COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/indo-pacific-cooperation-on-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁹⁸ North American Cooperation on COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/north-american-cooperation-on-covid-19/>.

¹⁴⁹⁹ Transatlantic Cooperation on COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/transatlantic-cooperation-on-covid-19/>.

¹⁵⁰⁰ Indo-Pacific Cooperation on COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.state.gov/indo-pacific-cooperation-on-covid-19/>.

¹⁵⁰¹ Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

Thus, the United States has received a score of 0.¹⁵⁰²

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

European Union: 0

The European Union partially complied with the commitment to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders.

On 30 March 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference to discuss the seriousness of the disrupted global supply chains and weakened consumer activities. The ministers committed to “ensuring smooth and continued operation of logistic networks” and called on international organizations to “provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on world trade, investment and global supply chains.” The G20 Trade and Investment Working Group was tasked to identify how to maintain global supply chains.¹⁵⁰³

On 30 March 2020, the European Commission announced new practical advice that ensures the movement of workers within the EU, in particular essential workers. These guidelines apply to, but are not limited to, those working in health care, agriculture or food sectors, and other essential services.¹⁵⁰⁴

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission announced they would “temporarily waive customs duties and VAT on import of medical devices, and protective equipment, from third countries in order to help in the fight against coronavirus. This will make it easier financially to get the medical equipment that doctors, nurses and patients desperately need.”¹⁵⁰⁵ These eased regulations will apply for 6 months, with a possibility of extension.¹⁵⁰⁶

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission issued practical guidance to support and encourage cross-border healthcare cooperation between national, regional and local authorities. The Commission also pledged to support Member States by sending qualified teams of medical personnel across borders to offer assistance.¹⁵⁰⁷

On 7 April 2020, the European Commission coordinated and co-financed the deployment of a team of European doctors from Romania and Norway to Milan and Bergamo, Italy to battle the COVID-

¹⁵⁰² Sources consulted include the Department of State and other respective government agencies, trade policy trackers, and news sources such as CNN, New York Times, Washington Post and other sources found through Google News.

¹⁵⁰³ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html.

¹⁵⁰⁴ Coronavirus: Commission presents practical guidance to ensure the free movement of critical workers, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_545.

¹⁵⁰⁵ Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575.

¹⁵⁰⁶ Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575.

¹⁵⁰⁷ Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590.

19 pandemic. These actions demonstrate the EU's commitment to ensuring the flow of medical services across borders to address the needs of citizens of the EU, in Italy.¹⁵⁰⁸

On 7 April 2020, the European Commission sent the French government a letter “urging it to lift export restrictions on dozens of vital medicines to treat coronavirus patients.”¹⁵⁰⁹

On 8 April 2020, the European Commission and High Representative announced a plan to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of the EU global response package is EUR 502 million dedicated to “supporting global efforts to combat export restrictions and ensure supply chains remain intact, notable for essential medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.”¹⁵¹⁰

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi emphasized the importance of stable crude oil markets and the need for measures to protect oil supply chains. The G20 Energy Ministers agreed to “take all necessary measures to ensure a balance of interests between producers and consumers, energy security and the sustainable flow of energy.”¹⁵¹¹

On 15 April 2020, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met virtually to discuss how to address the COVID-19 pandemic, endorsing the G20 Action Plan. The ministers agreed “that emergency trade measures designed to tackle COVID-19, if deemed necessary, must be targeted, proportionate, transparency and temporary, and that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or distribution to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. We are actively working to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment.”¹⁵¹²

On 19 April 2020, the G20 Health Ministers held a virtual meeting to discuss coordinated efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministers shared experiences and embraced preventative measures, addressed the need for further knowledge sharing to improve global health systems, and actions needed to improve pandemic preparedness.¹⁵¹³

On 21 April 2020, the G20 Agricultural Ministers met virtually with the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu and reaffirmed their commitment to “ensur[ing] that sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food continues to be available and accessible to all people, including the poorest, the most vulnerable, and displaced people.”¹⁵¹⁴

¹⁵⁰⁸ Coronavirus: EU Medical Teams deployed to Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_613.

¹⁵⁰⁹ Exclusive: France first - Paris ignores EU calls to lift export bans on COVID-19 drugs, Reuters (Brussels) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-drug-exclusive/exclusive-france-first-paris-ignores-eu-calls-to-lift-export-bans-on-covid-19-drugs-idUSKCN2252HN>.

¹⁵¹⁰ Coronavirus: EU global response to fight the pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_604.

¹⁵¹¹ METI Minister Kajiyama Attends G20 Extraordinary Energy Ministers Meeting via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html.

¹⁵¹² Communiqué Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

¹⁵¹³ G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁵¹⁴ FAO urges at G20 meeting protection of food supply chains amid COVID-19 threat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.fao.org.proxy.library.uu.nl/news/story/en/item/1272077/icode/>.

On 21 April 2020, the EU was among nearly 50 governments who announced they would “sign a pledge aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions.” This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food. Eight policy actions were recommended “including keeping supply chains open and connected; avoiding export restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”¹⁵¹⁵

On 22 April 2020, the EU attended the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s virtual meeting to address how to ensure global supply chains remain intact and robust. The meeting “focused on developing recommended actions to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, and critical agricultural products across borders.”¹⁵¹⁶

On 23 April 2020, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met virtually to discuss their commitment to promote employment, ensure adequate measures to protect all workers, and improve global supply chains through working with each other and other international actors.¹⁵¹⁷

On 24 April 2020, the European Commission announced the mobilized of EUR 320 million under the Emergency Support Instrument for Emergency Support actions. ERU100 million will be dedicated to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies and essential health-related products required in the coming months.¹⁵¹⁸

On 24 April 2020, the European Commission published Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 “which prohibits the export from the EU of certain personal protective equipment unless a license is first obtained from an EU Member State authority.” It enters into force on 26 April 2020. Personal protective equipment includes protective spectacles and visors, mouth-nose-protection and protective garments. However, it does lift the restrictions on face shields and gloves.¹⁵¹⁹

On 4 May 2020, the EU co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit. The attendees agreed on several needs, including “equitable and universal channels for the distribution of medical supplies.”¹⁵²⁰

On 8 May 2020, the EU Emergency Support Instrument announced a delivery of 1.5 million medical masks to 17 members states and the UK. This is one of many deliveries of hundreds of thousands of

¹⁵¹⁵ Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

¹⁵¹⁶ G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meet to Implement the Trade Ministers’ Mandate on COVID-19, G20 2020 Saudi Arabia Presidency (Riyadh) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf.

¹⁵¹⁷ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html>.

¹⁵¹⁸ Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819.

¹⁵¹⁹ EU updates export controls on personal protective equipment in response to COVID-19, International Trade Compliance Update (Chicago) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.internationaltradeupdate.com/2020/04/27/eu-updates-export-controls-on-personal-protective-equipment-in-response-to-covid-19/>.

¹⁵²⁰ Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>.

masks mobilized by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism from the rescEU reserve to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies to those who need them.¹⁵²¹

On 14 May 2020, G20 Trade and Investment Ministers met via video conference for the second time to discuss the Trade and Investment Group's G20 Actions to Support World Trade and Investment through the COVID-19 Pandemic. The actions include improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁵²²

On 26 May 2020, President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The leaders committed to cooperation between Japan and EU "to facilitate the flow of medical supplies, agricultural products, raw materials and other goods and services across borders, while ensuring that any necessary emergency measures designed to tackle COVID-19 are targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary, and consistent with WTO rules so that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains."¹⁵²³ Furthermore, Japan and the EU stressed the important of improving global supply chains to become more resilient.¹⁵²⁴

The European Union has partially complied with their commitment through attending meetings of the G20 to discuss and agree to ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders. Furthermore, the European Union co-promoted the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, eased regulations to fast-track the import of essential and has facilitated the flow of services across borders. However, the European Union imposed an export ban on personal protective equipment outside the European Union.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of 0.¹⁵²⁵

Analyst: Sonja Dobson

¹⁵²¹ Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819.

¹⁵²² Second Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0513.html>.

¹⁵²³ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942.

¹⁵²⁴ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942.

¹⁵²⁵ Sources consulted include the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade and other respective government agencies, trade policy trackers, and news sources such as BBC, The Guardian and other sources found through Google News.