

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

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

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

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

[G20@utoronto.ca](mailto:G20@utoronto.ca)

## Contents

Preface .....	3
Research Team .....	4
G20 Research Group Team .....	4
CIIR G20 Research Team .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Key Findings .....	5
Commitment Breakdown .....	6
Selection of Commitments .....	6
Interim Compliance Scores .....	7
Interim Compliance by Member .....	7
Interim Compliance by Commitment .....	7
Future Research and Reports .....	7
Considerations and Limitations .....	7
Table 1: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring .....	8
Table 2: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Scores .....	9
Table 3: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance by Member .....	10
Table 4: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance by Commitment .....	10
Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2018 .....	11
Appendix: General Considerations .....	13
1. Health: Strengthening the World Health Organization .....	14
2. Health: System Strengthening .....	45
3. Health: Digital Technologies .....	64
4. Health: Research and Development .....	78
5. Global Economy: Policy Tools .....	104
6. Global Economy: Fiscal Support .....	153
7. Global Economy: Debt Vulnerabilities .....	174
8. Labour and Employment: Job and Income Protection .....	192
9. Trade: Flow of Goods and Services .....	215
10. Trade: Avoiding Unnecessary Interference .....	286
11. Finance: Global Cooperation .....	301

## Preface

Since the G20 leaders met at their first summit in 2008 in Washington, the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto and the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), formerly with the International Organizations Research Institute at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE), in Moscow have produced reports on their progress in implementing the priority commitments made at each summit. These reports monitor each G20 member's efforts to implement a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments produced at each summit. The reports are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the work of the G20 more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the causes of compliance and the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the G20 Information Centre at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis>.

The G20 Research Group has been working with Marina Larionova's team at RANEPA and previously at HSE since initiating this G20 compliance research in 2009, after the Washington Summit in November 2008. The initial report, covering only one commitment made at that summit, tested the compliance methodology developed by the G7 Research Group and adapted it to the G20.

This special report has been produced by a special team of analysts associated with the G20 Research Group and RANEPA to provide a rapid assessment of G20 members' compliance over the first two months following the G20's Extraordinary Virtual Summit on 26 March 2020 of the 11 priority commitments among the 47 produced by the leaders. Unlike the regular annual interim and final compliance reports produced by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA, this report has not been sent to stakeholders for their input prior to its publication.

To make its assessments, the G20 Research Group and RANEPA rely on publicly available information, documentation and media reports. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments from stakeholders. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. We particularly invite those reading this report to provide such feedback, especially on implementing actions that are consistent with the G20 leaders' March commitments that occurred up to 26 May and in the following months. Responsibility for the contents of this special report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts.

Professor John Kirton  
Director, G20 Research Group

## **Research Team**

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## Introduction

The G20 2020 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report is prepared by the G20 Research Group based at the University of Toronto and its Russian partner at the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). The report analyzes G20 members' compliance with 11 priority commitments selected from the 47 commitments made at the Extraordinary Virtual Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on 26 March 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic (see Table 1). It covers relevant actions taken by the G20 members between 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.

This report has not been sent out for stakeholder review before publication. Therefore, the research teams welcome feedback on any publicly available material that might supplement their assessments.

## Key Findings

Two months after the G20's Extraordinary Virtual Summit on 26 March 2020 members complied with its 11 priority commitments assessed at an average of 72% (see Table 2). This compliance is same as the all-time, all-subject average of 72% for G20 compliance, based on the 286 commitments assessed for compliance by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA. This Extraordinary Virtual Summit's interim compliance was reached over two months, compared with the much longer period of about a year for the 14 G20 summits before.

By member, 11 members had above-average compliance: Germany at 95%; Australia, Canada and Japan at 91%; the European Union at 86%; France at 85%; Italy at 80%; Korea at 77%; and China, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia at 73% (see Table 3). All 20 members complied in the positive range (i.e., at or above 0, or 50%).

By component institutionalized grouping, compliance was thus largely led by members of the European Union at 84% (87% without the United Kingdom), the G7 83%, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development at 85%. BRICS members averaged 62%.

By G20 hosting, the three countries that have not held the G20 presidency (India, Indonesia, South Africa) averaged 59% compliance, well below the 72% average. The members of the current governing troika (Japan, which hosted in 2019; 2020 host Saudi Arabia; and Italy, scheduled to host in 2021) averaged 81%. All three complied significantly more than with previous summits.

It should also be noted that the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected various G20 members differently, in terms of timing, incidents and economic impact.

By subject, higher compliance came with the Extraordinary Virtual Summit's commitments on the economy and employment than with compliance on trade or health (see Table 4). The one employment commitment assessed had complete compliance of 100%. The three commitments on the global economy averaged 84%. The four commitments on health averaged a low 63% (due largely to the extremely low 35% compliance with the commitment on digital technologies). The two trade commitments also averaged 63%. The one commitment on global financial cooperation at only 60% related to both the economy and health, as it referenced the World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Of the 11 commitments, 10 had compliance in the positive range (i.e., at or above 0, or 50%).

Many of the assessed commitments have timelines that extend beyond the 2020 Extraordinary Virtual Summit or reflect medium- and long-term priorities. This report incorporates deadlines for commitments monitored over multiple compliance cycles. The convergence of medium- and long-term commitments and those with deadlines in the near future reflects the nature of G20 decisions as a crisis management forum and a global governance steering institution. It also illustrates the multifaceted nature of compliance assessment.

## Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multiyear project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions.

The methodology uses a scale from -1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, -1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where -1 equals 0 per cent and +1 equals 100 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

A -1 compliance score does not necessarily imply an unwillingness to comply on the part of G20 members. In some cases, policy actions can take multiple compliance cycles to implement and measure. As the G20 Research Group and RANEPa (formerly the research team at IORI HSE) continue to monitor developments, progress made by members can be recorded in future compliance reports.

The Compliance Coding Manual that describes the methodology in detail is available on the G20 Information Centre website at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/index.html#method>.

## Commitment Breakdown

The G20 leaders made 47 commitments at the Extraordinary Virtual Summit.<sup>2</sup> These commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group and RANEPa, are drawn from the official Statement on COVID-19 issued on 26 March 2020.

## Selection of Commitments

For each compliance cycle (that is, the period between summits), the research team selects commitments that reflect the breadth of the G20 agenda and also reflect the priorities of the summit's host, while balancing the selection to allow for comparison with past and future summits, following the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group. The selection also replicates the breakdown of issue areas and the proportion of commitments in each one. Primary criteria for priority commitment selection are the comprehensiveness and relevance to the summit, the G20 and the world, as well as individual and collective pledges. Selected commitments must also meet secondary criteria of performance measurability and ability to comply to some degree within a year, as well as tertiary criteria of significance as identified by scientific teams and relevant stakeholders in the host country.

For the 2020 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Compliance Report, 11 priority commitments were selected for assessment by the G20 Research Group and RANEPa teams from the 47 commitments made at the Extraordinary Virtual Summit (see Table 1).

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<sup>1</sup> The formula to convert a score into a percentage is  $P = 50 \times (S + 1)$ , where P is the percentage and S is the score.

<sup>2</sup> A commitment is defined as a discrete, specific, publicly expressed, collectively agreed statement of intent; a promise by summit members that they will undertake future action to move toward, meet or adjust to an identified target. More details are contained in the Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding).

### **Interim Compliance Scores**

The assessment is based on relevant, publicly available information relating to actions taken between 27 March 2020 and 26 May 2020. The compliance scores by commitment are contained in Table 2. Country rankings are listed in Table 3 and commitment rankings are listed in Table 4. Table 5 lists the final compliance scores by country for every summit from the 2008 Washington Summit to the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit.

For the 11 commitments assessed from the 2020 Extraordinary Virtual Summit, G20 members achieved average compliance of +0.44 (72%).

### **Interim Compliance by Member**

For compliance with the Extraordinary Virtual Summit priority commitments, Germany has the highest compliance at +0.90 (95%), followed by Australia, Canada and Japan at +0.82 (91%), and the European Union at +0.73 (83%). The lowest scoring member is Mexico with 0 (50%). The difference between the highest and lowest G20 member compliance scores is +0.90. Scores by member are listed in Table 3.

### **Interim Compliance by Commitment**

This particular compliance cycle has produced a high level of compliance for several areas so far. The commitment on labour and employment (job and income protection) ranked highest at +1.00 (100%), followed by the commitment on fiscal support at +0.95 (98%) and the commitments on the economic policy tools and health systems strengthening at +0.55 (78%). The lowest score was on health on leveraging digital technologies at -0.30 (35%). Scores by commitment are listed in Table 4.

### **Future Research and Reports**

The information contained in this report provides G20 members and other stakeholders with an indication of their compliance in the period immediately following the Extraordinary Virtual Summit on 26 March 2020. There are plans to produce a final report that covers the full period between the Extraordinary Virtual Summit and the Riyadh Summit scheduled to take place on 20–21 November 2020.

This report has been produced as an invitation for others to provide additional or more complete information on compliance during the period under study. Feedback should be sent to [g20@utoronto.ca](mailto:g20@utoronto.ca).

### **Considerations and Limitations**

Several elements affect the findings contained in this report. Although the purpose of the report is to monitor compliance with G20 commitments, it is necessary to ensure that the monitoring mechanism is realistic and considers the context within which the commitments are made. With new commitments, more attention is paid to the initial implementation constraints faced by members. One way to accommodate these constraints is to regard the intent to implement policy measures as an illustration of compliance or being “on track” toward compliance. This initial leeway should apply only to new commitments; intent is not accepted as a suitable indicator of compliance for medium-term or longstanding commitments. Over time, as commitments become integrated in the G20 compliance mechanism, compliance guidelines become more stringent (as members become more accustomed to the nature of the issue and the requirements for compliance).

See also Appendix: General Considerations.

**Table 1: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring**

1	Health: Strengthening the World Health Organization	“We fully support and commit to further strengthen the WHO’s [World Health Organization’s] mandate in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.”
2	Health: System strengthening	“We commit to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing our epidemic preparedness spending”
3	Health: Digital technologies	“We commit to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing our epidemic preparedness spending”
4	Health: Research and development	“We further commit to working together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines”
5	Global economy: Policy tools	“We commit to do whatever it takes and to use all available policy tools to minimize the economic ... damage from the pandemic.”
6	Global economy: Fiscal support	“We will continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support.”
7	Global economy: Debt vulnerabilities	“We will continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries due to the pandemic.”
8	Labour and employment: Job and income protection	“We are determined to spare no effort, both individually and collectively, to ... Safeguard people’s jobs and incomes”
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.”
10	Trade: Avoiding unnecessary interference	“We commit to continue working together to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade”
11	Finance: Global cooperation	“We will work swiftly and decisively with the front-line international organizations, notably the WHO [World Health Organization], IMF [International Monetary Fund], WBG [World Bnk Group], and multilateral and regional development banks to deploy a robust, coherent, coordinated and rapid finance package and to address any gaps in their toolkit.”



**Table 2: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Scores**

		Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	France	Germany	India	Indonesia	Italy	Japan	Korea	Mexico	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average	
1	Health: World Health Organization strengthening	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1	-1	0	+1	0	+1	0	-1	+1	+0.35	68%
2	Health: System strengthening	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	-1	0	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.55	78%
3	Health: Digital technologies	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	+1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	-0.30	35%
4	Health: Research and development	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	0	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	+1	+0.40	70%
5	Global economy: Policy tools	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	-1	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.55	78%
6	Global economy: Fiscal support	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.95	98%
7	Global Economy: Debt vulnerability	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.50	75%
8	Labour and Employment: Job and income protection	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
9	Trade: Flow of goods and services	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	0	+0.50	75%
10	Trade: Avoiding unnecessary interference	0	0	0	+1	0	-	-	-1	0	-	+1	+1	+1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	0.00	50%
11	Finance: Global cooperation	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	0	+1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	+1	-1	0	-1	+1	+0.20	60%
	Average	+0.18 59%	+0.82 91%	+0.27 64%	+0.82 91%	+0.45 73%	+0.70 85%	+0.90 95%	+0.09 55%	+0.18 59%	+0.60 80%	+0.82 91%	+0.55 77%	0.00 50%	+0.09 55%	+0.45 73%	+0.27 64%	+0.18 59%	+0.45 73%	+0.18 59%	+0.73 86%	+0.44 72%	72%

**Table 3: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance by Member**

Rank	Member	Average	
1	Germany	+0.90	95%
2	Australia	+0.82	91%
	Canada		
	Japan		
5	European Union	+0.73	86%
6	France	+0.70	85%
7	Italy	+0.60	80%
8	Korea	+0.55	77%
9	China	+0.45	73%
	Saudi Arabia		
	United Kingdom		
12	Brazil	+0.27	64%
	South Africa		
14	Argentina	+0.18	59%
	Indonesia		
	Turkey		
	United States		
18	India	+0.09	55%
	Russia		
20	Mexico	0	50%

**Table 4: 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance by Commitment**

Rank	Commitment	Average	
1	Labour and Employment: Job and income protection	+1.00	100%
2	Global economy: Fiscal support	+0.95	98%
3	Global economy: Policy tools	+0.55	78%
	Health: System strengthening		
5	Global Economy: Debt vulnerability	+0.50	75%
	Trade: Flow of goods and services		
7	Health: Research and development	+0.40	70%
8	Health: WHO strengthening	+0.35	68%
9	Finance: Global cooperation	+0.20	60%
10	Trade: Avoiding unnecessary interference	0	50%
11	Health: Digital technologies	-0.30	35%

**Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2018**

	Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final	
Member	Washington 2008		London 2009		Pittsburgh 2009		Toronto 2010		Seoul 2010		Cannes 2011		Los Cabos 2012	
Argentina	0	50%	−0.60	20%	−0.13	44%	0	50%	−0.08	46%	0	50%	+0.31	66%
Australia	n/a	—	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.85	93%	+0.67	84%	+0.94	97%
Brazil	+1.00	100%	+0.20	60%	−0.63	19%	+0.29	65%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.56	78%
Canada	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.78	89%	+0.69	85%	+0.73	87%	+0.75	88%
China	0	50%	−0.40	30%	+0.13	57%	+0.38	69%	+0.42	71%	+0.53	77%	+0.38	69%
France	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.60	80%	+0.69	85%
Germany	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.54	77%	+0.67	84%	+0.56	78%
India	0	50%	−0.40	30%	−0.38	31%	−0.29	36%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%
Indonesia	n/a	—	−0.40	30%	−0.63	19%	−0.13	44%	+0.36	68%	+0.14	57%	+0.47	74%
Italy	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.13	57%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.80	90%	+0.19	60%
Japan	+1.00	100%	+0.20	60%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.62	81%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%
Korea	n/a	—	0	50%	+0.75	88%	+0.56	78%	+0.46	73%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%
Mexico	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.25	63%	−0.14	43%	+0.58	79%	+0.67	84%	+0.69	85%
Russia	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+0.38	69%	+0.13	57%	+0.59	80%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%
Saudi Arabia	n/a	—	+0.20	60%	−0.13	44%	−0.13	44%	+0.08	54%	+0.21	61%	+0.50	75%
South Africa	+1.00	100%	+0.40	70%	+0.63	82%	−0.14	43%	+0.33	67%	+0.47	74%	+0.47	74%
Turkey	n/a	—	+0.20	60%	−0.25	38%	−0.14	43%	+0.17	59%	+0.20	60%	+0.25	63%
United Kingdom	+1.00	100%	+1.00	100%	+0.50	75%	+0.78	89%	+0.77	89%	+0.87	94%	+0.81	91%
United States	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+1.00	100%	+0.33	67%	+0.38	69%	+0.53	77%	+0.81	91%
European Union	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.38	69%	+0.57	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.85	93%	+0.75	88%
Average	+0.67	83%	+0.23	62%	+0.24	62%	+0.28	64%	+0.50	75%	+0.54	77%	+0.57	79%

n/a = not available

**Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2018, continued**

	Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final	
Member	St. Petersburg 2013		Brisbane 2014		Antalya 2015		Hangzhou 2016		Hamburg 2017		Buenos Aires 2018	
Argentina	+0.06	53%	+0.06	53%	+0.53	76%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%	+0.75	88%
Australia	+0.63	81%	+0.59	79%	+0.65	82%	+0.79	89%	+0.71	85%	+0.80	90%
Brazil	+0.31	66%	+0.12	56%	+0.53	76%	+0.58	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.70	85%
Canada	+0.44	72%	+0.71	85%	+0.65	82%	+0.84	92%	+0.94	97%	+0.75	88%
China	+0.19	59%	+0.59	79%	+0.59	79%	+0.74	87%	+0.76	88%	+0.75	88%
France	+0.69	84%	+0.63	81%	+0.71	85%	+0.63	82%	+0.94	97%	+1.00	100%
Germany	+0.75	88%	+0.69	84%	+0.71	85%	+0.79	89%	+0.88	94%	+0.65	83%
India	+0.63	81%	+0.59	79%	+0.65	82%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%	+0.75	88%
Indonesia	+0.50	75%	+0.12	56%	+0.18	59%	+0.53	76%	+0.94	97%	+0.45	73%
Italy	+0.44	72%	+0.13	56%	+0.71	85%	+0.32	66%	+0.76	88%	+0.35	68%
Japan	+0.31	66%	+0.65	82%	+0.35	68%	+0.68	84%	+0.76	88%	+0.55	78%
Korea	+0.38	69%	+0.65	82%	+0.53	76%	+0.68	84%	+0.71	85%	+0.60	80%
Mexico	+0.38	69%	+0.47	74%	+0.53	76%	+0.53	76%	+0.65	82%	+0.60	80%
Russia	+0.44	72%	+0.47	74%	+0.47	74%	+0.68	84%	+0.65	82%	+0.35	68%
Saudi Arabia	+0.06	53%	−0.24	38%	+0.35	68%	+0.42	71%	+0.59	79%	+0.45	73%
South Africa	+0.25	63%	−0.12	44%	+0.24	62%	+0.37	68%	+0.65	82%	+0.45	73%
Turkey	+0.25	63%	0	50%	+0.41	71%	+0.37	68%	+0.29	65%	+0.05	53%
United Kingdom	+0.75	88%	+0.76	88%	+0.71	85%	+0.47	74%	+0.94	97%	+0.25	63%
United States	+0.69	84%	+0.76	88%	+0.71	85%	+0.42	71%	+0.35	68%	+0.75	88%
European Union	+0.63	81%	+0.75	88%	+0.81	91%	+0.84	92%	0.94	97%	+0.37	68%
Average	+0.44	72%	+0.42	71%	+0.55	77%	+0.60	80%	0.75	87%	+0.57	78%

**Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2018, continued**

## **Appendix: General Considerations**

In evaluating the results of this report, the following considerations should be kept in mind.

Assessments contained in this report apply to commitment-related actions taken by G20 members only since the commitments were declared publicly at the last summit.

Compliance has been assessed against a selected set of priority commitments, rather than all commitments contained in the summit documents. The selection is intended to produce a representative subset of the total body of commitments. An ideal set of priority commitments represents proportionally the amount of attention paid to each policy area in summit documents, reflects the relative ambition of summit commitments, and holds as many G20 members to account for compliance as possible.

In addition to producing commitments, summits provide value by establishing new principles and norms, creating and highlighting issues and issue areas and altering the traditional discourse used to discuss priorities. Some of the most important decisions reached at summits may be done in private and not encoded in the public record of the summit documents.

Some commitments cover several years and thus compliance takes longer than the summit-to-summit timeframe applied in this report. For this reason, full compliance (denoted by a +1 score) might not require that G20 members carry out a given commitment completely, but might instead demand clear, visible progress commensurate with the overall timetable as well as public statements of support of commitment objectives.

In some cases, a G20 member might choose not to comply with a particular summit commitment for good reason, for example if global conditions have changed dramatically since the commitment was made or if new knowledge has become available about how a particular problem can best be solved.

As each G20 member has its own constitutional, legal and institutional processes for undertaking action at the national level (and in the case of the European Union at the supranational level), each member is free to act according to its own legislative schedule. Of particular importance here is the annual schedule for creating budgets, seeking legislative approval and appropriating funds.

Commitments in G20 summit documents might also be included, in whole or in part, in documents released by other international forums, as the decisions of other international organizations or even national statements such as the State of the Union Address in the US, the Queen's Speech in the UK and the Speech from the Throne in Canada. Merely repeating a G20 commitment in another forum does not count fully as compliant behaviour.

This report assesses G20 members' action in accordance with the text of actual, specific commitments made in G20 summit documents. Because commitments demand that policymakers and regulators act specifically to meet the identified objectives, this report holds policymakers accountable for pushing and passing recommended policies. Furthermore, compliance is assessed against the precise, particular commitment, rather than what might be regarded as a necessary or appropriate action to solve the problem being addressed.

As individual members can take different actions to comply with the same commitment, no standardized cross-national evaluative criterion can be universally applied. The interpretive guidelines attempt to provide an equitable method for assessing compliance.

Because the evaluative scale used in this compliance report runs from -1 to +1, any score in the positive range represents at least some degree of compliance.

## 1. Health: Strengthening the World Health Organization

“We fully support and commit to further strengthen the WHO’s [World Health Organization’s] mandate in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.”

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

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average	+0.35 (68%)		

### Background

Global governance processes have recognized health as a key global priority since the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. On 10 December 1948 the United Nations General Assembly created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which Article 25 declared health a human right: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family ... including medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability.”<sup>3</sup> This global dedication to health was reaffirmed in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, at the International Conference on Primary Health Care on 12 September 1978. Here, global leaders affirmed that health “is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose full realisation requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.”<sup>4</sup> More recently, on 25-27 September 2015 world leaders launched the 2030

<sup>3</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations (New York) 10 December 1948. Access Date: 26 April 2020. [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR\\_Translations/eng.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Declaration of Alma-Ata, World Health Organization (Geneva) 12 September 1978. Access Date: 26 April 2020. [https://www.who.int/publications/almaata\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/publications/almaata_declaration_en.pdf).

Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a United Nations summit held in New York. SDG 3 is dedicated to good health and well-being.<sup>5</sup>

The health-related content of G20 summit document has gradually broadened in scope over the past decade.<sup>6</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit declaration on 26-27 September 2010 made one reference to the Millennium Development Goals and one to “public health care,” the latter within the document’s first annex.<sup>7</sup> The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration of 11-12 November 2010 reiterated these terms, and also included mention of non-communicable diseases.<sup>8</sup> These early parameters of health foci within G20 documents have since broadened considerably.

The 2013 St Petersburg G20 Leaders’ Declaration from 5-6 September states: “To improve rapid and effective responses to the outbreak of new diseases that threaten human life and disrupt economic activity, we call on countries to strengthen compliance with the World Health Organization’s International Health Regulations.”<sup>9</sup> This timely statement was followed by the spread of Ebola, which was addressed in the G20 Leaders’ Communique in Brisbane on 15-16 November 2014. It states: “We are deeply concerned with the humanitarian and economic impact of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. We support the urgent coordinated international response and have committed to do all we can to contain and respond to this crisis. We call on international financial institutions to assist affected countries in dealing with the economic impacts of this and other humanitarian crises, including in the Middle East.”<sup>10</sup>

In this same communique, G20 members also “committed to do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak and address its medium-term economic and humanitarian costs,” including “promot[ing] safe conditions and training for health care and relief workers” and “providing financial contributions, appropriately qualified and trained medical teams and personnel, medical and protective equipment, and medicines and treatments.” G20 members also committed to “build[ing] capacity to prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases like Ebola.” The G20 is credited with having a large positive impact on containing Ebola.<sup>11</sup>

The 15-16 November 2015 Antalya G20 Leaders’ Declaration highlighted “infectious disease threats” as “issues for further action.”<sup>12</sup> The 7-8 July 2017 G20 Leaders’ Declaration from Hamburg introduced, for the first time, a health-focused summit priority. The target of “Safeguarding against Health Crises and Strengthening Health Systems” included a strong emphasis on global health, including strengthening health systems and building capacity and response capabilities in preparation from health emergencies. Leaders specifically advocated for “sufficient and sustainable funding to

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<sup>5</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 3, United Nations (New York), n.d.. Access Date: 26 April 2020.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>.

<sup>6</sup> G20 Leaders’ Conclusions on Health, 2008-2019, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/health-l.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 29 June 2011. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-10-toronto.html>.

<sup>8</sup> The G20 Seoul Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 29 June 2011. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-10-seoul.html>.

<sup>9</sup> The 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 December 2014. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-13-stpetersburg.html>.

<sup>10</sup> The 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-14-brisbane.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Trump Just Missed a Perfect Opportunity to Reassert American Leadership, Foreign Policy (Washington D.C.) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/02/g20-helped-beat-ebola-but-not-coronavirus/>.

<sup>12</sup> The 2015 G20 Antalya Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 19 November 2015. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-15-antalya.html>.

strengthen global health capacities, including for rapid financing mechanisms and the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme," and "R&D preparedness through globally coordinated models as guided by the WHO R&D Blueprint, such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)."<sup>13</sup>

The 30 November-1 December 2018 Buenos Aires G20 Leaders' Declaration recognized a need for continued work towards preventing, detecting, and responding to public health emergencies, "while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard."<sup>14</sup> The G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration of 28-29 June comprehensively discusses global health priorities. Commitments discuss, among many other topics, the need to strengthen health systems, address communicable and non-communicable disease, and improve public health preparedness and response.<sup>15</sup>

The first of several G20 meetings to coordinate a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic took place on 6 March 2020. On this day finance ministers and central bank governors gathered to coordinate financial responses to the pandemic, following the actions of their G7 counterparts a few days prior.<sup>16</sup> On 26 March 2020 the G20 leaders met for a virtual summit by videoconference and published a statement outlining a collective response including WHO funding and upcoming meetings of their health and finance ministers.<sup>17</sup> A meeting of health ministers followed on 19 April 2020, highlighting actions currently being taken by members and looking forward to pressing needs in pandemic response.<sup>18</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G20 commitment is to "further strengthen the WHO's mandate in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines."

### **Definitions**

"Support" is defined as "the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or an entity."<sup>19</sup>

"Further" is defined as "to help something to succeed; to advance something."<sup>20</sup>

"Strengthen" is defined as "to make or become stronger."<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>.

<sup>14</sup> The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>.

<sup>15</sup> The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>.

<sup>16</sup> G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Come Together to Counter COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/200312-kirton-warren.html>.

<sup>17</sup> G20 Leaders' Summit – Statement on COVID-19: 26 March 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>.

<sup>18</sup> WHO Director-General: G20 Health Ministers virtual meeting Saudi Arabia, 19 April 2020, Relief Web (New York) 19 April 2020. Date Accessed: 26 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/who-director-general-g20-health-ministers-virtual-meeting-saudi-arabia-19-april-2020>.

<sup>19</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (Toronto) 6 August 2019. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> "Further," Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/further>.



“Coordinate” is defined as “to make many different things work effectively as a whole.”<sup>22</sup>

“Protect” is defined as “keeping safe from harm or injury.”<sup>23</sup>

### Concepts

“WHO’s mandate” includes its work to advocate for universal health coverage, monitor public health, coordinate responses to health crises, and promote the health of all individuals.<sup>24</sup> As the leaders do not directly define what it means to strengthen the WHO’s mandate, this report assumes that in this commitment’s context it refers to actions that facilitate the WHO’s attempts to coordinate international pandemic response, and excludes actions that significantly hamper the WHO’s ability to do so. It includes, as specified in the commitment, protecting front-line health workers and delivering critical medical supplies.

“International fight against the pandemic” refers to global action that is taken to combat the spread of a pandemic, “a worldwide spread of a new disease,” called COVID-19.<sup>25</sup>

“Front-line health workers” are considered all healthcare workers whose duties include treating those infected by COVID-19, which thus makes them more likely to be exposed to the virus.

“Medical supplies” refer to any products that are necessary in combatting the virus, preventing infection, or protecting medical workers, like masks, gloves and hand sanitizers, and other personal protective equipment (PPE). It is noted that this commitment emphasizes diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines and vaccines.

“Diagnostic tools” refer to medical devices that can be used to diagnose COVID-19 in individuals.

“Treatments” refer to medical care offered to individuals to combat COVID-19. By May 2020, scientists around the world were working on potential treatments.

“Medicines” refer to any drugs or other preparation that combat COVID-19. By May 2020, scientists around the world were working on potential medicines.

“Vaccines” refer to substances that individuals take into the body to protect against COVID-19. As of May 2020, there is no vaccine authorized to protect against COVID-19, although vaccine developers around the world are working to develop one.

### General Interpretive Guidelines

The G20 fully supports the WHO and this commitment targets the primary outcome of strengthening the WHO’s mandate of coordinating the international fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many ways the G20 can support and strengthen the WHO’s mandate. One way includes increasing funding to the WHO, including the WHO’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and their COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, as well as scaling up the WHO’s Global

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<sup>21</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (Toronto) 6 August 2019.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> “Coordinate,” Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 12 May 2020.

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

<sup>23</sup> “Protect,” Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 12 May 2020.

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

<sup>24</sup> What we do, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020.

<https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do>.

<sup>25</sup> What is a pandemic?, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2010. Access Date: 12 May 2020.

[https://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently\\_asked\\_questions/pandemic/en/](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently_asked_questions/pandemic/en/).

Outbreak Alert and Response Network and the WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies. On the technical side, the G20 can coordinate the increase in medical inputs through the WHO for greater international cooperation and information sharing. They can also do this by supporting the WHO's Pandemic Supply Chain Network. Furthermore, the G20 can work with the WHO in fortifying the international architecture for infectious disease control to manage this crisis and future global health emergencies.<sup>26</sup>

This commitment is composed of two primary instruments that are collectively intended to contribute towards this desired outcome. These are 1) the protection of front-line health workers, and 2) the delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines. Thus, the G20 member must support and strengthen the WHO in these two areas.

The first instrument in strengthening the WHO's mandate is the "protection of front-line health workers." Governments must ensure that preventive and protective measures are taken to minimize health and safety risks of front-line health workers. Some examples of this includes ensuring that there is adequate infection prevention and control and PPE supplies in sufficient quantity, providing updates on COVID-19 and providing appropriate tools to assess, test and treat patients, and ensuring that front-line workers are provided with tests and are given care should they fall ill.<sup>27</sup> This commitment is international in nature and involves the WHO's mandate, thus coordinating the delivery of PPE and other necessary protective tools through the WHO, or working with WHO members is a necessary aspect.

The second instrument in strengthening the WHO's mandate is the "delivery of medical supplies" especially a) diagnostic tools; b) treatments; c) medicines; and d) vaccines. This entails ensuring that aforementioned medical supplies are adequate in quality and quantity and are distributed to front-line workers. Actions that go towards compliance include securing the supplies and tools by working with partners like with traditional suppliers, manufacturers and distribution companies in coordinating their delivery. It can also include donating these supplies to countries in need and using the WHO to coordinate this partnership.

Therefore, the G20 member must support and strengthen the WHO in the two areas mentioned above to receive full compliance. 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 towards meeting the two aspects of the commitment. For this report, strong is defined as "effective; of a good quality or level and likely to be successful."

In order to receive full compliance and thus a score of +1, the G20 member must strongly comply with both aspects which entails supporting the WHO's mandate in protecting medical workers and the delivery of medical supplies. This means fulfilling the depth component for both, taking strong action in each aspect, with the additional requirement of fulfilling the delivery of at least three out of the four supplies outlined if available (with reference to vaccines). Thus, the second component of the commitment means supporting and strengthening the WHO in delivering most of the four medical supplies specified.

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<sup>26</sup> The G20 must step up to confront the global health crisis, Peterson Institute for International Economics (Washington DC) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/g20-must-step-confront-global-health-crisis>.

<sup>27</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak: rights, roles and responsibilities of health workers, including key considerations for occupational safety and health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-outbreak-rights-roles-and-responsibilities-of-health-workers-including-key-considerations-for-occupational-safety-and-health](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-outbreak-rights-roles-and-responsibilities-of-health-workers-including-key-considerations-for-occupational-safety-and-health).

The G20 member will achieve a score of 0 for partial compliance if the member fully complies with only one aspect of the commitment and somewhat with the other aspect, such as fully complying with strengthening the WHO's mandate in protecting frontline workers, and only complying with the delivery of one to two of the medical supplies outlined. Also, members can achieve partial compliance if they comply less strongly with both aspects.

If the member has acted has not fulfilled either of the two aspects of the commitment, they will receive a score of -1. If the member has acted counterproductively to front-line health workers' protection in any way related to the COVID-19 pandemic or for the delivery of medical tools, the member is considered not in compliance with the commitment. A score of -1 will be awarded for failures to ensure the adequate delivery of medical supplies such that all three areas are impacted.

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

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member has failed to take action in any of the two areas which are 1) the protection of front-line health workers, and 2) the delivery of medical supplies OR has taken action that is counterproductive to the commitment.
0	The G20 member has fully complied with one aspect of the commitment and only somewhat complied with the other aspect of the two outlined, the protection of front-line health workers, and 2) the delivery of medical supplies, OR has complied less than strongly with both aspects.
+1	The G20 member strongly complies with both aspects of the commitment which are 1) the protection of front-line health workers, and 2) the delivery of medical supplies with the requirement of supporting the WHO in delivering at least three of the four medical supplies outlined: a) diagnostic tools; b) treatments; c) medicines; and d) vaccines

*Compliance Director: Aisha Ryan*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 19 March 2020 the country entered a nation-wide lockdown.

On 26 March 2020 the federal budget was adjusted to allow for increased funds for the acquisition of vaccines and for diagnostic purposes.<sup>28</sup>

On 28 March 2020 the process of COVID-19 diagnosis was decentralized across the country in order to confirm a greater number of cases.<sup>29</sup>

On 1 April 2020 import taxes were eliminated in order to help guarantee the access of certain critical supplies including disinfectants, laboratory and pharmaceutical supplies, gloves, and other equipment and sanitary supplies.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Que medidas esta tomando el gobierno?, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus/medidas-gobierno>.

<sup>29</sup> Que medidas esta tomando el gobierno?, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus/medidas-gobierno>.

On 4 April 2020 the Government of Argentina established COVID-19 as a professional disease so that occupational health insurers would be obligated to adapt their insurance coverage to cover any disease-related harms suffered by essential workers, including healthcare professionals.<sup>31</sup>

On 21 April 2020, several planes of masks, protective suits, and diagnostic equipment arrived in Argentina from China. This was simplified by recent Argentine government efforts to streamline guidelines for equipment imports.<sup>32</sup>

On 7 May 2020 healthcare workers gathered to publicly demonstrate against a lack of personal protective equipment. Healthcare workers account for over 17 per cent of COVID-19 cases, and 9 per cent of fatalities in the country.<sup>33</sup> At least one other protest demanding personal protective equipment and safer working conditions was held on 27 May 2020.<sup>34</sup>

On 15 May 2020 the Government of Argentina announced their intention to enter into national agreements with suppliers “with suppliers with the sole objective of meeting the needs in the context of the emergency.”<sup>35</sup>

Argentina has been awarded a score of 0 due its strong dedication to the procurement of medical supplies. However, it falls short in providing sufficient personal protective equipment to its healthcare workers.<sup>36</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

Since 1 January 2020, the Australian government has been providing daily COVID-19 updates.<sup>37</sup>

On 1 February 2020 Australia banned the entry of non-citizens travelling from mainland China, also requiring its nationals to self-quarantine for 14 days.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Que medidas esta tomando el gobierno?, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus/medidas-gobierno>.

<sup>31</sup> Que medidas esta tomando el gobierno?, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus/medidas-gobierno>.

<sup>32</sup> Covid-related Medical Supplies arrive in Argentina from China, VOA News (Washington, D.C.) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/covid-related-medical-supplies-arrive-argentina-china>.

<sup>33</sup> Health Workers in Argentina protest for PPE, pay hikes, La Prensa Latina Media (Memphis, Tennessee) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.laprensa-latina.com/health-workers-in-argentina-protest-for-ppe-pay-hikes/>.

<sup>34</sup> Argentina Medics Demand PPE, Support for Shantytown, R.Republic World.com (Mumbai, Maharashtra) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/argentina-medics-demand-ppe-support-for-shantytown.html>.

<sup>35</sup> Que medidas esta tomando el gobierno?, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus/medidas-gobierno>.

<sup>36</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Health and other respective government websites, The Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, and other news sources found through Google News.

<sup>37</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports, World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland) 1 January 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>.

On 8 March 2020 the government secured 54 million additional face masks and P2 and N95 respirators as part of an ongoing effort to increase the National Medical Stockpile.<sup>39</sup> The National Medical Stockpile is a reserve of medical supplies for national health emergencies that includes drugs, vaccines, antidotes, and personal protective equipment.<sup>40</sup>

Some personal protective equipment being imported to Australia arrived from China.<sup>41</sup>

On 21 March 2020 Australia closed its borders to all non-residents and introduced restrictions on social activities.<sup>42</sup>

The Government of Australia website states that it is “working with local industry to increase local production of PPE [personal protective equipment],” “working with international suppliers” and “allocating PPE as we receive them,” prioritising this distribution to staff in frontline health services given the global shortage.<sup>43</sup>

On 23 March, the Guardian Australia reported that medical staff had been assured by the Australian government that there were sufficient amounts of stockpiled personal protective equipment to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. Alongside this, over 130 Australian companies committed to boosting their production of PPE.<sup>44</sup>

In April 2020, the Prime Minister Scott Morrison discussed with the leaders of the United States, France and Germany his three-point plan for reform of the WHO after their handling of the virus. Despite these concerns, Australia pledged to continue supporting the WHO financially (AUD 63 million).<sup>45</sup>

Australia has received a score of +1 for its efforts coordinating the provision of protective tools with another WHO member, enforcing adequate infection prevention and control, and delivering the necessary medical supplies to healthcare workers.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

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<sup>38</sup> Australia Restricts Travelers From Mainland China as Virus Impact Spreads, The Wall Street Journal (New York, New York) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/australia-s-qantas-suspends-china-flights-as-virus-impact-spreads-11580536238>.

<sup>39</sup> Australian Government secures additional 54 million face masks to contain coronavirus outbreak, Government of Australia (Canberra, Australia) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/australian-government-secures-additional-54-million-face-masks-to-contain-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>40</sup> National Medical Stockpile, Government of Australia (Canberra, Australia) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-medical-stockpile>.

<sup>41</sup> Australia seizes faulty coronavirus protective equipment imported from China, ABC News Australia (Sydney) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://7news.com.au/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/australia-closes-borders-to-stop-coronavirus-c-752927>.

<sup>42</sup> Australia closes borders to stop coronavirus, 7 News Australia (Sydney) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://7news.com.au/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/australia-closes-borders-to-stop-coronavirus-c-752927>.

<sup>43</sup> Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the health workforce during COVID-19, Government of Australia (Canberra) n.d. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-the-health-and-aged-care-sector/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-for-the-health-workforce-during-covid-19#how-were-managing-ppe-supply>

<sup>44</sup> More than 130 Australian companies ready to boost PPE stock of coronavirus masks, gowns and gloves, The Guardian (Sydney) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/more-than-100-australian-companies-ready-to-boost-ppe-stock-of-coronavirus-masks-gowns-and-gloves>

<sup>45</sup> Australian PM pushes for WHO overhaul including power to send in investigators, The Guardian (Canberra) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 12 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/apr/22/australian-pm-pushes-for-who-overhaul-including-power-to-send-in-investigators>.

### **Brazil: -1**

Brazil failed to comply with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

The WHO has called the Latin America the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2 June 2020, Brazil had the most cases in Latin America.<sup>46</sup> President Jair Bolsonaro has advocated against lockdown measures.<sup>47</sup>

On 27 May 2020 the Guardian reported a lack of personal protective equipment and staff to treat COVID-19 patients.<sup>48</sup>

On 31 May 2020 Brazil's COVID-19 caseload reached 498,444, second in the world only after the United States.<sup>49</sup>

On 1 June 2020 the malls of São Paulo would reopen alongside other areas of economic activity despite a daily COVID-19 death toll of over 1,000 on five of the preceding days.<sup>50</sup>

Brazil has received a score of -1 due to failures to ensure the provision of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, medical supplies, and national infection prevention and control.<sup>51</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 13 March 2020 Government of Canada reported online that had provided CAD 2 million to the WHO “to help vulnerable countries prepare and respond to coronavirus events.” It has also delivered “approximately 16 tonnes of personal protective equipment — such as clothing, face shields, masks, goggles and gloves” to China to assist them with their response.<sup>52</sup> The government

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<sup>46</sup> Malls to reopen in São Paulo state despite Brazil recording 1,000 deaths a day, ITV (London) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.itv.com/news/2020-05-29/malls-to-reopen-in-sao-paulo-state-national-daily-death-toll-stays-over-1000/>.

<sup>47</sup> Coronavirus: Here's what's happening around the world on June 2, CBC (Toronto) 2 June 2020. Access Date: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/coronavirus-covid19-world-june2-tuesday-1.5594496>.

<sup>48</sup> My mother was murdered': how Covid-19 stalks Brazil's nurses, The Guardian (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/27/brazil-coronavirus-nurses-deaths-cases>.

<sup>49</sup> Brazil virus death toll hits 28,834, surpassing hard-hit France, CTV (Toronto) 31 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/brazil-virus-death-toll-hits-28-834-surpassing-hard-hit-france-1.4962321>.

<sup>50</sup> Malls to reopen in São Paulo state despite Brazil recording 1,000 deaths a day, ITV (London) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.itv.com/news/2020-05-29/malls-to-reopen-in-sao-paulo-state-national-daily-death-toll-stays-over-1000/>.

<sup>51</sup> Sources consulted include Brazil's Ministry of Health and other relevant government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including Correio Braziliense and Estado de Minas.

<sup>52</sup> Government of Canada takes action on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse/government-canada-takes-action-covid-19.html#a3>.

also authorized a number of trials for drugs and vaccines within the country.<sup>53</sup> These announcements were made before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit took place so do not count toward compliance.

On 23 April 2020 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to broad testing of Canadians for COVID-19.<sup>54</sup>

On 23 April 2020 the federal government received a shipment of a key chemical required for COVID-19 tests from China. This chemical was in short supply in Canada.<sup>55</sup>

By 30 April 2020, at least 14 diagnostic tests had been approved, following the Minister of Health's interim order allowing expedited access to COVID-19-related medical supplies.<sup>56</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau joined other leaders at the Coronavirus Global Response Summit to raise more than USD 8 billion to fund research and innovation on testing, treating and protection. The Government of Canada announced over CAD 850 million that goes towards supporting this fundraising target, including finding a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19 through the WHO Solidarity Trial.<sup>57</sup>

On 26 May 2020 Procurement Minister Anita Anand announced that supply chains transporting essential medical equipment including personal protective equipment had stabilized. The Minister also announced that efforts were being made to increase domestic production.<sup>58</sup>

One 2 June 2020 the federal government announced it had ordered 37 million syringes in preparation for mass vaccinations once a vaccine is found.<sup>59</sup>

On 2 June 2020 Prime Minister Trudeau stated that over a billion gloves and 300 million masks have been ordered, of which 40 million and 100 million have arrived, respectively.<sup>60</sup>

Canada has received a score of +1 for ensuring the delivery of medical supplies and personal protective equipment and for its work in supporting the WHO.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

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<sup>53</sup> Government of Canada takes action on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse/government-canada-takes-action-covid-19.html#a3>.

<sup>54</sup> Trudeau bets on COVID-19 blood tests for now as Canada ramps up long effort for a vaccine, The Star (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/2020/04/23/justin-trudeau-boosts-money-for-covid-19-research.html>.

<sup>55</sup> Key COVID-19 testing chemical reaches Canada from China, The National Observer (Toronto) 23 April 2020. Access Date: <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/04/23/news/key-covid-19-testing-chemical-reaches-canada-china>.

<sup>56</sup> Authorized medical devices for uses related to COVID-19: List of authorized testing devices, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/authorized/list.html>.

<sup>57</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>58</sup> Feds continue to bolster PPE supply as COVID-19 pandemic continues, Global News (Toronto) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7016649/coronavirus-ppe-supply/>.

<sup>59</sup> Anticipating 'mass vaccinations', Canada ordering millions of syringes, CTV News (Toronto) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/anticipating-mass-vaccinations-canada-ordering-millions-of-syringes-1.4965078>.

<sup>60</sup> Anticipating 'mass vaccinations', Canada ordering millions of syringes, CTV News (Toronto) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/anticipating-mass-vaccinations-canada-ordering-millions-of-syringes-1.4965078>.

### **China: +1**

China fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

As the location of the COVID-19 outbreak, most comparable events in the Chinese context occurred prior to the beginning of this compliance period. Infection prevention and control measures within the compliance period have been taken at the sub-national level to prevent outbreaks where new cases are found.<sup>61</sup>

By March 2020 China was producing 100 million masks per day, allowing medical staff and the general public to wear them.<sup>62</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the government banned flights from a number of countries in order to prevent the transmission of the virus.<sup>63</sup>

On 23 April 2020, China announced that it would donate a further USD 30 million to the WHO to help support the construction of strong public health systems in developing countries.<sup>64</sup>

On 2 April 2020 a strict lockdown was enforced in Jia County, Henan, after one woman tested positive for COVID-19.<sup>65</sup>

On 4 May 2020, China participated in the international coronavirus summit led by the European Union and reiterated its USD 30 million pledge to help support the WHO.<sup>66</sup>

On 18 May 2020 the Chinese government pledged USD 2 billion towards other countries fighting COVID-19.<sup>67</sup>

On 18 May 2020 China committed to making its COVID-19 vaccine a “global public good.”<sup>68</sup>

China has received a score of +1 for providing its health workers with personal protective equipment and medical supplies, as well as supplying other countries with these materials, as well as its support for the WHO.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

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<sup>61</sup> China's Coronavirus Back-to-Work Lessons: Masks and Vigilance, New York Times (New York) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/12/business/coronavirus-china-work-safety.html>.

<sup>62</sup> Why healthy Chinese wearing face masks outdoors?, National Health Commission of the Peoples' Republic of China (Beijing) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <http://archive.is/MVQgU>.

<sup>63</sup> To Slow Virus, China Bars Entry by Almost All Foreigners, The New York Times (New York) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/world/asia/china-virus-travel-ban.html>.

<sup>64</sup> China announces additional \$30M in funding for WHO, CBC News (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/who-china-funding-1.5542134/>.

<sup>65</sup> Chinese County Back Under Lockdown After Coronavirus Case Re-Emerge, Bloomberg L.P. (New York) 3 April 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-02/chinese-county-back-under-lockdown-after-infection-re-emerges>.

<sup>66</sup> China participates in global coronavirus summit while US maintains silence, The Telegraph (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 10 June 2020. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/china-participates-global-coronavirus-summit-us-maintains-silence/>.

<sup>67</sup> China's Xi pledges \$2 billion to help fight coronavirus, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-02/chinese-county-back-under-lockdown-after-infection-re-emerges>.

<sup>68</sup> China pledges to make its coronavirus vaccine a public good, National Post (Toronto) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/news/world/china-pledges-to-make-its-coronavirus-vaccine-a-public-good>.



## France: +1

France fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 22 March 2020, before the G20's Extraordinary Virtual Summit, the Swiss government announced that three of its hospitals would start to take on French patients in Alsace after Alsace officials had made a request for assistance.<sup>69</sup>

On 31 March President Emmanuel Macron announced that the country would be rapidly increasing the domestic production of facemasks and respirators. He also announced the order of more than 1 billion masks from China.<sup>70</sup>

On 15 April 2020, government spokesperson Sibeth Ndiaye said that France regrets the decision of the United States to cut funding for the WHO, reaffirming France's support for the WHO.<sup>71</sup>

In April 2020, dentists across France protested a lack of personal protective equipment. The French government responded by ensuring 150,000 FFP2 masks would be provided to dentists by the second week of May.<sup>72</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France participated in the Coronavirus Global Response pledging summit led by the EU and other allies. France committed EUR 500 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative which includes fortifying the WHO's work in strengthening health systems.<sup>73</sup>

On 8 May 2020 the French government announced that from 11 May 2020, 200 million masks per week would be available, half for the general public and half for healthcare workers.<sup>74</sup>

On 11 May 2020 France ended six weeks of national lockdown to stem the progression of the virus throughout the country. At this point, facemasks were made available to all citizens.<sup>75</sup>

On 19 May 2020 Director General of Health Jérôme Salomon announced that the country will begin using serological tests to track the spread of COVID-19, beginning with healthcare workers.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Swiss hospitals to take French coronavirus patients, Swiss info (Bern) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/cross-border-care\\_swiss-hospitals-take-french-coronavirus-patients/45634674](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/cross-border-care_swiss-hospitals-take-french-coronavirus-patients/45634674).

<sup>70</sup> France to rapidly ramp up production of face masks and respirators, Macron says, (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200331-france-s-macron-visits-coronavirus-mask-factory-as-health-workers-complain-of-acute-shortage>.

<sup>71</sup> France regrets Trump's decision to cut WHO funding - govt spokeswoman, National Post (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 6 June 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-regrets-trumps-decision-to-cut-who-funding-govt-spokeswoman>.

<sup>72</sup> French dentists strip naked to protest lack of protective gear, The World (Paris) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-04-29/french-dentists-strip-naked-protest-lack-protective-gear>.

<sup>73</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, Ministere de Europe et des affaires etrangers, Permanent Mission of France to the UN in New York (New York) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Coronavirus-Global-Response-EUR-7-4-billion-raised-for-universal-access-to>

<sup>74</sup> Coronavirus: le gouvernement promet 200 millions de masques par semaine dès lundi, DNA (Paris) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.dna.fr/sante/2020/05/08/coronavirus-le-gouvernement-promet-200-millions-de-masques-par-semaine-des-lundi>.

<sup>75</sup> Macron: coronavirus is Europe's 'moment of truth', Financial Times (New York) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.ft.com/video/96240572-7e35-4fcd-aecb-8f503d529354>.

Although France struggled to secure adequate numbers of personal protective equipment, France has received a score of +1 for its procurement of personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and infection prevention and control, and its support for the WHO.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 27 March 2020 Germany received its first delivery of an order of 10,000 respiratory devices.<sup>77</sup>

On 31 March 2020 physicians criticized the lack of personal protective equipment.<sup>78</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the German health ministry announced that it was enlisting German multinational companies and their networks abroad to secure more personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against the spread of the virus.<sup>79</sup>

By 4 April 2020 over 1.3 million swab tests had been conducted. Germany began asking individuals to isolate, as well as testing them and treating those with whom they were in contact, approximately a month prior to this.<sup>80</sup>

By 14 April 2020 the government had increased intensive care beds from 24,000 to 40,000.<sup>81</sup>

On 17 April 2020 Minister of Health Jens Span announced that German companies would be producing up to 50 million facemasks per week for healthcare workers.<sup>82</sup>

A 27 April 2020 The Guardian article reported on the Blanke Bedeken protest by German doctors calling attention to the lack of personal protective equipment.<sup>83</sup>

On 4 May 2020 at the global coronavirus response pledging summit, Germany pledged EUR 525 million after the WHO called for joint action to tackle the virus.<sup>84</sup> The funding will help the WHO

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<sup>76</sup> France lays out 'test and trace' process for suspected coronavirus cases, The Local (Stockholm) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20200519/france-ramps-up-testing-and-tracing-for-suspected-coronavirus-cases>.

<sup>77</sup> Wer bekommt die neuen Beatmungsgeräte?, NTV (Cologne) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20200519/france-ramps-up-testing-and-tracing-for-suspected-coronavirus-cases>.

<sup>78</sup> Erste deutsche Großstadt führt Maskenpflicht ein, Welt (Welt Politik) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article206911189/Coronavirus-Erste-deutsche-Grossstadt-fuehrt-Maskenpflicht-ein.html>.

<sup>79</sup> Germany enlists industrial giants to procure face masks and medical gear, The Local (Berlin) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 10 June 2020. <https://www.thelocal.de/20200403/germany-enlists-industrial-giants-for-protective-gear-procurement>.

<sup>80</sup> Coronavirus: What can the UK learn from Germany on testing? BBC News (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52234061>.

<sup>81</sup> Germany calls on migrants medics to help tackle coronavirus, The Guardian (London) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/14/germany-calls-on-migrant-medics-to-help-tackle-coronavirus>.

<sup>82</sup> Coronavirus: Germany says its outbreak is 'under control'. BBC News (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52327956>.

<sup>83</sup> German doctors pose naked in protest at PPE shortages, The Guardian (London) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/27/german-doctors-pose-naked-in-protest-at-ppe-shortages>.

support health systems and will accelerate research, development and access to a vaccine and other lifesaving diagnostic treatments.<sup>85</sup>

On 6 May 2020 Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that contact limits would remain in place until 5 June 2020.<sup>86</sup>

Although Germany has faced a shortage of masks and personal protective equipment, Germany has worked to address this need and has taken adequate infection prevention and control as well as providing tools for medical assessment. Furthermore, it has supported the WHO in strengthening their mandate in the development of a vaccine and other diagnostic treatments.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **India: +1**

India fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 29 March 2020 Indian Railways announced that it would prioritise the transportation of essential goods.<sup>87</sup>

On 29 March 2020 state-owned enterprises started repurposing production lines to manufacture PPE, full body suits and ventilators.<sup>88</sup>

On 31 March 2020 Al Jazeera reported that shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) were forcing doctors to wear raincoats and motorcycle helmets.<sup>89</sup>

On 2 April 2020 a lab in Delhi developed a low-cost paper strip COVID-19 test that could detect the disease within an hour.<sup>90</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Dr. David Nabarro, WHO COVID-19 envoy, stated, “lockdown in India was early, far-sighted and courageous.”<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> World leaders pledge billions for research into coronavirus vaccine, Euronews (Brussels) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/05/04/eu-leaders-to-pledge-billions-towards-global-fight-against-covid-19>.

<sup>85</sup> World leaders pledge billions for research into coronavirus vaccine, Euronews (Brussels) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/05/04/eu-leaders-to-pledge-billions-towards-global-fight-against-covid-19>.

<sup>86</sup> Merkel cautiously optimistic as she announces lockdown rollback, DW (Berlin) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/merkel-cautiously-optimistic-as-she-announces-lockdown-rollback/a-53346427>.

<sup>87</sup> Covid-19: Railways resumes parcel trains to transport essential goods, Live Mint (Delhi) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid-19-railways-resumes-parcel-trains-to-transport-essential-goods-11585504148683.html>

<sup>88</sup> ISRO Puts Rockets, Satellites On Hold To Develop Ventilators For Coronavirus, GizBot (Delhi) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gizbot.com/news/coronavirus-effect-isro-shifts-focus-to-ventilators-066694.html>

<sup>89</sup> COVID-19: ‘Panic’ among India health workers over PPE shortages, Al Jazeera (Doha) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/covid-19-panic-india-health-workers-ppe-shortages-200331075627594.html>

<sup>90</sup> India’s first paper-strip test for Covid-19, CSIR lab makes a breakthrough, Live Mint (Delhi) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-first-paper-strip-test-for-covid-19-csir-lab-makes-a-breakthrough-11585832200999.html>

<sup>91</sup> ‘Lockdown in India was early, far-sighted and courageous’: WHO envoy, Hindustan Times (Delhi) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/lockdown-in-india-was-early-this-was-far-sighted-courageous-move-who-special-envoy-on-covid-19/story-wNdCkNVOqV5gCN8Du9j3N.html>.

On 14 April 2020, 18 new supplies of test kits were approved, bringing the total to 51.<sup>92</sup>

By 14 April 2020 the spread of COVID-19 in India had been slowed significantly by lockdown measures that had begun on 25 May 2020.<sup>93</sup> This same day, Prime Minister Modi asked Indians to wear homemade masks and use an app to track their health.<sup>94</sup>

On 15 April 2020 the government announced its intent to double the current ventilator capacity (40,000) by June 2020.<sup>95</sup>

On 16 April 2020 India sent 500 million paracetamol tablets to 108 countries and 1000 tons of mixture to make more tablets.<sup>96</sup> Also on that day, 650,000 rapid antibody test and RNA extraction kits were sent to India from China.<sup>97</sup>

On 24 April 2020 an additional 10,000 ventilators were acquired.<sup>98</sup>

By 20 April 2020 India had procured 450,000 COVID-19 testing kits from Korea.<sup>99</sup>

On 29 April 2020 some interstate movement was allowed, and states were asked to screen people, quarantine those infected, and do periodic health checkups.<sup>100</sup>

In April 2020, India and the WHO began collaborating to leverage strategies that enabled India to eliminate polio in order to defeat COVID-19. The WHO's polio surveillance network will be engaged to strengthen the detection of COVID-19 which will in turn enable states and districts to base their response according to transmission scenarios.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Modi govt made-in-India rapid test kits after Chinese supply is delayed, The Print (Delhi) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://theprint.in/health/modi-govt-approves-made-in-india-rapid-test-kits-after-chinese-supply-is-delayed/401861/>

<sup>93</sup> R0 data shows India's coronavirus infection rate has slowed, gives lockdown a thumbs up, The Print (Delhi) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://theprint.in/science/r0-data-shows-indias-coronavirus-infection-rate-has-slowed-gives-lockdown-a-thumbs-up/399734/>

<sup>94</sup> PM Modi's lockdown speech highlights: 'India did not wait for the problem to grow', Indian Express (Delhi) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/coronavirus/pm-modi-covid-lockdown-speech-highlights-6361722/>

<sup>95</sup> India to double number of ventilators by making 40,000 units: Reports, The Week (New York) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theweek.in/news/biz-tech/2020/03/28/india-to-double-number-of-ventilators-by-making-40000-units-reports.html>

<sup>96</sup> India dials up medical diplomacy, sends 85 mn HCQ tablets, paracetamol to 108 countries, Hindustan Times (Delhi) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-dials-up-medical-diplomacy-sending-85-mn-hcq-tablets-to-108-countries/story-O6n44wY3cNKWUcKqKdphGP.html>

<sup>97</sup> China dispatches 6.5 lakh medical kits to India fight coronavirus, India Today (Delhi) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/china-dispatches-6-5-lakh-medical-kits-to-india-to-fight-coronavirus-1667488-2020-04-16>

<sup>98</sup> Maruti joins with AgCA Healthcare to supply 10,000 ventilators by May-end, ANI (Delhi) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aninews.in/news/business/business/maruti-joins-hands-with-agva-healthcare-to-supply-10000-ventilators-by-may-end20200424213319/>

<sup>99</sup> India procuring 5 lakh coronavirus testing kits from South Korea, Financial Express (New York) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/india-procuring-5-lakh-coronavirus-testing-kits-from-south-korea/1934444/>

<sup>100</sup> MHA allows movement of migrant workers, tourists, students stranded at various places, Live Mint (Delhi) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/mha-allows-movement-of-migrants-tourists-students-stranded-at-various-places-11588164377351.html>

<sup>101</sup> WHO welcomes joint efforts with India to fight COVID-19 outbreak, Financial Express (Delhi) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 7 June 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/who-welcomes-joint-efforts-with-india-to-fight-covid-19-outbreak/1929936/>

By May 2020 India had begun producing an average of 150,000 PPE kits per day.<sup>102</sup>

On 1 May 2020 the federal government extended national lockdown until 17 May and was extended again until 31 May 2020.<sup>103</sup>

On 5 May 2020 the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology announced they would begin research and trials for anti-viral drugs.<sup>104</sup>

An article published on 25 May 2020 announced that from August to October 2020, four Indian vaccines are expected to enter clinical trials.<sup>105</sup>

On 26 May 2020 India made its Aarogya Setu app open-source; the app allows contact tracing in order to combat the spread of COVID-19.<sup>106</sup>

India has been given a score of +1 for strong efforts at controlling COVID-19 within the country, collaborating with other G20 nations to procure supplies, and making strong efforts to produce PPE.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 2 April 2020 all transit and entry were banned for non-citizens.

On 13 April 2020 President Joko Widodo declared COVID-19 a national disaster, after having caused 399 deaths and infecting 4557 others.<sup>107</sup>

On 20 April 2020 COVID-19 task force chief Doni Monardo announced that some of Indonesia's ready-to-use personal protective equipment (PPE) would be exported to Korea as compensation for their raw materials, which were necessary for the PPE production.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> COVID-19: From Zero, India Now Produces Two Lakh PPE Kits Per Day, The Logical Indian (Karnataka) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://thelogicalindian.com/news/ppe-coronavirus-206lakhs-highest-production-20998>

<sup>103</sup> Centre extends nationwide lockdown till May 31, new guidelines issued, Tribune India (Delhi) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/centre-extends-nationwide-lockdown-till-may-31-new-guidelines-issued-86042>

<sup>104</sup> Scientists to culture novel coronavirus in human lung epithelial cell, Government of India (Delhi) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1621260>

<sup>105</sup> Coronavirus: Four COVID-19 vaccines candidates may enter clinical trial phase in 3.5 months, The Hindu (Delhi) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/coronavirus-four-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-may-enter-clinical-trial-phase-in-3-5-months-says-harsh-varadhan/article31666682.ece>

<sup>106</sup> Explained: What making Aarogya Setu open-source means, The Indian Express (Delhi) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/coronavirus-what-making-aarogya-setu-open-source-means-6430348/>

<sup>107</sup> Menko Mahfud: Keppres Bencana Nasional Tak Bisa Dasar Force Majeur!, Detik News (Berlin) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-4976489/menko-mahfud-keppres-bencana-nasional-tak-bisa-jadi-dasar-force-majeur>

<sup>108</sup> COVID-19: Indonesia to export PPE to South Korea as compensation for raw materials, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/21/covid-19-indonesia-to-export-ppe-to-south-korea-as-compensation-for-raw-materials.html>

On 21 April 2020 President Widodo banned travel by intercity bus until 31 May 2020, flights until 1 June 2020, sea travel until 8 June 2020, and long-distance passenger train travel until 15 June 2020.<sup>109</sup>

By 22 April 2020 Indonesia had spent USD 50 million on medical supplies, including over 17 million facemasks, over 3 million testing kits, medicine, hospital equipment, and personal protective equipment, over 60 per cent of which came from China. The government loosened import restrictions to facilitate these purchases.<sup>110</sup>

By 22 April 2020, only 184 people out of every million had been tested for COVID-19.<sup>111</sup>

On 22 April 2020 Al Jazeera reported that “most health workers around the country are using raincoats as medical gowns.” The country’s COVID-19 taskforce stated that nearly 3,000 garment factories would be repurposed to start producing 17 million PPEs in order to meet this need. They also stated that within one week the country would be producing 1 million facemasks per day, and test kits would be usable within two weeks.<sup>112</sup>

On 24 April 2020 US President Donald Trump announced that he send ventilators to Indonesia following a request from President Widodo.<sup>113</sup>

Indonesia has partially fulfilled commitments to coordinate the provision of PPE and medical supplies in coordinating with other G20 members in order to meet its commitment of further strengthening the WHO’s mandate.

Thus, it scores a 0.<sup>114</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 27 March 2020 the National Federation of Orders of Surgeons and Dentists decried the lack of personal protective equipment available.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Indonesia to ban air, sea travel early June amid coronavirus pandemic, The Straits Time (Singapore) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesia-to-ban-air-sea-travel-to-early-june-amid-coronavirus-pandemic>.

<sup>110</sup> Indonesia Imports \$50m Worth of Medical Supplies as Coronavirus Cases Show No Sign of Slowing, Jakarta Globe (Jakarta) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://jakartaglobe.id/news/indonesia-imports-50m-worth-of-medical-supplies-as-coronavirus-cases-show-no-sign-of-slowing>.

<sup>111</sup> Indonesia’s coronavirus response revealed: Too little, too late, Al Jazeera (Doha) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/indonesia-coronavirus-response-revealed-late-200422032842045.html>.

<sup>112</sup> Indonesia’s coronavirus response revealed: Too little, too late, Al Jazeera (Doha) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/indonesia-coronavirus-response-revealed-late-200422032842045.html>.

<sup>113</sup> Trump says U.S. sending ventilators, coronavirus help to Latin America, Asia, Reuters (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-aid/trump-says-u-s-sending-ventilators-coronavirus-help-to-latin-america-asia-idUSKCN2262AD>.

<sup>114</sup> Sources consulted include Indonesia’s Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including The Jakarta Post.

<sup>115</sup> Italian doctors demand protective supplies as coronavirus deaths climb, New York Post (New York) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://nypost.com/2020/03/29/italian-doctors-demand-protective-supplies-as-coronavirus-deaths-climb/>.

On 31 March 2020 the President of the Italian National Institute of Health Silvio Brusaferro announced that COVID-19 cases had peaked in the country.<sup>116</sup>

On 31 March 2020 the government converted an exhibition centre in Milan into the country's largest COVID-19 care facility, the transformation happening in only 10 days. In the week leading up to the opening, some patients had been sent to German hospitals due to a lack of available care within the country.<sup>117</sup>

By 1 April 2020, the country's hospitals were engaged in at least ten clinical trials for COVID-19 treatment.<sup>118</sup>

On 1 April 2020 drive-through testing centres started receiving patients in Alessandria and Tuscany.<sup>119</sup>

On 1 April 2020 the government extended national lockdown until 13 April, having not seen a positive improvement in the public health situation.<sup>120</sup>

On 3 April 2020 hospitals in Varese started using robots to reduce the use of protective equipment.<sup>121</sup>

On 10 April 2020 Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte extended lockdown measures until 3 May 2020.<sup>122</sup>

By 22 April 2020 at least 145 doctors had died of COVID-19.<sup>123</sup>

On 22 April 2020 the National Mint and Printing House started repurposing the plastic intended for identity cards to make face shields.<sup>124</sup>

On 26 April 2020 Prime Minister Conte announced that on 4 May 2020 the country would begin allowing some highly restricted movements and the opening of some spaces.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> L'Italia ha raggiunto il picco, Agenzia Italia (New York) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020.

<https://www.agi.it/cronaca/news/2020-03-31/coronavirus-istituto-superiore-sanit-picco-8038210/>.

<sup>117</sup> Italy's worst-hit region builds new hospital in ten days, Independent (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/coronavirus-italy-hospital-milan-lombardy-cases-deaths-a9438761.html>.

<sup>118</sup> I 10 farmaci in sperimentazione in Italia per frenare il Coronavirus, Porta-a-porta (Milan) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-ClJlaL844>.

<sup>119</sup> "Alessandria, tampone in auto come al drive in: Ne faremo 300 al giorno," la Repubblica (Lima) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://torino.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/01/news/alessandria\\_tampone\\_in\\_auto\\_come\\_al\\_drive\\_in\\_ne\\_faremo\\_300\\_al\\_giorno\\_-252867384/?ref=RHPPLF-BH-I252756236-C8-P8-S5.2-T1](https://torino.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/01/news/alessandria_tampone_in_auto_come_al_drive_in_ne_faremo_300_al_giorno_-252867384/?ref=RHPPLF-BH-I252756236-C8-P8-S5.2-T1).

<sup>120</sup> Italy extends lockdown amid signs coronavirus infection is easing, The Guardian (London) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/01/italy-extends-lockdown-amid-signs-coronavirus-infection-rate-is-easing>.

<sup>121</sup> Coronavirus, in trincea arrivano i robot-medici che dialogano con i pazienti: "Come si sente?," la Repubblica (Lima) 3 April 2020. Access Date: <https://video.repubblica.it/dossier/coronavirus-wuhan-2020/coronavirus-in-trincea-arrivano-i-robot-medici-che-dialogano-con-i-pazienti-come-si-sente/357390/357950?ref=RHPPRB-BS-I0-C4-P5-S1.4-T1>.

<sup>122</sup> Coronavirus, il premier Conte: "Chiusura fino al 3 maggio, non possiamo cedere adesso," la Repubblica (Lima) 10 April 2020. Access Date: [https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/10/news/coronavirus\\_giuseppe\\_conto\\_riapertura-253677426/](https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/10/news/coronavirus_giuseppe_conto_riapertura-253677426/).

<sup>123</sup> Coronavirus in Italia, muore un anestesista: 145 medici uccisi dal virus, la Repubblica (Lima) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/10/news/coronavirus\\_giuseppe\\_conto\\_riapertura-253677426/](https://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2020/04/10/news/coronavirus_giuseppe_conto_riapertura-253677426/).

<sup>124</sup> L'Istituto Poligrafico contro il Coronavirus: "Con la plastica delle carte di identità creiamo visiere sanitarie," la Repubblica (Lima) 22 April 2020. Access Date: <https://video.repubblica.it/dossier/l-italia-riparte/l-istituto-poligrafico-contro-il-coronavirus-con-la-plastica-delle-carte-di-identita-creiamo-visiere-sanitarie/358767/359323?ref=RHPPTP-BS-I253430426-C12-P9-S1.4-T1>.

In April 2020 the head of Lombardy's general practitioners' association claimed that personal protective equipment had arrived too late. She also claimed on behalf of her colleagues that testing of medical personnel for COVID-19 had been lax, and some doctors had continued to work while ill. Practitioners from Bergamo and Lodi echoed these concerns.<sup>126</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Italy participated in the European Union's global coronavirus response fund pledging summit. Italy pledged EUR 140 million, including EUR 10 million to the WHO.<sup>127</sup>

On 18 May 2020 the government allowed movement within regions to restart and most businesses could open.<sup>128</sup>

Italy also received aid in the form of personal protective equipment (PPE) from Russia and China.<sup>129</sup>

Italy has been given a score of 0 for some efforts to prevent and control the spread of the disease and to work for its treatment and vaccine development with fellow WHO members. However, Italy did not fully address needs for PPE for healthcare workers or supply shortages.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.<sup>130</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

## **Japan: 0**

Japan partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 7 April 2020 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a one-month state of emergency for Tokyo and six other prefectures. This was indefinitely extended to the rest of the country on 16 April 2020.<sup>131</sup>

By 17 April 2020 Japanese medical facilities were full to the extent that many emergency rooms refused to see people with strokes, heart attacks, and external injuries according to the Japanese Association for Acute Medicine and the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine. A widespread

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<sup>125</sup> Coronavirus: Italy's PM outlines lockdown easing measures, BBC News (London) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/world-europe-52435273>.

<sup>126</sup> Coronavirus: Doctors in Italy cry foul over protection, DW (Berlin) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/italian-doctors-criticize-government-for-failure-to-provide-protection/a-53198596>.

<sup>127</sup> Coronavirus. Parte oggi maratona globale raccolta fondi per vaccino, target 7,5 miliardi di euro, RAI (Rome) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. [https://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/articoli/coronavirus-parte-oggi-maratona-globale-raccolta-fondi-per-vaccino-target-7-miliardi-e-mezzo-di-euro-33a23c9c-6227-40d7-adea-c22ad8c31af3.html?refresh\\_ce](https://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/articoli/coronavirus-parte-oggi-maratona-globale-raccolta-fondi-per-vaccino-target-7-miliardi-e-mezzo-di-euro-33a23c9c-6227-40d7-adea-c22ad8c31af3.html?refresh_ce).

<sup>128</sup> La conferenza stampa di Conte: "Dati incoraggianti, corriamo un rischio calcolato," Corriere Della Sera (Milan) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.corriere.it/politica/20\\_maggio\\_16/discorso-conte-conferenza-stampa-oggi-decreto-18-maggio-1e810142-9785-11ea-ba09-20ae073bed63.shtml](https://www.corriere.it/politica/20_maggio_16/discorso-conte-conferenza-stampa-oggi-decreto-18-maggio-1e810142-9785-11ea-ba09-20ae073bed63.shtml)

<sup>129</sup> Covid-19: Economic downturn worsens old EU splits, The Irish Times (Dublin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.irishtimes.com/business/economy/covid-19-economic-downturn-worsens-old-eu-splits-1.4214059>

<sup>130</sup> Sources checked include Italian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and other government agencies, as well as news agencies such as La Repubblica, The Local, and La Stampa.

<sup>131</sup> Japan Declares Emergency For Tokyo, Osaka as Hospitals Fill Up, Bloomberg L.P. (New York) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-07/japan-s-abe-declares-state-of-emergency-over-coronavirus>



shortage of protective equipment, hospital beds, other equipment, and workers was reported; both societies claimed the “collapse of emergency medicine.”<sup>132</sup>

On 17 April 2020 the head of the Japan Medical Association stated there was a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE).<sup>133</sup>

On 18 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed Japan’s support for the WHO and said that he would not reduce funding to the organization.<sup>134</sup>

On 4 May 2020 Japan pledged over USD 800 million to the vaccine research and treatment drive spearheaded by the European Commission.<sup>135</sup> Funding will go towards vaccine research as well as supporting the WHO.

On 11 May 2020 the Ministry of Health announced plans to approve a testing kit that would provide results more rapidly than the current testing kit.<sup>136</sup>

By 25 May 2020 the state of emergency ended for the entire country.<sup>137</sup>

Japan has been given a score of 0 for some efforts to prevent and control the spread of the disease and to work for its treatment and vaccine development with fellow WHO members. However, Japan did not fully address needs for PPE for healthcare workers or supply shortages. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

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

Korea fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

By April 2020 cases in Korea had reached single digits after having peaked at over 900 cases in late February. In the interim, the country was testing between 12,000 and 20,000 people per day at drive-through and walk-in testing centres. Tests were free of charge, conducted in 10 minutes, and results were sent to peoples’ phones within 24 hours. Contact tracing was also conducted, infected people were isolated and treated, and social distancing rules were implemented.<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>132</sup> Coronavirus: Japan’s medical system on verge of collapse, doctors say, Global News (Toronto) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. I 10 farmaci in sperimentazione in Italia per frenare il Coronavirus, Porta-a-porta

<sup>133</sup> Coronavirus: Japan’s medical system on verge of collapse, doctors say, Global News (Toronto) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6836522/coronavirus-japan-medical-system/>

<sup>134</sup> Japan Supports WHO During COVID-19 Pandemic, VOA (Tokyo) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/japan-supports-who-during-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>135</sup> World leaders donate to COVID-19 vaccine funding drive, PMLive (Birmingham) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. I 10 farmaci in sperimentazione in Italia per frenare il Coronavirus, Porta-a-porta

<sup>136</sup> Japan Approves Coronavirus Antigen Test Kit, Nippon (Tokyo) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2020051200902/>

<sup>137</sup> Abe declares coronavirus emergency over in Japan, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/05/a1f00cf165ae-japan-poised-to-end-state-of-emergency-over-coronavirus-crisis.html>

<sup>138</sup> Test, trace, contain: how South Korea flattened its coronavirus curve, The Guardian (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/23/test-trace-contain-how-south-korea-flattened-its-coronavirus-curve>.

By 1 April 2020 high demand for facemasks from the general public had been managed by a government mandated rationing system through pharmacies across the country.

By 9 April 2020 the country had a case fatality rate of 1.95 per cent, lower than the global case fatality rate of 4.34 per cent.<sup>139</sup>

By 20 April 2020 India had procured 450,000 COVID-19 testing kits from Korea.<sup>140</sup>

On 21 April 2020 the United States received 500,000 COVID-19 tests from Korea.<sup>141</sup>

Korea donated EUR 45,693,230 to the European Union's Coronavirus Global Response fund which will support research for a vaccine as well as the WHO.<sup>142</sup>

By 10 May 2020 Korea donated 2 million facemasks to the United States.<sup>143</sup>

Korea is awarded a score of +1 for maintaining necessary personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and collaborating with G20 members to manage the pandemic, as well as supporting the WHO through the Coronavirus Global Response.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **Mexico: -1**

Mexico did not comply with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 26 March 2020 President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced that he had asked G20 nations to ensure that medical supplies would be available equitably to the world's countries.<sup>144</sup>

On 27 March 2020 the government bought 5,000 ventilators from China.<sup>145</sup>

On 7 April 2020 the Mexican Consulate in Shanghai, China, announced that emergency medical supplies were being flown to Mexico.<sup>146</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> COVID-19 Realtime Dashboard, CoronaBoard (Seoul) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020.

<sup>140</sup> India procuring 5 lakh coronavirus testing kits from South Korea, Financial Express (New York) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/india-procuring-5-lakh-coronavirus-testing-kits-from-south-korea/1934444/>

<sup>141</sup> Maryland obtains 500,000 coronavirus tests from South Korea, The Guardian (London) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/20/maryland-coronavirus-tests-south-korea-trump>

<sup>142</sup> Funds raised, Coronavirus Global Response, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en).

<sup>143</sup> South Korea sends 2M masks to US to fight coronavirus, The Hill (Washington D.C.) 10 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://thehill.com/policy/international/497055-south-korea-sends-2m-masks-to-us-to-fight-coronavirus-seoul>

<sup>144</sup> Pide AMLO en G-20 que ONU controle comercio de medicamentos de Covid-19, TV Azteca (Mexico City) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.tvazteca.com/aztecanoticias/politica/notas/pide-amlo-en-g-20-que-onu-control-e-comercio-de-medicamentos-de-covid-19>

<sup>145</sup> Gobierno compra 5,000 ventiladores a China para enfrentar coronavirus, Expansion Politica 27 March 2020. Access Date: <https://politica.expansion.mx/presidencia/2020/03/27/gobierno-compra-5-000-ventiladores-a-china-para-enfrentar-coronavirus>.

On 8 April 2020 students from 20 medical and nursing schools withdrew from their placements in hospitals due to a lack of personal protective equipment.<sup>147</sup>

On 20 April 2020 the Secretariat of the National Defense announced it had hired 3,158 of the 4,572 health professionals needed to meet demand.<sup>148</sup>

On 29 April 2020 three hospitals in Mexico City stopped accepting new COVID-19 patients due to the lack of ventilators and capacity.<sup>149</sup>

On 30 April 2020 healthcare workers protested a large shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), “which they say is accelerating the spread of the novel coronavirus in hospitals and beyond.”<sup>150</sup> Thousands of health workers caught the virus and are quarantined, fuelling a medical personnel shortage.<sup>151</sup> Other basic medical supplies are also in short supply.

On 18 May 2020 ABC News reported that infectious waste was being dumped openly outside of Mexico City.<sup>152</sup>

Mexico contributed EUR 274,159 to the European Union’s Coronavirus Global Response fund which will support research for a vaccine as well as the WHO.<sup>153</sup>

Mexico has received a score of –1 for not providing adequate amounts of PPE or medical supplies, despite some efforts to reduce shortages.<sup>154</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

## **Russia:0**

Russia partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

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<sup>146</sup> Avión con suministros médicos por covid-19 se dirige a México desde China, Tele Diario (Madrid) 07 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://mtv.telediario.mx/nacional/avion-con-suministros-medicos-por-covid-19-se-dirige-mexico-desde-china>

<sup>147</sup> Veintena de universidades también retira estudiantes de hospitales, La Jornada (Mexico City) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.jornada.com.mx/ultimas/politica/2020/04/08/anuias-se-une-al-ipn-y-a-unam-y-retira-sus-estudiantes-de-hospitales-7806.html>

<sup>148</sup> La Sedena ha contratado tres mil 158 médicos y enfermeras por coronavirus, Informador.Mx (Mexico City) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.informador.mx/mexico/La-Sedena-ha-contratado-tres-mil-158-medicos-y-enfermeras-por-coronavirus-20200421-0094.html>

<sup>149</sup> Los principales hospitales de la CDMX comienzan a saturarse por COVID-19, Informador.Mx (Mexico City) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.informador.mx/mexico/Los-principales-hospitales-de-la-CDMX-comienzan-a-saturarse-por-COVID-19-20200429-0018.html>

<sup>150</sup> ‘No one’s looking out for us’: Mexico medical workers beg for PPE, Al Jazeera (Doha) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/mexico-medical-workers-beg-ppe-200430115012143.html>

<sup>151</sup> Coronavirus outbreaks at Mexico’s hospitals raise alarm, protests, The Washington Post (Washington) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/mexico-coronavirus-hospital-outbreaks-imss-amlo/2020/04/18/e3a4e48e-7f66-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/mexico-coronavirus-hospital-outbreaks-imss-amlo/2020/04/18/e3a4e48e-7f66-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911_story.html)

<sup>152</sup> Mexico faces infectious waste disposal problem amid pandemic, ABC News (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-faces-infectious-waste-disposal-problem-amid-pandemic-70754194>

<sup>153</sup> Funds raised, Coronavirus Global Response, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en)

<sup>154</sup> Sources consulted include Mexico’s Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News, including La Jornada, El Universal and Reforma.

On 28 March 2020 the government announced the closure of all border checkpoints by land from 30 March, following a prior closure of air travel.<sup>155</sup>

From 30 March 2020 to 11 May 2020, President Vladimir Putin asked Russians to stay at home.<sup>156</sup>

On 1 April 2020, a plane of medical supplies from Russia landed in New York.<sup>157</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Russia sent 11 flights of specialists and medical equipment to Serbia to support the COVID-19 fight.<sup>158</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Government of Russia announced that it would allocate up to USD 1 million to the WHO to aid in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>159</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the Government of Russia announced that it would allocate up to USD 620 million to provide hazard pay for medical workers working with COVID-19 patients.<sup>160</sup>

On 15 April 2020, a spokesperson for the government reiterated Russia's support for the work of the WHO in coordinating international efforts to fight the pandemic. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov also condemned the US decision to cut funding to the WHO.<sup>161</sup>

On 28 April 2020 the BBC reported, "Russia is now producing 100,000 protective suits for medics per day, up from 3,000 a day in March," and that "production of masks has also increased more than 10 times, to 8.5 million per day in April."<sup>162</sup> However, in a televised briefing President Putin mentioned that although Russia increased production it was still not enough to meet the demand. This came after numerous calls from medics across the country about a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE).

By 21 May 2020 at least 9,479 medical workers were infected with the virus and over 70 had died, according to official numbers. Healthcare workers believe the death toll is 250. Several medical professionals have claimed there is a shortage of PPE.<sup>163</sup> Reports also indicate that medics face pressure from their superiors when speaking out about a shortage of PPE.<sup>164</sup>

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<sup>155</sup> Blablacar приостанавливает работу сервиса в России, Government of Russia (Moscow) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <http://government.ru/docs/39307/>

<sup>156</sup> Putin Extends Russia's Coronavirus Lockdown as New Infections Continue to Rise, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/04/28/putin-extends-russias-coronavirus-lockdown-as-new-infections-continue-to-rise-a70130>

<sup>157</sup> Turning the Tables, Russia Sends Virus Aid to U.S., The New York Times (New York) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/world/europe/coronavirus-us-russia-aid.html>.

<sup>158</sup> COVID-19: Russia sends doctors, supplies to Serbia, Anadolu Agency (Moscow) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/health/covid-19-russia-sends-doctors-supplies-to-serbia/1791013>.

<sup>159</sup> Russia to give WHO one million dollars this year to fight COVID-19, Meduza 06 April 2020. Access Date: 24 June 2020. <https://meduza.io/en/news/2020/04/06/russia-to-give-who-one-million-dollars-this-year-to-fight-covid-19>

<sup>160</sup> Russian government allocates \$619 million to support COVID-19 medical workers, Meduza 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 June 2020. <https://meduza.io/en/news/2020/04/13/russian-government-allocates-619-million-to-support-covid-19-medical-workers>

<sup>161</sup> Russia Slams Trump's Decision to Cut WHO Funding as Coronavirus Rages, Moscow Times (Moscow) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/04/15/russia-slams-trumps-decision-to-cut-who-funding-as-coronavirus-rages-a69999>.

<sup>162</sup> Coronavirus: Putin admits PPE shortage as lockdown extended, BBC News (London) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52461431>

<sup>163</sup> 'We're expendable': Russian doctors face hostility, mistrust, AP News (New York) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://apnews.com/78d8e23fc2a819d1956e4d0a332f7618>

<sup>164</sup> 'We're expendable': Russian doctors face hostility, mistrust, AP News (New York) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://apnews.com/78d8e23fc2a819d1956e4d0a332f7618>

Russia's score reflects its failure to provide necessary PPE equipment to healthcare professionals and its attempt to manage the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country, as well as its support to other countries such as Serbia and the US. Thus, it scores a 0.<sup>165</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

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

Saudi Arabia fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 29 March 2020, Saudi Arabia halted all entry and exit into Jeddah governorate, having already done so for Mecca, Medina, and Riyadh. A curfew was already in place, and fines for non-compliance were introduced.<sup>166</sup>

On 30 March 2020 health minister Tawfiq Al Rabiah announced that King Salman would pay for treatment for anyone with the virus and encouraged all citizens with symptoms to get tested. By this time, all international flights had been halted and most public spaces closed.<sup>167</sup>

On 27 April 2020 the government announced a USD 265 million deal with a Chinese firm to provide 9 million COVID-19 tests, which would be conducted by “500 experts, specialists, and technicians” from China. Six large laboratories’ establishment was also announced.<sup>168</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Saudi Arabia co-led the European Union’s Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Event to raise funds for the global fight of COVID-19. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pledged USD 500 million to support the global fundraising efforts to find a vaccine and support the WHO.<sup>169</sup>

On 26 May 2020 Saudi Arabia announced that it would lift travel restrictions, beginning a three-phase process. Citizens will be “urged to wear masks in public and continue hygiene and social distancing measures after 21 June.”<sup>170</sup>

The WHO praised Saudi Arabia’s “whole of government” approach.<sup>171</sup>

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<sup>165</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the official website of the Kremlin and other respective government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News, including Russia Today and The Moscow Times and TASS Russian News Agency.

<sup>166</sup> Saudi Arabia expands lockdown as coronavirus death toll doubles, The Guardian (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/world/saudi-arabia-expands-lockdown-as-coronavirus-death-toll-doubles-431004/>

<sup>167</sup> Saudi king offers to pay for coronavirus patients’ treatment, Al Jazeera (Doha) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/saudi-king-offers-pay-coronavirus-patients-treatment-200330144819569.html>

<sup>168</sup> Saudi ramps up virus testing as lockdown relaxed, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/27/saudi-ramps-up-virus-testing-as-lockdown-relaxed.html>

<sup>169</sup> Saudi Arabia joins Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Event, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 May 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-pledging-0503.html>

<sup>170</sup> Coronavirus: Saudi Arabia to end curfew on 21 June, except in Mecca, Middle East Eye (London) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-end-curfew-21-june-except-mecca>

<sup>171</sup> Saudi king offers to pay for coronavirus patients’ treatment, Al Jazeera (Doha) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/saudi-king-offers-pay-coronavirus-patients-treatment-200330144819569.html>

Saudi Arabia has taken action to meet the commitment of strengthening the WHO's mandate. Saudi Arabia took strong action in protecting front line workers and delivering medical supplies through its efforts in the provision of necessary health services and its action towards supporting the WHO.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 7 April 2020 the country's primary healthcare workers' union challenged the government in court over shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline staff.<sup>172</sup>

On 13 April the chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 announced that lockdown had been successful on delaying transmissions.<sup>173</sup>

On 23 April 2020 President Ramaphosa announced that the clothing and textile industry, including small businesses, were preparing to produce masks on a large scale. He also announced a commitment to providing PPE for healthcare workers.<sup>174</sup>

By 27 April 2020 over 185,000 tests had been performed on residents of South Africa.<sup>175</sup>

On 1 May 2020 a surveillance program was announced to monitor community transmission.<sup>176</sup>

On 1 May 2020 lockdown restrictions were eased slightly, but borders remain closed, inter-provincial travel was banned, and social gatherings remained banned.<sup>177</sup>

On 4 May 2020 South African healthcare workers protested the lack of PPE in Johannesburg.<sup>178</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> South African union takes government to court over COVID-19 gear shortage, Reuters (New York) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-safrica/south-african-union-takes-government-to-court-over-covid-19-gear-shortage-idUSKBN21P2MI>

<sup>173</sup> The difficult truth: Rise in cases expected after lockdown, says expert, News 24 (Cape Town) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/the-difficult-truth-rise-in-cases-expected-after-lockdown-says-expert-20200413>

<sup>174</sup> Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on South Africa's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Union Buildings, Tshwane, Government of South Africa (Cape Town) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2020/04/23/statement-by-president-cyril-ramaphosa-on-south-africas-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic-union-buildings-tshwane/>

<sup>175</sup> COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Brief: Week 18, 2020, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (Cape Town), 1 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-04-30-COVID-19WklyEpiBriefFinal\\_Week18.pdf](https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-04-30-COVID-19WklyEpiBriefFinal_Week18.pdf)

<sup>176</sup> COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiology Brief: Week 18, 2020, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (Cape Town), 1 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-04-30-COVID-19WklyEpiBriefFinal\\_Week18.pdf](https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-04-30-COVID-19WklyEpiBriefFinal_Week18.pdf)

<sup>177</sup> Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on South Africa's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, Union Buildings, Tshwane, Government of South Africa (Cape Town) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2020/04/23/statement-by-president-cyril-ramaphosa-on-south-africas-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic-union-buildings-tshwane/>

<sup>178</sup> South African Nurses Call on Gov't to Deliver PPE, Democracy Now! (New York) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.democracynow.org/2020/5/4/headlines/south\\_african\\_nurses\\_call\\_on\\_govt\\_to\\_deliver\\_ppe](https://www.democracynow.org/2020/5/4/headlines/south_african_nurses_call_on_govt_to_deliver_ppe)

On 8 May 2020 USAID acting administrator John Barsa tweeted that the agency had sent ventilators to South Africa.<sup>179</sup>

South Africa pledged EUR 1,210,732 to the European Union's Coronavirus Global Response fund which will support research for a vaccine as well as the WHO.<sup>180</sup>

South Africa receives a score of 0 for a strong attempt at infection management and collaboration with the United States to import health supplies, but insufficient provision of PPE for healthcare workers.<sup>181</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 3 April 2020 the government announced a 30-day ban on entering all municipalities, extended curfew to those under the age of 20, and made it mandatory to wear masks in public.<sup>182</sup>

On 6 April 2020 President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised to build two more hospitals, to open in 45 days, to accommodate patients in Istanbul. He also announced the free provision of masks to all citizens. He also banned travel between cities.<sup>183</sup>

On 14 April 2020 Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca announced that the spread of the virus in Turkey has reached its peak in the fourth week and started to slow down.<sup>184</sup> On the same day Turkey delivered 250,000 items of personal protective equipment to the United Kingdom; including 50,000 N-95 face masks, 100,000 surgical masks and 100,000 protective suits.<sup>185</sup>

On 7 May 2020, "according to the government, many hospitals are not working at overcapacity and only 60 percent of ICU [intensive care unit] beds are in use."<sup>186</sup>

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<sup>179</sup> The U.S. Is Giving Vast Sums Of Money To Fight COVID-19 Abroad. But There's A Catch, NPR (Washington) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/05/13/854943832/the-u-s-is-giving-vast-sums-of-money-to-fight-covid-19-abroad-but-theres-a-catch>

<sup>180</sup> Funds raised, Coronavirus Global Response, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en).

<sup>181</sup> Sources consulted include the Department of Health and other respective government agencies as well as news sources found through Google News including Cape Argus and IOL.

<sup>182</sup> Son dakika... Cumhurbaşkanı Erdoğan yeni tedbirleri açıkladı! 20 yaş altına sokağa çıkma yasağı, CNN Turk (Ankara) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.cnnturk.com/video/turkiye/son-dakika-cumhurbaskani-erdogan-yeni-tedbirleri-acikladi-20-yas-altina-sokaga-cikma-yasagi>

<sup>183</sup> Turkey builds more hospitals as coronavirus cases spike, Al-Monitor (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/04/turkey-build-hospitals-coronavirus.html#ixzz6P2Fk7QfB>

<sup>184</sup> "Sağlık Bakanı Koca: Türkiye'de 4. haftada vaka artış hızı düşüşe geçti," Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/koronavirus/saglik-bakani-koca-turkiyede-4-haftada-vaka-artis-hizi-dususe-gecti/1804771/>

<sup>185</sup> Turkey delivers 250,000 PPE items to RAF Brize Norton for Covid-19, Oxford Mail (Oxford) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/18378688.turkey-delivers-250-000-ppe-items-raf-brize-norton-covid-19/>

<sup>186</sup> Turkey's public health system faces coronavirus pandemic, DW (New York) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/turkeys-public-health-system-faces-coronavirus-pandemic/a-53365341>

Turkey pledged EUR 75,000,000 to the European Union's Coronavirus Global Response fund which will support research for a vaccine as well as the WHO.<sup>187</sup>

Turkey receives a score of +1 for its efforts to ensure adequate medical supplies and infection prevention and control and assisting the United Kingdom in doing so, as well as for its support of the WHO.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom partially complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 1 April 2020 several "major unions and the Royal College of Midwives said health and social care workers were being exposed to 'unreasonable and unnecessary risk'" due to shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE). This same week the government announced the delivery of 600,000 respirator masks and 4.18 million facemasks to frontline workers.<sup>188</sup>

On 27 March 2020 the Royal Mint began making protective gear for healthcare workers. The company Dyson also announced it would be providing hospitals with 10,000 ventilators. Outsourcer Capita announced on this day that it was "working with the government to provide coronavirus testing sites."<sup>189</sup>

A 31 March 2020 article by the Times reports that over 20,000 National Health Service (NHS) staff in 36 hours signed a letter demanding adequate PPE.<sup>190</sup>

On 11 April 2020 the health secretary acknowledged a shortage in PPE and announced that 724 million pieces of protective gear had been delivered so far. He said, "Burberry had offered to make protective gowns, Rolls-Royce and McLaren were making visors and hand sanitizer was being made by drinks company Diageo and chemicals producer Ineos."<sup>191</sup>

On 14 April 2020 Turkey delivered 250,000 items of PPE to the United Kingdom, including 50,000 N-95 face masks, 100,000 surgical masks and 100,000 protective suits.<sup>192</sup>

A 15 April 2020 BBC News article states that care home workers were calling for more testing and PPE and had been for weeks.<sup>193</sup>

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<sup>187</sup> Funds raised, Coronavirus Global Response, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en).

<sup>188</sup> Coronavirus: Unions declare PPE shortage is 'crisis within a crisis' despite Downing Street insistence that vital supplies are being delivered, I News (London) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://inews.co.uk/news/coronavirus-uk-latest-unions-warn-ppe-shortage-crisis-within-crisis-deliveries-covid-19-outbreak-414564>

<sup>189</sup> UK's Royal Mint making coronavirus protective gear for health staff, Reuters (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-royalmint-idUSKBN21E2XK>

<sup>190</sup> NHS staff beg Boris Johnson: Give us the right protective coronavirus gear, The Times (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nhs-staff-beg-boris-johnson-give-us-the-right-protective-coronavirus-gear-cs77576v6>

<sup>191</sup> Coronavirus: 'Herculean effort' to provide NHS protective gear, BBC News (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52248423>

<sup>192</sup> Turkey delivers 250,000 PPE items to RAF Brize Norton for Covid-19, Oxford Mail (Oxford) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/18378688.turkey-delivers-250-000-ppe-items-raf-brize-norton-covid-19/>



On 4 May 2020, the UK along with the European Commission and other allies led a virtual coronavirus global response pledging conference. The UK pledged GBP 388 million in aid for research into tests, treatments and vaccines as well as the WHO.<sup>194</sup>

On 10 May 2020 the Doctors Association UK and the Good Law project took legal action to force the UK government into an “independent inquiry into its failure to provide adequate personal protective equipment for NHS staff and other frontline care workers.”<sup>195</sup>

Although the UK has made efforts to provide the necessary health supplies and PPE, as well as supporting the WHO, it receives a score of 0 for the lack of PPE. Thus, it receives a score of 0.<sup>196</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

### **United States: –1**

The United States did not comply with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

On 7 April 2020 Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated that the United States would not be shipping PPE outside of the country.<sup>197</sup>

On 11 April 2020 President Donald Trump ordered his top officials to assist Italy in their fight with the novel coronavirus by sending medical supplies, humanitarian relief and other assistance.<sup>198</sup>

On 14 April 2020, President Trump announced that the US would be halting funding to the WHO while a review is conducted on their management of the spread of the virus. The funding cut amounts to USD 400-500 million, which is what is usually donated each year.<sup>199</sup>

On 18 April 2020 hospitals in New York reported shortages in dialysis equipment, for which the need has greatly increased due to COVID-19.<sup>200</sup>

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<sup>193</sup> Coronavirus: Close family to be allowed to say goodbye to the dying, BBC News (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52299590>

<sup>194</sup> Boris Johnson: Covid vaccine hunt is ‘most urgent endeavour of our lives’, The Guardian (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 6 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/03/boris-johnson-cooperation-coronavirus-vaccine-bid>.

<sup>195</sup> Coronavirus: doctors call for inquiry into PPE shortages for NHS staff, The Guardian (London) 10 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/may/10/coronavirus-doctors-call-for-inquiry-into-ppe-shortages-for-nhs-staff>

<sup>196</sup> Sources consulted include the UK’s Department of Health and Social Care as well as other government agencies and news sources such as the BBC and the Guardian and other sources found through Google News.

<sup>197</sup> The U.S. Is Giving Vast Sums Of Money To Fight COVID-19 Abroad. But There’s A Catch, NOR (New York) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/05/13/854943832/the-u-s-is-giving-vast-sums-of-money-to-fight-covid-19-abroad-but-theres-a-catch>

<sup>198</sup> Trump orders U.S. to send Italy medical supplies, other aid to help coronavirus fight, Global News (Washington DC) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6807021/coronavirus-trump-italy-aid/>.

<sup>199</sup> Trump halts World Health Organization funding over handling of coronavirus outbreak, CNN (Washington, DC) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/politics/donald-trump-world-health-organization-funding-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>200</sup> An Overlooked, Possibly Fatal Coronavirus Crisis: A Dire Need for Kidney Dialysis, New York Times (New York) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/18/health/kidney-dialysis-coronavirus.html>

On 19 April 2020, President Trump sent a letter to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus threatening to permanently halt funding to the WHO and revoke US membership if the organization does not make changes that “can actually demonstrate independence from China.”<sup>201</sup>

On 21 April 2020 the United States received 500,000 COVID-19 tests from Korea.<sup>202</sup>

On 26 April 2020 the New York Times reported that testing capacity remained below what was necessary to monitor outbreaks, largely attributed to equipment shortages.<sup>203</sup> On this same day, the Wall Street Journal reported that the US is home to several vaccine trials.<sup>204</sup>

By 31 March 2020 there was significant competition between states and cities in the USA to obtain medical supplies and personal protective equipment. Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, stated, “It’s like being on eBay with 50 other states, bidding on a ventilator.”<sup>205</sup>

On 8 May 2020 John Barsa, acting administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, tweeted that the agency had sent ventilators to South Africa.<sup>206</sup>

By 10 May 2020 Korea had donated 2 million facemasks to the United States.<sup>207</sup>

Despite some attempts to contribute to this commitment, such as supporting South Africa, the United States insufficiently enacted measures for infection prevention and control, the provision of medical supplies, and protection of healthcare workers. Furthermore, it has taken action to halt funding to the WHO, which is counter to the commitment.

Thus, the United States scores a  $-1$ .<sup>208</sup>

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

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

The European Union fully complied with its commitment to further strengthen the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic, including the protection of front-line health workers, delivery of medical supplies, especially diagnostic tools, treatments, medicines, and vaccines.

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<sup>201</sup> Trump Threatens to Permanently Cut Funding to World Health Organization, The Wall Street Journal (Washington) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 7 June 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinas-president-pledges-2-billion-for-coronavirus-pandemic-11589802504>.

<sup>202</sup> Maryland obtains 500,000 coronavirus tests from South Korea, The Guardian (London) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/20/maryland-coronavirus-tests-south-korea-trump>

<sup>203</sup> Testing Remains Scarce as Governors Weigh Reopening States, New York Times (New York) 26 April 2020. 1 June 2020. <http://archive.is/VRz40>

<sup>204</sup> America Needs to Win the Coronavirus Vaccine Race, Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/america-needs-to-win-the-coronavirus-vaccine-race-11587924258>

<sup>205</sup> Trump’s war between the states creates eBay-like fight for aid, NBC News (New York) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/trump-s-war-between-states-creates-ebay-fight-aid-n1173116>

<sup>206</sup> The U.S. Is Giving Vast Sums Of Money To Fight COVID-19 Abroad. But There’s A Catch, NPR (Washington) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/05/13/854943832/the-u-s-is-giving-vast-sums-of-money-to-fight-covid-19-abroad-but-theres-a-catch>

<sup>207</sup> South Korea sends 2M masks to US to fight coronavirus, The Hill (Washington D.C.) 10 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://thehill.com/policy/international/497055-south-korea-sends-2m-masks-to-us-to-fight-coronavirus-seoul>

<sup>208</sup> Sources consulted include U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, The President and the White House, and other respective government agencies as well as news sources found through Google News including CNN, The New York Times, the Washington Post and others.

On 10 March 2020 the European Council held a meeting establishing four priority areas: “limiting the spread of the virus, the provision of medical equipment, with a particular focus on masks and respirators, promoting research, including research into a vaccine, tackling socio-economic consequences.”<sup>209</sup>

A 17 March 2020 meeting of the European Council established temporary restrictions on non-essential EU destinations for 30 days.<sup>210</sup>

On 17 March 2020 the European Council launched the procurement of personal protective equipment and ventilators with member states.<sup>211</sup>

On 19 March 2020 the EU Commission announced the creation of a stockpile of medical equipment called rescEU in response to COVID-19.<sup>212</sup> On the same day, they also launched a scheme for the procurement of testing kits with member states.<sup>213</sup>

On 26 March 2020 the European Council declared their intentions to increase capacity for COVID-19 testing, in line with WHO recommendations.<sup>214</sup>

The aforementioned actions were taken before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit and therefore do not count for compliance.

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission led a coronavirus vaccine fundraising conference, which began with the EU promising EUR 1 billion to the development coronavirus a vaccine and treatments. The funding will also go towards the WHO in strengthening health systems.<sup>215</sup> The total amount pledged from the EU and other participants amounted to EUR 7.4 billion.

On 7 May 2020 the European Council issued guidance to member states on managing shortages of healthcare workers.<sup>216</sup>

The European Medicines Agency, an EU agency, has actively provided information about the pandemic, expedited vaccine and treatment development, and supported medicine availability in the EU.<sup>217</sup>

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<sup>209</sup> Video conference of the members of the European Council, 10 March 2020, European Council (Brussels) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/10>

<sup>210</sup> Video conference of the members of the European Council, 17 March 2020, European Council (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/17>

<sup>211</sup> Overview of the Commission’s response, European Council (Brussels) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en)

<sup>212</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Council (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476)

<sup>213</sup> Overview of the Commission’s response, European Council (Brussels) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en)

<sup>214</sup> Video conference of the members of the European Council, 26 March 2020, European Council (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/26>

<sup>215</sup> World leaders pledge €7.4 billion for European Commission’s coronavirus vaccine fundraising conference, DW (Berlin) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/world-leaders-pledge-74-billion-for-european-commissions-coronavirus-vaccine-fundraising-conference/a-53322501>.

<sup>216</sup> Overview of the Commission’s response, European Council (Brussels) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en)

<sup>217</sup> EAHP COVID-19 Resource Centre, EAHP (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.eahp.eu/hp-practice/hospital-pharmacy/eahp-covid-19-resource-centre>

The European Union has received a score of +1 for providing extensive guidance on the procurement of medical supplies, advising on infection prevention and control, and prioritising the protection needs of healthcare workers.

*Analyst: Aisha Ryan*

## 2. Health: System Strengthening

“We commit to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing our epidemic preparedness spending”

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

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.55 (78%)		

### Background

In 2014, the Ebola outbreak denoted a moment where the G20 became extremely significant as a forum of global health governance, as the G20 stepped in to support the work of international organizations to stop the outbreak and deal with the crisis.<sup>218</sup> At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the “G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola” was published, where the G20 recognized the “serious humanitarian, social and economic impacts” and “committed to do what is necessary to ... extinguish the outbreak and address its medium-term economic and humanitarian costs.”<sup>219</sup> They approved a joint statement on the Ebola threat and pledged to “do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak” and urged the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to “continue their strong support for the affected countries.” The G20 pledged to fully implement the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) addressing “longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”

<sup>218</sup> G20 Global Health Governance, 2008-2018, Daniela Vana, G20 Research Group, 7 October 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/biblio/Vana-G20-health-governance.html>.

<sup>219</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola (15 November 2014). Access Date: 2 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>.

Under Germany's G20 presidency in 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time. They acknowledged the role of the IHR and agreed to act "accordingly with our obligations under the IHR and support the leadership and coordination of WHO in the event of health crises of international concern."<sup>220</sup> G20 members agreed to "strengthen the national and, where applicable, regional monitoring and surveillance of both antimicrobial resistance and the consumption of antibiotics" within their own jurisdictions.<sup>221</sup> At the Hamburg Summit the G20 discussed antimicrobial resistance (AMR), acknowledged its "growing threat to public health and economic growth," and pledged to "strengthen public awareness, infection prevention and control and improve the understanding of the issue of antimicrobials in the environment."<sup>222</sup>

In 2018 at the Buenos Aires Summit the G20 leaders once again acknowledged "the need for further multi-sectoral action to reduce the spread of AMR" and extended the health-related agenda of the G20 by pledging to "tackle malnutrition, with a special focus on childhood overweight and obesity, through national, community-based and collaborative multi-stakeholder approaches."<sup>223</sup> In addition, the G20 leaders draw attention to provision of "better health care" and agreed to "improve [health care] quality and affordability to move towards Universal Health Coverage."<sup>224</sup>

In 2019 at the Osaka Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed the need for stronger health systems providing cost-effective and evidence-based intervention to achieve better access to health care and to improve its quality and affordability to move towards universal health coverage (UHC), in line with their national contexts and priorities.<sup>225</sup> They also promised to continue to strengthen core capacities required by IHR for preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies, recognized the WHO's critical role, and committed to ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.<sup>226</sup>

On 26 March 2020 the G20 leaders met for a virtual summit by videoconference and published a statement outlining a collective response including WHO funding and upcoming meetings of their health and finance ministers.<sup>227</sup> A meeting of health ministers followed on 19 April 2020, highlighting actions currently being taken by members and looking forward to pressing needs in pandemic response.<sup>228</sup> Leaders also committed to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing our epidemic preparedness spending.

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<sup>220</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers. G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>221</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers. G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>222</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>223</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>224</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>225</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>226</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>227</sup> G20 Leaders' Summit – Statement on COVID-19: 26 March 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>228</sup> WHO Director-General: G20 Health Ministers virtual meeting Saudi Arabia, 19 April 2020, Relief Web (New York) 19 April 2020. Date Accessed: 26 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/who-director-general-g20-health-ministers-virtual-meeting-saudi-arabia-19-april-2020>

## Commitment Features

G20 leaders committed to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing epidemic preparedness spending.

### Concepts

“Epidemic preparedness:” The WHO defines pandemic preparedness as “having national response plans, resources, and the capacity to support operations in the event of a pandemic.”<sup>229</sup> Pandemic preparedness includes programs that aim specifically at preventing issues that arise from pandemics such as a shortage of personal protective equipment, hospital capacity, and vaccine testing. The IHRs, an agreement across 195 countries that includes rules related to identifying and sharing critical information about epidemics, defines steps that its member countries should take to be prepared for global health events.

“Epidemic preparedness spending:” According to the approach used by World Bank Group for the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board in close collaboration with the WHO and the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board Secretariat, there are six broad areas with constitute epidemic preparedness spending:

- mobilizing domestic resources to build IHR core capacities for preparedness
- mobilizing development assistance to build IHR core capacities for preparedness; incentivizing countries to prioritize allocations of funds for preparedness
- leveraging the insurance model, existing loans and grants, and new funding for response and early recovery
- mobilizing funding for research and development for new products and to strengthen clinical research capacities
- sustainable financing to strengthen the WHO’s capacity for health emergency preparedness and response.<sup>230</sup>

Public health response requires national emergency frameworks and systems that include risk-based emergency preparedness plans, robust emergency management structures, including emergency operation centres, a trained workforce and mobilization of resources during an emergency, are critical for timely response. In cases where international assistance is required, supportive national systems and legislation.<sup>231</sup>

### General Interpretive Guidelines

G20 leaders’ commitment to ‘strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing epidemic preparedness spending’ implies taking actions to raise financing of various aspects of epidemic preparedness described in the concept definition both at national and international levels. Thus, this commitment has two parts: national actions and measures aimed at international cooperation.

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<sup>229</sup> Strengthening health security by implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), World Health Organization (Geneva). Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/ihr/preparedness/en/>

<sup>230</sup> Pandemic Preparedness Financing Status Update, World Health Organization (Geneva) September 2019. Access date: 25 May 2020. [https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/thematic\\_papers/tr-4.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/thematic_papers/tr-4.pdf)

<sup>231</sup> Action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region 2018–2023, WHO (Copenhagen) 2019. Access date: 8 April 2020. [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan\\_EN\\_WHO\\_web\\_2.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan_EN_WHO_web_2.pdf)

*Measures to improve epidemic preparedness on national level*

At the national level, G20 members can mobilize funding for research and development for new products and to strengthen clinical research capacities, allocate additional funds for preparedness, develop a standardized approach and methodology for tracking expenditures for preparedness, including for research and development and other actions contributing to the development of epidemic preparedness on their territory. Also, developing countries can apply and receive financial assistance and loans from other states or international institutions.

*Measures to improve epidemic preparedness on international level*

International cooperation includes regional and global level initiatives aimed at allocating financing for epidemic preparedness. G20 members can make contributions to different global and regional funds, provide targeted health-related development assistance, strengthen the capacity of the World Health Organization, integrate preparedness into the economic and policy assessment tools of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other development banks, and of bilateral aid agencies.

To fully comply with the commitment on epidemic preparedness G20 member must take actions on both national and international level. For partial compliance, one of the aspects should be covered.

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

**Scoring Guidelines**

–1	The G20 member has failed to take action on national or international level.
0	The G20 member has fully complied with ONLY one aspect of the commitment.
+1	The G20 member has fully complied with BOTH aspects of the commitment.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

**Argentina: 0**

Argentina partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 10 March 2020, the national government created a special fund of ARS 1.7 billion to strengthen response to COVID-19. Authorities from the national health portfolio made the announcement after a meeting with President Alberto Fernández and the Minister of Health, Ginés González García.<sup>232</sup> Because this took place before the G20 Extrarodinary Summit it does not count for compliance.

On 21 April 2020, national government approved the Model Loan Agreement to be signed with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for USD 35 million, destined to finance the Emergency Project for the Prevention and Management of Coronavirus Disease, a through decree 387/2020 published in the Official Gazette. It was specified that the objective of the plan is to strengthen the efforts of preparation and response against the coronavirus pandemic, and the preparation of the national public health systems in Argentina. The project foresees the execution of two parts, one of emergency response efforts, which in turn is divided into detection,

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<sup>232</sup> Gobierno nacional creó fondo especial de 1.700 millones de pesos para fortalecer respuesta ante el COVID-19, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 10 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gobierno-nacional-creo-fondo-especial-de-1700-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-respuesta>



confirmation, registration and reporting of cases and follow-up of contacts; and the second, to strengthen the health system and implement, monitor, and evaluate the program.<sup>233</sup>

Argentina strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and loan from IBRD. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet. Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 11 March 2020, the Australian government unveiled its COVID-19 National Health Plan worth AUD 2.4 billion. The plan provided for support across multiple areas, such as primary care, aged care, hospitals, research and the national medical stockpile. One of the highlights of the plan is the development of telemedicine capacity of the Australian healthcare system. It allocated AUD 100 million for a new medicare service for people in home isolation or quarantine. AUD 500 million for states and territories to fight COVID-19 outbreak and AUD 30 million was allocated from the Medical Research Future Fund for vaccine, anti-viral and respiratory medicine research.<sup>234</sup> Because this took place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count for compliance.

On 14 April 2020, Minister of Health Greg Hunt announced a AUD3 million research grant to Australian Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness for Infectious Diseases. These funds will support frontline health workers with training and information which will support the treatment of patients with COVID-19. The Medical Research Future Fund will receive AUD 1 million to help transform the treatment and management of patients with severe COVID-19.<sup>235</sup>

On 21 April 2020, Australia's High Commissioner to Mauritius Jenny Dee announced with the Mauritian Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development Renganaden Padayachy a contribution of MUR5 million by the Australian government to the Mauritian government's COVID-19 Solidarity Fund to support efforts to protect vulnerable communities.<sup>236</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Australia had allocated USD 1,677,086 and pledged to make further contribution.<sup>237</sup>

Australia strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities.

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<sup>233</sup> La Argentina recibirá US\$ 35 millones del BIRF para la lucha contra el coronavirus, Telam (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202004/454215-birf-coronavirus-banco-internacional-de-reconstruccion-y-fomento.html>

<sup>234</sup> \$2.4 Billion Health Plan To Fight Covid-19, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19>.

<sup>235</sup> Australia Mobilizes Government Funding to Accelerate COVID-19 Research Initiatives & Light at the End of the Tunnel, TrialSite News 14 April 2020. Access date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.trialsitenews.com/australia-mobiles-government-funding-to-accelerate-covid-19-research-initiatives-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel/>

<sup>236</sup> Australia contributes MUR5 million to Mauritius Government's COVID-19 Solidarity Fund, Australian High Commission Mauritius 21 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://mauritius.highcommission.gov.au/plut/AustGovContributionCOVID-19SolidarityFund.html>

<sup>237</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 11 May 2020, the Ministry of Health released BRL 11 billion in actions against the coronavirus. Direct transfers of resources for structuring health services are included, in addition to the purchase of personal protective equipment used by health professionals, diagnostic tests, medications, respirators, hiring health professionals and enabling intensive care units to treat patients with the disease. In addition to the resources devoted exclusively to fighting the coronavirus, since January, the Ministry of Health sent BRL 32.9 billion in resources for public health actions and services. This amount is used by state and municipal health departments to fund services and purchase basic supplies for the operation of health posts and hospitals, for example.<sup>238</sup>

Brazil strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 5 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced that CAD 159.5 million in funding will be allocated to support global efforts to address the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding is being distributed as follows.

- CAD 84.5 million to international partners to support humanitarian appeals: World Health Organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme, UNICEF, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Population, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian, Food and Agriculture Organization.
- CAD 40 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations for COVID-19 vaccine development.
- CAD 30 million to address country-specific requests for assistance: a number of countries have made specific financial and in-kind requests to Canada for assistance to respond to COVID-19. This funding will be set aside to respond to these countries' specific needs and support their national priorities. Tailored solutions and responses will be designed in partnership and solidarity with each requesting country.
- CAD 5 million to global health security capacity building. This will reinforce and amplify global health-security capacity building initiatives implemented through Global Affairs Canada's Weapons

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<sup>238</sup> Ministério da Saúde desembolsa R\$ 11 bilhões contra COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Brazil (Brasília) 11 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.saude.gov.br/noticias/agencia-saude/46864-ministerio-da-saude-desembolsa-r-11-bilhoes-contra-covid-19>

Threat Reduction Program and meaningfully support countries and regions in the fight against COVID-19.<sup>239</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Government of Canada released its Research Response to COVID-19. As a part of CAD 1 billion support to the fight against the coronavirus outbreak, CAD 275 million were directed to the support of academia and industry partners to advance innovative research and large-scale projects to respond to COVID-19 and ensure domestic supply of potential vaccines and treatments. The plan also provides for engaging with private sector to build-up research capacity in response to COVID-19. CAD 100 million are to be directed towards improving public health services, including enhanced surveillance and scaled-up testing.<sup>240</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Canada had allocated USD 12,889,063.<sup>241</sup>

Canada strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **China: +1**

China fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 8 March 2020, the Government of China announced its intention to donate USD 20 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to help reduce the spread and impact of the coronavirus.<sup>242</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count for compliance.

On 3 April 2020, China announced RMB 320 million (USD45 million) in special funds for 68 scientific research projects fighting the novel coronavirus to date. To achieve breakthroughs in the shortest time, the Ministry of Science and Technology organized multiple research teams to push forward projects concurrently.<sup>243</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the leaders of China, Korea, Japan and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a joint declaration on common fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. The leaders pledged to strengthen the early warning system in the region for pandemics and other epidemic diseases as well as transparent and timely share of information and best practices; enhance regional and national capacities to prepare for and respond to pandemics; consider setting

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<sup>239</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<sup>240</sup> Government of Canada's research response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-government-canada-research-response.html>.

<sup>241</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>242</sup> China to donate 20 mln USD supporting WHO's global fight against coronavirus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 08 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c\\_77481.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c_77481.htm)

<sup>243</sup> China allocates millions in COVID-19 research funding, China Daily (Beijing) 3 April 2020. Access date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202004/03/WS5e86fe33a3101282172844df.html>

up a regional reserve of essential supplies to enable rapid response to emergency needs; support the ASEAN-led initiatives aimed at capacity building to prevent, detect and respond to public health treaties; strengthen scientific cooperation in epidemiological research; encourage multilateral cooperation in the development of human resources and capacity for the public health sector; ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect the peoples of the ASEAN and Plus Three countries; maintain the national markets open for trade and investment to ensure food security and strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains; implement appropriate and necessary measures to boost market confidence to improve stability and resilience of the regional economy; etc.<sup>244</sup>

On 23 April 2020, China announced an additional USD 30 billion of the WHO to help strengthen developing countries' health systems.<sup>245</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union Zhang Ming said China will take an active part in the COVID-19 ACT Accelerator program launched by the WHO and other parties, and step up research cooperation with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, GAVI the Vaccine Alliance and other international agencies in terms of pharmaceuticals, vaccine and testing, with a view to jointly building ironclad defense against the virus.<sup>246</sup>

Overall, the Chinese government set up a special fund on COVID-19 cooperation worth RMB 2 billion (USD 283 million) and has provided much-needed supplies to over 150 countries and international organizations.<sup>247</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to WHO's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, China had allocated USD 50,100,000.<sup>248</sup>

China strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 25 March 2020, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health set up an accelerated procedure for evaluating research projects. A jury comprising representatives of the scientific committee of the REACTing consortium urgently examined 27 projects related to COVID-19. The jury identified 11 projects as priorities to be implemented now. These projects cover a large part of the continuum of

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<sup>244</sup> Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-04/16/c\\_79237.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-04/16/c_79237.htm)

<sup>245</sup> China to donate additional \$30 million to WHO for COVID-19, Reuters 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-china-who/china-to-donate-additional-30-million-to-who-for-covid-19-idUSB9N2BR01A>

<sup>246</sup> China to expand COVID-19 cooperation special fund, says envoy at global pledging event, Xinhua (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/05/c\\_139030683.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/05/c_139030683.htm)

<sup>247</sup> China to expand COVID-19 cooperation special fund, says envoy at global pledging event, Xinhua (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/05/c\\_139030683.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/05/c_139030683.htm)

<sup>248</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

health research, from diagnosis to treatment through the psychological impact of the epidemic and concern both patients and caregivers.<sup>249</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

On 9 April, the French Development Agency successfully issued a EUR1.5 billion bond on the markets, which will help finance the “COVID-19 – Health in Common” Initiative and other programs. This French initiative is designed as a complement to the action taken by multilateral institutions, in close collaboration with European Union stakeholders.<sup>250</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Union and its partners hosted an international pledging conference with the aim to raise EUR 7.5 billion in initial funding to kick-start the global cooperation. The fundraiser was hosted by the European Commission and co-chaired by several countries including Germany, Norway, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Saudi Arabia, which currently holds the G20 chair. French President Emmanuel Macron pledged EUR 500 million.<sup>251</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization’s list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, France had allocated USD 1,098,901 and pledged to make further contribution.<sup>252</sup>

France strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 25 March 2020, the Bundestag adopted the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act. It comprises a number of measures to guarantee the funding of hospitals and ensure their liquidity and contains provisions for out-patient care. Doctors working in practices can expect to receive compensatory payments if they suffer loss of earnings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also amends the Federal Training Promotion Act to ensure that young people who are still in training, and who make a valuable contribution to easing the strain on the health system, do not suffer any disadvantages relating to their loans for trainees.<sup>253</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

On 4 May 2020, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR 525 million for the Global Response Initiative to fight COVID-19. Another EUR 1.3 billion from Germany will go to global

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<sup>249</sup> Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé – Financement en urgence de 11 projets de recherche appliquée en santé pour près de 9 millions d’euros, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante-financement-en-urgence-de-11-projets>

<sup>250</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19 – Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries (9 April 2020), AFD (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>

<sup>251</sup> World leaders pledge €7.4 billion for European Commission’s coronavirus vaccine fundraising conference, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 4 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/world-leaders-pledge-74-billion-for-european-commissions-coronavirus-vaccine-fundraising-conference/a-53322501>

<sup>252</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>253</sup> Hospitals and medical practices to be strengthened, German Federal Government 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/covid19-krankenhaus-gesetz-1735060>.

health projects, in particular to support GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and to improve health systems in many countries of the Global South.<sup>254</sup>

On 11 May 2020, German government agreed a funding program of three-quarters of a billion euros on the development and distribution of a coronavirus vaccine. Researchers hope large-scale trials will help speed up the process. A primary goal of the new funding program is to allow clinical trials to work with a larger number of participants from the start.<sup>255</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Germany had allocated USD 30,833,732 and pledged to make further contribution.<sup>256</sup>

Germany strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **India: 0**

India partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 2 April 2020, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a fast-track USD 1 billion India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project to help India prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen its public health preparedness. This is the largest ever health sector support from the Bank to India. This new support will cover all states and Union Territories across India and address the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.<sup>257</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved the India: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project worth USD 500 million was approved by. The objective of the project is to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and to strengthen national health systems for preparedness in India.<sup>258</sup>

India strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and financing from World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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<sup>254</sup> Billions pledged for the fight against the coronavirus, German Federal Government 4 May 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/geberkonferenz-covid-19-1750332>.

<sup>255</sup> Germany to spend €750 million on coronavirus vaccine, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 11 May 2020. Access date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-spend-750-million-on-coronavirus-vaccine/a-53396167>

<sup>256</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>257</sup> World Bank Fast-Tracks \$1 Billion COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Support for India, World Bank (Washington) 2 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/02/world-bank-fast-tracks-1-billion-covid-19-support-for-india>

<sup>258</sup> India: COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Beijing) 7 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.aiib.org/en/projects/details/2020/approved/India-COVID-19-Emergency-Response-and-Health-Systems-Preparedness-Project.html>

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 31 March 2020, it was announced that the government will allocate IDR 75 trillion for healthcare spending, IDR 110 trillion for social protection.<sup>259</sup>

On 9 April 2020, it was announced that the U.S. Government, through the United States Agency for International Development, will provide USD 2.3 million in emergency assistance to Indonesia as part of the United States' global effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19. This emergency assistance will support ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Health, the Presidential Staff Office and Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authority.<sup>260</sup>

On 8 May 2020, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced it will allocate a total of USD 1 billion in loans to help Indonesia in its COVID-19 response, according to the bank vice president. The first disbursement of the loan will amount to USD 250 million, as part of the cofinancing program with the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank to provide a total of USD 750 million in loans.<sup>261</sup>

Indonesia strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through assistance from the United States and a loan from the AIIB. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 17 March 2020, the Italian government issued a new law on increasing national healthcare service capacities to contain the spread of COVID-19. The measures included financial stimuli for overtime medical workers worth EUR 250 million, measures to strengthen surveillance worth EUR 5 million in 2020.<sup>262</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

On 4 May 2020, the European Union and its partners hosted an international pledging conference with the aim to raise EUR 7.5 billion in initial funding to kick-start the global cooperation. The fundraiser was hosted by the European Commission and co-chaired by several countries including

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<sup>259</sup> Indonesia announces Rp 405 trillion COVID-19 budget, anticipates 5% deficit in historic move, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 31 March 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/03/31/indonesia-announces-rp-405-trillion-covid-19-budget-anticipates-5-deficit-in-historic-move.html>

<sup>260</sup> U.S. Support for Indonesia's Response to COVID-19, US Embassy and Consulates in Indonesia (Jakarta) 9 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://id.usembassy.gov/u-s-support-for-indonesias-response-to-covid-19/>

<sup>261</sup> AIIB to provide \$1b loan for Indonesia COVID-19 response, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/08/aiib-to-provide-1b-loan-for-indonesia-covid-19-response.html>

<sup>262</sup> Misure di potenziamento del Servizio sanitario nazionale, Gazzetta Ufficiale Della Repubblica Italiana (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [http://www.governo.it/sites/new.governo.it/files/documenti/documenti/Notizie-allegati/covid-19/decreto\\_20200317.pdf](http://www.governo.it/sites/new.governo.it/files/documenti/documenti/Notizie-allegati/covid-19/decreto_20200317.pdf).

Germany, Norway, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Saudi Arabia, which currently holds the G20 chair. Italy said it would donate more than EUR 100 million.<sup>263</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Italy had allocated USD 454,545 and pledged to make further contribution.<sup>264</sup>

Italy strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 29 February 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced an emergency package of measures of JPY 270 billion (USD 2.5 billion), with an emphasis on health measures.<sup>265</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

On 9 April 2020, the Government of Japan contributed USD 6 million in support of the International Organization for Migration's COVID-19 response. The donation will be used to provide emergency assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran and surrounding developing countries to prevent the further spread of the novel coronavirus.<sup>266</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the leaders of China, Korea, Japan and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a joint declaration on common fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. The leaders pledged to strengthen the early warning system in the region for pandemics and other epidemic diseases as well as transparent and timely share of information and best practices; enhance regional and national capacities to prepare for and respond to pandemics; consider setting up a regional reserve of essential supplies to enable rapid response to emergency needs; support the ASEAN-led initiatives aimed at capacity building to prevent, detect and respond to public health treaties; strengthen scientific cooperation in epidemiological research; encourage multilateral cooperation in the development of human resources and capacity for the public health sector; ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect the peoples of the ASEAN and Plus Three countries; maintain the national markets open for trade and investment to ensure food security and strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains; implement appropriate and

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<sup>263</sup> World leaders pledge €7.4 billion for European Commission's coronavirus vaccine fundraising conference, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 4 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/world-leaders-pledge-74-billion-for-european-commissions-coronavirus-vaccine-fundraising-conference/a-53322501>

<sup>264</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>265</sup> Japan: Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG (Washington) 20 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/japan-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>266</sup> Japan Contributes USD Six Million to Support IOM COVID-19 Response Across Asia, International Organization for Migration (Geneva) 9 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.iom.int/news/japan-contributes-usd-six-million-support-iom-covid-19-response-across-asia>



necessary measures to boost market confidence to improve stability and resilience of the regional economy; etc.<sup>267</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Japan expressed its intention to become the founding donor of the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Fund, which is now open for contributions from all donor countries. The World Bank and Japan are encouraging other donor countries to make contributions to this fund to help low income countries with the greatest needs prepare for and respond to major disease outbreaks.<sup>268</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Japan had allocated USD 47,500,000.<sup>269</sup>

Japan strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 2 April 2020, the Korean government announced that it would donate KRW 215.1 billion (approximately USD 174.1 million) in forthcoming years to support domestic research on vaccines against infectious diseases.<sup>270</sup>

On 13 April 2020, Korea announced it would double its financial support for Egypt in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Korea will allocate USD 200,000 in emergency assistance to support Egypt's fight against the coronavirus.<sup>271</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the Korean government announced its intention to launch a taskforce to support the development of coronavirus vaccines and treatments. The taskforce is planned to comprise a group of top-level officials from health, science, finance, trade and startup ministries with participation of designated civilian experts.<sup>272</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the leaders of China, Korea, Japan and members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a joint declaration on common fight against the COVID-19

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<sup>267</sup> Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-04/16/c\\_79237.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-04/16/c_79237.htm)

<sup>268</sup> World Bank Group to Launch New Multi-donor Trust Fund to Help Countries Prepare for Disease Outbreaks, World Bank (Washington) 17 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/statement/2020/04/15/world-bank-group-to-launch-new-multi-donor-trust-fund-to-help-countries-prepare-for-disease-outbreaks>

<sup>269</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>270</sup> Korea to spend ₩215.1 billion on vaccine research, Korea Biomedical Review 03 April 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <http://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=7907>

<sup>271</sup> South Korea doubles support for Egypt's Covid-19 fight: Ambassador, Daily News Egypt (Cairo) 13 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.dailynewssegypt.com/2020/04/13/south-korea-doubles-support-for-egypts-covid-19-fight-ambassador>

<sup>272</sup> S. Korea to Launch COVID-19 Vaccine Development Task Force, KBS World Radio 13 April 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. [http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news\\_view.htm?lang=e&Seq\\_Code=152710](http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news_view.htm?lang=e&Seq_Code=152710)

outbreak. The leaders pledged to strengthen the early warning system in the region for pandemics and other epidemic diseases as well as transparent and timely share of information and best practices; enhance regional and national capacities to prepare for and respond to pandemics; consider setting up a regional reserve of essential supplies to enable rapid response to emergency needs; support the ASEAN-led initiatives aimed at capacity building to prevent, detect and respond to public health treaties; strengthen scientific cooperation in epidemiological research; encourage multilateral cooperation in the development of human resources and capacity for the public health sector; ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect the peoples of the ASEAN and Plus Three countries; maintain the national markets open for trade and investment to ensure food security and strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of regional supply chains; and implement appropriate and necessary measures to boost market confidence to improve stability and resilience of the regional economy.<sup>273</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Korea had allocated USD 3,300,000.<sup>274</sup>

Korea strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **Mexico: -1**

Mexico did not comply with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 4 May 2020, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard attended the Coronavirus Global Response Summit on behalf of the Mexican government. The summit was organized by the United Nations, the European Union, the European Council and the World Health Organization. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Foreign Ministry, Martha Delgado, announced that Mexico was joining the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) in order to participate in the development, production and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccination. By signing the commitment to the global coronavirus response and joining CEPI, Mexico reaffirms its firm commitment to multilateral actions for resolving the most urgent global challenges.<sup>275</sup>

Although Mexico joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, no concrete actions were registered yet (contribution or other form). Also, no domestic actions aimed at strengthening epidemic preparedness were registered yet. Thus, it receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Russia: 0**

Russia partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

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<sup>273</sup> Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-04/16/c\\_79237.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-04/16/c_79237.htm)

<sup>274</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>275</sup> Mexico Attends the Coronavirus Global Response Summit, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 4 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-attends-the-coronavirus-global-response-summit?idiom=en>

On 3 April 2020, decree published by the government stated that Russia will allocate up to USD 1 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to combat the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. This donation is one-time and voluntary.<sup>276</sup>

On 15 April 2020, President Vladimir Putin instructed the government to simplify the procedure and reduce the time for preclinical and clinical trials and state registration of immunobiological drugs for the prevention of communicable diseases (including vaccines for the prevention of COVID-2019), as well as to introduce the possibility of conducting clinical studies in parallel with preclinical research.<sup>277</sup>

Russia strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet as the contribution to WHO was not yet received. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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

Saudi Arabia fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 1 April 2020, it was announced that major energy companies supported Health Endowment Fund with over SAR 500 million. The fund, which was established by the Council of Ministers' decision no. 353 in 1440H, has a legal personality. Its key objective is to encourage the community contribution to supporting the government's health development efforts.<sup>278</sup>

On 14 April 2020, Saudi Arabia's top health officials have announced that the country's top research institutions would receive extra governmental funding to facilitate the development of COVID-19 vaccine. The medical experts will study and run tests on the nature of the virus and put forward proposals for original projects offering solutions to the challenges faced by Saudi Arabia and the world in tackling the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>279</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Saudi Arabia said it would allocate USD 150 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation, USD 150 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, and USD 200 million to other health organizations and program.<sup>280</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, Saudi Arabia had allocated USD 10,000,000 and pledged to make further contribution.<sup>281</sup>

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<sup>276</sup> Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of 03.04.2020 No. 863-r, Official Legal Information Internet Portal of Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202004060017>

<sup>277</sup> List of instructions on countering the spread of new coronavirus infection (COVID-2019) in the regions of the Russian Federation, President of Russia 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/63206>.

<sup>278</sup> Major Energy Companies Support Health Endowment Fund with over SAR 500 Million, Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 1 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-04-01-004.aspx>

<sup>279</sup> Top Saudi research team gets government funding to help find COVID-19 vaccine, Arab News 14 April 2020. Access date: 27 May 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1658901/saudi-arabia>

<sup>280</sup> G20 chair Saudi Arabia pledges \$500 million to combat coronavirus: statement, Reuters (Dubai) 16 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-g20/g20-chair-saudi-arabia-pledges-500-million-to-combat-coronavirus-statement-idUSKBN21Y35F>

Saudi Arabia strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 12 May 2020, the Government of South Africa announced the allocation of extra SAR 5 billion (approximately USD 288 million) funding to support the local municipalities in fight against the spread of COVID-19. This support is assisting municipalities to provide additional access to basic services for vulnerable communities during the lockdown and to sanitize public transport facilities as the economy undergoes a phased reopening.<sup>282</sup>

South Africa strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey partially complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 24 April 2020, the World Bank approved a USD 100 million loan to Turkey for an Emergency COVID-19 Health Operation to support the actions Turkey is taking to respond to the health impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The project is part of the World Bank's USD 14 billion global Fast Track Facility announced on 2 April 2020. The funding will strengthen Turkey's capacity to avert the potentially high health and human cost of the COVID-19 pandemic by reinforcing mitigation and disease management.<sup>283</sup>

Turkey strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through the loan from World Bank. However, no actions on strengthening international or regional capacities were registered yet. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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

The United Kingdom fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

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<sup>281</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>282</sup> Clarity on financial support of R5 billion in support to municipalities for COVID-19 response, National Treasury of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm\\_media/press/2020/20200512%20Media%20statement%20-%20Covid-19%20support%20for%20municipalities.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2020/20200512%20Media%20statement%20-%20Covid-19%20support%20for%20municipalities.pdf)

<sup>283</sup> World Bank Support will Help Turkey's Health System Better Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic, World Bank (Washington) 24 April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/24/world-bank-support-will-help-turkeys-health-system-better-respond-to-covid-19-pandemic>

On 23 March 2020, the UK government and the UK's Chief Scientific Adviser backed the UK's leading clinicians and scientists to map how COVID-19 spreads and behaves by using whole genome sequencing. Through a GBP 20 million investment, the consortium will look for breakthroughs that help the UK respond to this and future pandemics.<sup>284</sup>

On 23 March 2020, Public Health England informed on continuation of the Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP). This two-year program is aimed at medical, nursing, scientific, or veterinary staff who are, or whose future career may be, in a post involving field investigation and epidemiology and who want to enhance their specialist skills. The program provides training and experience to develop the competencies agreed for field epidemiologists in the European Union.<sup>285</sup>

On 26 March 2020, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a contribution to the key international fund to find a coronavirus vaccine. The UK, along with many other countries, is channelling funding to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) which is supporting the development of vaccines that will be available throughout the world. The UK committed GBP 250 million to CEPI to date.<sup>286</sup>

Because the above actions were announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, they not count toward compliance.

On 13 April 2020, the Treasury announced that the National Health System would receive GBP6.6 billion from the coronavirus emergency fund. The funding would be used to free up hospital beds, buy new ventilators, diagnostic tests and protective equipment for NHS staff, enable home delivery of medicines and support medical and nursing students and retired doctors and nurses to join the front line.<sup>287</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Union and its partners hosted an international pledging conference with the aim to raise EUR 7.5 billion in initial funding to kick-start the global cooperation. The fundraiser was hosted by the European Commission and co-chaired by several countries including Germany, Norway, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Saudi Arabia, which currently holds the G20 chair. The United Kingdom pledged EUR 441.5 million.<sup>288</sup>

By 20 May 2020, according to World Health Organization's list of contributors for COVID-19 appeal, the UK had allocated USD 104,064,647.<sup>289</sup>

The United Kingdom strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>284</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, UK Government 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>285</sup> Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), UK Government 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/field-epidemiology-training-programme-fetp#history>.

<sup>286</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, British Government (London) 26 March 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>

<sup>287</sup> NHS to receive £6.6bn covid-19 funding, HSJ 13 April 2020. Access date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.hsj.co.uk/coronavirus/nhs-to-receive-66bn-covid-19-funding/7027395.article>

<sup>288</sup> World leaders pledge €7.4 billion for European Commission's coronavirus vaccine fundraising conference, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 4 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/world-leaders-pledge-74-billion-for-european-commissions-coronavirus-vaccine-fundraising-conference/a-53322501>

<sup>289</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, WHO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

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

The United States fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

On 18 March 2020, the US government announced the release of USD 62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to address the pandemic of COVID-19. This funding fulfills the pledge of up to USD 100 million for international efforts to combat COVID-19 announced by the Department of State on 7 February 2020.<sup>290</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

On 27 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).<sup>291</sup> On 8 April 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD 1.9 billion in response to COVID-19 outbreak under the CARES Act. The money was allocated to 1,387 health centres across the country. According to the Department of Health and Human Services communication, the funding would support “health centers’ ability to detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19” as well as maintain or increase health center capacity and staff.<sup>292</sup>

On 9 April 2020, it was announced that the US government, through USAID, will provide USD 2.3 million in emergency assistance to Indonesia as part of the United States’ global effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19. This emergency assistance will support ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Health, the Presidential Staff Office and Indonesia’s National Disaster Management Authority.<sup>293</sup>

On 18 May 2020, in the letter addressed to the United Nations General Secretary António Guterres, USAID stated that of the USD 650.7 million allocated from supplemental funding to combat the pandemic globally, it has provided USD 45.3 million to UN agencies.<sup>294</sup>

The United States strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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

The European Union fully complied with the commitment to strengthen capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks.

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<sup>290</sup> Statement by Usaid Administrator Mark Green on A Second Funding Tranche of \$62 Million In Assistance to Respond to the Pandemic of COVID-19, USAID (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>

<sup>291</sup> S.3548 - CARES Act, United States Congress (Washington) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text?q=product+actualización#toc-id3F19D297D8814FCF8D45C70177412DED>.

<sup>292</sup> HHS Awards \$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-awards-billion-to-health-centers-in-historic-covid19-response.html>.

<sup>293</sup> U.S. Support for Indonesia’s Response to COVID-19, US Embassy and Consulates in Indonesia (Jakarta) 9 April 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://id.usembassy.gov/u-s-support-for-indonesias-response-to-covid-19/>

<sup>294</sup> Acting Administrator John Barsa Letter to UN Secretary General Guterres, USAID (Washington) 18 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/may-18-2020-acting-administrator-john-barsa-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres>

On 19 March 2020, the European Commission decided to create a strategic rescEU stockpile of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective masks to help EU countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>295</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

On 27 March 2020, the Commission presented an amendment to 2020 budget, proposing additional funding of EUR 128.6 million (in commitment appropriations) for measures addressing the consequences of the coronavirus crisis. The proposed funding will: reinforce the Union civil protection mechanism (UCPM) and its strand for action inside the EU, to help member states purchase COVID-19 medical equipment through joint procurement, with 90 per cent co-financing from the EU budget. The proposed amount is EUR 80 million in commitments, of which EUR 10 million is redeployed within the existing UCPM/rescEU budget for prevention and preparedness within the Union; provide a further EUR 45 million for the Union civil protection mechanism for action in third countries, to support further requests for repatriations relating to the coronavirus pandemic and be able to respond to other crises that might occur in the course of the year. The proposal reinforces the capacity of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control with EUR 3.6 million, with funds available under the program financing actions for the eradication of animal diseases.<sup>296</sup>

On 8 April 2020, President Ursula von der Leyen presented financial support of more than EUR 15.6 billion for partner countries. Beyond the EU budget contribution, it includes EUR 5.2 billion in loans from the European Investment Bank and a substantial contribution from the European Development Fund. This new element in the EU's global response to the coronavirus pandemic will help partner countries deal with the humanitarian, health, social and economic consequences. Existing funds and program under heading four "Global Europe" will be reoriented to tackle coronavirus. The proposed EU package will cover direct bilateral support to countries, as well as funding to international organizations such as the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies. Resources will involve budgetary guarantees to mobilize additional private resources.<sup>297</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Union and its partners hosted an international pledging conference with the aim to raise EUR 7.5 billion in initial funding to kick-start the global cooperation. The fundraiser was hosted by the European Commission and co-chaired by several countries including Germany, Norway, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Saudi Arabia, which currently holds the G20 chair. The European Commission opened the event by pledging EUR 1 billion.<sup>298</sup>

The European Union strengthened national capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks through increased domestic spending and contributed to the strengthening of international and regional capacities. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>295</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476)

<sup>296</sup> The EU's 2020 budget: Response to the coronavirus pandemic, European Parliament (Strasbourg) April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649382/EPRS\\_BRI\(2020\)649382\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649382/EPRS_BRI(2020)649382_EN.pdf)

<sup>297</sup> The EU's 2020 budget: Response to the coronavirus pandemic, European Parliament (Strasbourg) April 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649382/EPRS\\_BRI\(2020\)649382\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649382/EPRS_BRI(2020)649382_EN.pdf)

<sup>298</sup> World leaders pledge €7.4 billion for European Commission's coronavirus vaccine fundraising conference, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 4 May 2020. Access date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/world-leaders-pledge-74-billion-for-european-commissions-coronavirus-vaccine-fundraising-conference/a-53322501>

### 3. Health: Digital Technologies

“[We further commit to work together to] ... leverage digital technologies.”

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

#### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada	-1		
China	-1		
France	-1		
Germany		0	
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico	-1		
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Overall Score	-0.30 (35%)		

#### Background

The role of digital technologies in health governance has received increasing policy attention from G20 leaders, at ministerial meetings and from supporting stakeholders.

On 5 September 2016, at the G20 summit in Hangzhou, China, G20 leaders adopted the G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative. This summit document briefly elucidated the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and digital technologies in improving health outcomes and healthcare services.<sup>299</sup>

On 12 January 2017, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Secretariat published a report entitled “Key Issues for Digital Transformation in the G20.”<sup>300</sup> The report was prepared for a joint G20 presidency-OECD conference on this subject, and it analyzed

<sup>299</sup> G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative, G20 Information Center (Hangzhou) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 10 May 2020. [www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-digital.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-digital.html)

<sup>300</sup> Key Issues for Digital Transformation in the G20, OECD (Berlin) 12 January 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/key-issues-for-digital-transformation-in-the-g20.pdf>



the potential of digital health technologies to promote social inclusion, improve access to information and care, and deliver quality health outcomes.<sup>301</sup>

Published on 4 October 2018 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the G20 Health Ministers Declaration under Argentina's presidency noted the importance of developing and operationalizing digital health systems.<sup>302</sup>

On 12 February 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) published a report entitled "WHO Contribution to G20 2019 Presidency on Health-Related Issues." One section of this report presented the Digitalization and New Technologies for Health Working Group's findings and recommendations.<sup>303</sup>

On 20 October 2019, the G20 health ministers met in Okayama, Japan. The resulting ministerial declaration emphasized the importance of digital health technologies and information for achieving universal health coverage. The declaration further welcomed the WHO's guidelines on digital health.<sup>304</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the G20 digital economy ministerial meeting produced the "Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting: COVID-19 Response Statement."<sup>305</sup> This statement reaffirmed a commitment made by G20 leaders on 26 March 2020 to leverage digital technologies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>306</sup> Specifically, the digital economy ministers highlighted research and development of digital technologies for health, recognizing the potential of digital technologies to fight and prevent pandemics. This message echoes a previous G20 health ministerial meeting earlier that month, which similarly discussed digital solutions in current and future pandemics.<sup>307</sup>

COVID-19 has placed digital health technologies at the forefront of the G20's pandemic response. The present commitment to "[work together to] ... leverage digital technologies" for health is found in the leaders' statement on COVID-19 adopted at the virtual Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit on 26 March 2020.<sup>308</sup>

## **Commitment Features**

### **Definitions**

The G20 commitment is to "[further commit to work together to] ... leverage digital technologies (health)."

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<sup>301</sup> Key Issues for Digital Transformation in the G20, OECD (Berlin) 12 January 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/key-issues-for-digital-transformation-in-the-g20.pdf>

<sup>302</sup> "Declaration: G20 Meeting of Health Ministers." G20 Information Center (Mar del Plata) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. [www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-10-04-health.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-10-04-health.html)

<sup>303</sup> WHO Contribution to G20 2019 Presidency on Health-Related Issues, World Health Organization (Geneva) 12 February 2019. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/ageing/g20-feb-2019.pdf>

<sup>304</sup> Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Okayama) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

<sup>305</sup> Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting: COVID-19 Response Statement, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0430.html>

<sup>306</sup> Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting: COVID-19 Response Statement, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0430.html>

<sup>307</sup> G20 Health Ministers Coordinate Efforts to Combat COVID-19. G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2020. [www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-health-0419.html)

<sup>308</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Riyadh) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020. [www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html)

The term “commit” is defined as “to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.”<sup>309</sup>

### Concepts

“Leverage” is understood to mean the power to influence and achieve new or better desired results by taking advantage of something already obtained.<sup>310</sup>

“Digital technologies” are interpreted as computerized or electronic tools, systems, devices, and resources that generate, store or process data. Commonly, digital technologies refer to computer-based products, algorithms, or applications, including examples such as data pooling, internet services and artificial intelligence.<sup>311</sup>

In the context of this health commitment, digital technologies refer to electronic and internet-based modes of delivering health services and running health systems. According to the WHO, “common uses of digital technologies include searching medical knowledge resources, facilitating clinical support, monitoring quality of care, and mapping and monitoring the spread of infectious diseases, as well as tracking supplies of drugs and vaccines.”<sup>312</sup> From telemedicine to assistive devices, digital health technologies are instrumental in improving health information systems and addressing structural barriers to positive health outcomes such as distance and socioeconomic disparities.<sup>313</sup>

In the context of pandemics, digital and data-based tools can support more accurate and timely decision-making for “preventing, detecting, and responding to outbreaks.”<sup>314</sup> Digital technologies also play a crucial role in informing national capacities of outbreak prediction, projections, and preparedness.

Non-health-related digital technologies are excluded from the scope of this commitment.

### General Interpretive Guidelines

G20 leaders are committed to working together and leveraging digital health technologies amidst the global COVID-19 outbreak. Considering the definitions and concepts elaborated above, the crux of this commitment is to cooperate in maximizing the advantages brought by existing and innovative digital health technologies.

In order to differentiate between full and partial compliance, this report uses a depth analysis as per the Compliance Coding Manual.<sup>315</sup> To fully comply with this commitment, and receive a score of +1, the G20 member must take substantive policy action to work together with other G20 member(s) to leverage digital health technologies. Examples include concrete data-sharing efforts, collectively enhancing epidemic preparedness by analyzing collected data, or jointly strengthening the capacity of

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<sup>309</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 10 May 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>310</sup> Leverage, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/leverage>

<sup>311</sup> The Impact of Digital Technologies, United Nations (New York) Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.un.org/en/un75/impact-digital-technologies>

<sup>312</sup> Digital Technologies: Shaping the Future of Primary Healthcare, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/primary-health-care-conference/digital-technologies.pdf>

<sup>313</sup> Digital Technologies: Shaping the Future of Primary Healthcare, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/primary-health-care-conference/digital-technologies.pdf>

<sup>314</sup> Can Digital Health Help Stop the Next Epidemic? Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington D.C.) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/can-digital-health-help-stop-next-epidemic>

<sup>315</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 10 May 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

domestic health systems using digital mechanisms such as artificial intelligence and internet of things technology.<sup>316</sup> Thus, the key component is working bilaterally and/or multilaterally with other G20 members in leveraging these digital technologies to combat COVID-19.

Actions in which a G20 member only demonstrates a verbal declaration of cooperation will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance. In this scenario, the G20 member is demonstrating support but lacking the threshold of working together substantively, the necessary depth to achieve full compliance. Other examples of partial compliance include public reaffirmations of the commitment in principle, awareness campaigns and other indirect contributors to enhancing the role of digital health technologies. Similarly, if a G20 member leverages digital health technologies on a domestic scale yet fails to work together with its G20 counterparts, a score of 0 will be assigned.

An absence of relevant actions or actions taken against the objectives of this commitment, such as deliberately undermining bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation, will be recognized with a score of -1 for non-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 no action to work together to leverage digital health technologies through concrete data-sharing efforts, collectively enhancing epidemic preparedness by analyzing collected data, or jointly strengthening the capacity of domestic health systems using digital mechanisms such as artificial intelligence and internet of things technology.
0	G20 member took limited action to work together to leverage digital health technologies through concrete data-sharing efforts, collectively enhancing epidemic preparedness by analyzing collected data, or jointly strengthening the capacity of domestic health systems using digital mechanisms such as artificial intelligence and internet of things technology.
+1	G20 member took substantive action to work together to leverage digital health technologies through concrete data-sharing efforts, collectively enhancing epidemic preparedness by analyzing collected data, or jointly strengthening the capacity of domestic health systems using digital mechanisms such as artificial intelligence and internet of things.

*Compliance Director: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 27 April 2020, the Ministry of Health implemented the National Digital Health Network to improve the accessibility of universal coverage services and initiatives.<sup>317</sup> To digitalize and modernize the country's healthcare infrastructure, the Ministry will use Red Hat Inc.'s open hybrid cloud

<sup>316</sup> How digital infrastructure can help us through the COVID-19 crisis, World Economic Forum (Geneva) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/digital-infrastructure-public-health-crisis-covid-19/>.

<sup>317</sup> Argentine Ministry of Health Enlists Red Hat to Help Establish a National Digital Health Network, RedHat (Raleigh) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.redhat.com/es/about/press-releases/argentine-ministry-health-enlists-red-hat-help-establish-national-digital-health-network>

technologies to increase access to clinical records, prescriptions and healthcare information, including up-to-date pandemic developments and COVID-19 case reporting.<sup>318</sup>

Argentina took domestic action to leverage digital health technologies. However, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.<sup>319</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 29 March 2020, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced AUD 1.1 billion in funding to increase access to Medicare telehealth services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Such services include medical consultations via telephone or video conferencing, mental health treatment, chronic disease management, access to nurse practitioners and more.<sup>320</sup> As part of this arrangement, the federal government lifted insurance reimbursement restrictions on telehealth services, allowing access to such services under Medicare subsidies.<sup>321</sup>

On 26 April 2020, the government launched CoviSafe, a coronavirus contact tracing mobile application. The application is part of the government's strategy to identify and trace potential COVID-19 carriers and their contacts through Bluetooth technology.<sup>322</sup>

On 1 May 2020, to support national COVID-19 efforts and the digital healthcare industry, the Australian Digital Health Agency launched an innovation challenge to seek solutions in data and healthcare analytics from the digital health, engineering, and biomedical industries.<sup>323</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the government announced an AUD 32 million investment in the Medical Research Future Fund. Of the selected research grantees, two projects are related to digital health technologies: "evidence-based digital technologies for health behaviour" and "a purpose-built digital

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<sup>318</sup> Argentine Ministry of Health Enlists Red Hat to Help Establish a National Digital Health Network, RedHat (Raleigh) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.redhat.com/es/about/press-releases/argentine-ministry-health-enlists-red-hat-help-establish-national-digital-health-network>

<sup>319</sup> Sources checked include: Ministry of Health and other respective government websites, The Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, and other news sources found through Google News.

<sup>320</sup> All Australians will be able to access telehealth under new \$1.1 billion coronavirus program, The Conversation (Canberra) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://theconversation.com/all-australians-will-be-able-to-access-telehealth-under-new-1-1-billion-coronavirus-program-134987>

<sup>321</sup> Bulk-billed telehealth to combat coronavirus: Australia's big Medicare changes explained, The New Daily (Canberra) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://thenewdaily.com.au/life/tech/2020/03/30/telehealth-australia-bulk-billed/>

<sup>322</sup> Covid safe: Australian government launches coronavirus tracing app amid lingering privacy concerns, The Guardian. 26 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/apr/26/australias-coronavirus-tracing-app-set-to-launch-today-despite-lingering-privacy-concerns>

<sup>323</sup> Media release - Future proofing Australia's healthcare: Government launches a nation-wide Innovation Challenge, Australian Government - Australian Digital Health Agency (Canberra) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/news-and-events/news/future-proofing-australia-s-healthcare-government-launches-a-nation-wide-innovation-challenge>

assessment tool to determine the mechanisms driving addictive behaviours and its utility to improve treatment engagement and outcomes.”<sup>324</sup>

Although Australia took substantive measures to leverage digital health technologies domestically, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 18 May 2020, the Ministry of Health announced a partnership with telecommunications provider Embratel to migrate public health website data to cloud storage, in order to ensure data security during the pandemic.<sup>325</sup> This contract will strengthen the country’s digital transformation strategy for 2020-2022.

On 27 May 2020, the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications signed a memorandum of understanding with Cisco. This cooperation included the launch of “Brasil Digital e Inclusivo,” Cisco’s Country Digital Acceleration program to spur innovative healthcare projects. This initiative will support the public healthcare system with telemedicine services and a remote patient monitoring digital platform.<sup>326</sup>

Brazil partnered with private sector actors to leverage digital health technologies domestically. However, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.<sup>327</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Canada: -1**

Canada failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present

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<sup>324</sup> \$32 million for the next generation of clinician researchers to pursue critical health and medical research, Australian Government - Department of Health (Canberra) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/32-million-for-the-next-generation-of-clinician-researchers-to-pursue-critical-health-and-medical-research>

<sup>325</sup> Brazil shifts public health websites to the cloud, ZDNet. 18 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazil-shifts-public-health-websites-to-the-cloud/>

<sup>326</sup> Government of Brazil signs agreement with Cisco to boost digitization. Cisco. 27 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://newsroom.cisco.com/feature-content?type=webcontent&articleId=2076852>

<sup>327</sup> Sources consulted include Brazil’s Ministry of Health and other relevant government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including Correio Braziliense and Estado de Minas.

commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.<sup>328</sup>

Thus, Canada receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

#### **China: -1**

China failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.

Thus, China receives a score of -1.<sup>329</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

#### **France: -1**

France failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.

Thus, France receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

#### **Germany: 0**

Germany partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 15 April 2020, the Federal Office of Information Security published security guidelines for mobile and digital health applications, including provisions on personal data protection.<sup>330</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the Regulation on the Requirements and Reimbursement Process for Digital Health Applications entered into force. The regulation stipulates information technology security and

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<sup>328</sup> Sources consulted include Health Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and other relevant government websites, as well as major news sources such as CBC and The Globe and Mail, as well as a university research websites.

<sup>329</sup> Sources consults include the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and other respective government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including China Daily.

<sup>330</sup> Digital health apps: German guideline on security requirements, Simmons and Simmons. 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.simmons-simmons.com/en/publications/ck9k6nfl7cg709307zz7cxj0/digital-health-apps-german-guideline-on-security-requirements>

privacy requirements for digital health applications that seek insurance reimbursements from state health schemes.<sup>331</sup>

Although Germany took substantive actions to leverage digital health technologies through new domestic guidelines and regulations, Germany did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus demonstrating partial compliance.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

#### **India: +1**

India fully complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 3 April 2020, India reached out to China, Korea, and Germany to procure tech-driven medical equipment and solutions to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Indian missions in these countries are currently identifying areas of cooperation, engaging relevant authorities to procure medical equipment and technology, and learning from the successes of digital tracking for COVID testing.<sup>332</sup>

India worked together with other G20 counterparts in leveraging digital health technologies during the COVID-19 outbreak, thus scoring full compliance.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

#### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 27 March 2020, the COVID-19 task force announced that it will enhance partnerships with domestic health technology firms by listing 20 telehealth services on its website and creating a digital call centre, Sociomile, to direct call traffic.<sup>333</sup> Through telehealth, patients can access verified medical guidance, obtain free doctor consultations via video, telephone or text, and receive medication prescriptions and delivery.<sup>334</sup>

Indonesia partnered with private sector actors to leverage digital health technologies domestically. However, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

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<sup>331</sup> German Federal Agencies Publish Privacy and IT Security Requirements for Digital Health Applications, Inside Privacy. 7 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.insideprivacy.com/health-privacy/germany-digav-it-security/>

<sup>332</sup> India reaches out to China, South Korea, Germany for tech-driven solutions for COVID-19, India Times. 3 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/technology/india-reaches-out-to-china-south-korea-germany-for-tech-driven-solutions-for-covid-19/74960156>

<sup>333</sup> Indonesian Health Apps Join Forces for Covid-19 Home Consultations, Jakarta Globe. 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://jakartaglobe.id/tech/indonesian-health-apps-join-forces-for-covid19-home-consultations>

<sup>334</sup> Indonesia leans on health tech start-ups to cope with coronavirus surge, The Straits Times. 10 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesia-leans-on-healthtech-startups-to-cope-with-coronavirus-surge>

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.<sup>335</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 17 April 2020, the government announced that it will use a mobile application and Bluetooth technology for contact tracing during the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>336</sup> The application is intended to assist the transition to phase II emergency once the nation-wide lockdown is lifted.

Although Italy took contact tracing measures to leverage digital health technologies domestically, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.<sup>337</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 8 May 2020, the government introduced a smartphone contact tracing app, which utilizes Bluetooth signals to notify individuals who have been in close contact with infected persons.<sup>338</sup>

Although Japan took contact tracing measures to leverage digital health technologies domestically, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 14 May 2020, the Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Startups announced the designation of additional regulation-free businesses in the field of digital healthcare in Gangwon Province.<sup>339</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the Ministry of Economic and Finance temporarily eased restrictions on telemedicine to allow tele-treatment for COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms, in an effort to review a potential deregulation of nationwide telemedicine services.<sup>340</sup>

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<sup>335</sup> Sources consulted include Indonesia's Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including The Jakarta Post.

<sup>336</sup> Italy to use app to track coronavirus contacts, Anadolu Agency (Rome) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/italy-to-use-app-to-track-coronavirus-contacts/1808841#>

<sup>337</sup> Sources checked include Italian Ministry of Health Cooperation and other government agencies, as well as news agencies including La Repubblica, The Local, and La Stampa.

<sup>338</sup> Japan Poised to Introduce Coronavirus Contact-Tracing App, Nippon.com (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2020050801056/>

<sup>339</sup> Telemedicine push amid Covid-19 meets strong opposition from doctors, Korea Biomedical Review. 15 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=8256](http://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=8256)



Korea took substantive actions to leverage digital health technologies through domestic regulations and legal changes. However, Korea did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, demonstrating partial compliance.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.<sup>341</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Mexico: -1**

Mexico failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.<sup>342</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 30 March 2020, the Russian government announced a draft bill in the Federation Council and Parliament to digitalize healthcare with biometric authentication during the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>343</sup> This legal change will allow doctors to use telemedicine technologies for remote consultations and improve identification and authentication through electronic signatures and biometric data.

Although Russia took action to leverage digital health technologies domestically, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **Saudi Arabia: -1**

Saudi Arabia failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

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<sup>340</sup> S. Korea to actively consider telemedicine services amid coronavirus pandemic, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200514000688](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200514000688)

<sup>341</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health and Welfare and other respective government sites, as well as news sources including the Korea Times and the Korea Herald and other sources on Google News.

<sup>342</sup> Sources consulted include Mexico's Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, major research universities, as well as news sources found through Google News, including La Jornada, El Universal and Reforma.

<sup>343</sup> Russian healthcare digitalization bill for remote patients includes biometrics for authentication, Biometric Update (Moscow) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202003/russian-healthcare-digitalization-bill-for-remote-patients-includes-biometrics-for-authentication>

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of  $-1$ .<sup>344</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

### **South Africa: $-1$**

South Africa failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.<sup>345</sup>

Thus, South Africa receives a score of  $-1$ .

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

### **Turkey: $-1$**

Turkey failed to comply with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

This report consulted relevant ministry and government websites, major news sources, and COVID-19 government response trackers from Oxford University, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). No national government actions were identified within the parameter of the present commitment to work together on digital health technologies and within the compliance period of 27 March 2020 to 26 May 2020.<sup>346</sup>

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

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

United Kingdom partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

In April 2020, the NHSX, the technology and digital unit of the National Health Service (NHS), published its draft Digital Health Technology Standard for public consultation until 22 April 2020.

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<sup>344</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, university research sources and news agencies found through Google News including Arab News and Saudi Gazette.

<sup>345</sup> Sources consulted include the Department of Health and other respective government agencies, various research institutions, as well as news sources found through Google News including Cape Argus and IOL.

<sup>346</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, various research institutions as well as news sources found through Google News including Hurriyet News.

This draft standard seeks to expedite and streamline the review and commissioning of health technologies for use in the NHS.<sup>347</sup>

Although the UK took action to leverage digital health technologies domestically, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.<sup>348</sup>

Thus, the UK receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

### **United States: 0**

The United States partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 27 March 2020, the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the US Department of Health and Human Services announced a partnership with Apple Inc.<sup>349</sup> This partnership entails an application and website that guide citizens through health-related inquiries, guidance on social distancing, monitoring symptoms, testing recommendations and more.

On 2 April 2020, the Federal Communications Commission announced USD 200 million in funding for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.<sup>350</sup> This program will help “health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations” in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>351</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the Federal Food and Drug Administration published nonbinding recommendations entitled “Enforcement Policy for Digital Health Devices For Treating Psychiatric Disorders During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency.”<sup>352</sup> The recommendations cover the scope of two dimensions: 1) computerized behavioral therapy devices and other digital health therapeutic devices for psychiatric disorders and 2) low-risk general wellness and digital health products for mental health or psychiatric conditions.<sup>353</sup>

Although the US took action to leverage digital health technologies domestically, it did not work together with other G20 members in doing so, thus scoring partial compliance.

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<sup>347</sup> Designing and building products and services, NHSX (London) Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<https://www.nhs.uk/key-tools-and-info/designing-and-building-products-and-services/>

<sup>348</sup> Sources consulted include the UK’s Department of Health and Social Care as well as other government agencies, major research institutions, and news sources such as the BBC and the Guardian and other sources found through Google News.

<sup>349</sup> CDC Statement on COVID-19 Apple App, CDC Newsroom (Washington D.C.) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0327-statement-covid-19-apple-app.html>

<sup>350</sup> FCC Adopts \$200 Million COVID-19 Telehealth Program, Federal Communications Commission (Washington D.C.) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363498A1.pdf>

<sup>351</sup> COVID-19 Telehealth Program, Federal Communications Commission (Washington D.C.) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>

<sup>352</sup> Enforcement Policy for Digital Health Devices For Treating Psychiatric Disorders During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency,” Food and Drug Administration (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/media/136939/download>

<sup>353</sup> Enforcement Policy for Digital Health Devices For Treating Psychiatric Disorders During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency,” Food and Drug Administration (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/media/136939/download>

Thus, US receives a score of 0.<sup>354</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

### **European Union: 0**

The European Union partially complied with its commitment to work together to leverage digital health technologies.

On 1 April 2020, the EU adopted a recommendation on a European electronic health record exchange format. This recommendation facilitates the flow of health data across the borders of EU member states and seeks to enable the digital transformation of healthcare in a digital single market.<sup>355</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the EU adopted a Commission recommendation “on a common Union toolbox for the use of technology and data to combat and exit from the COVID-19 crisis, in particular concerning mobile applications and the use of anonymised mobility data.”<sup>356</sup> The document recognized the role of digital technologies in the COVID-19 crisis and the importance of developing a common EU approach to digital technologies by “involving officials from national regulatory authorities for electronic communications, ministries in charge of digital matters and data protection authorities.”<sup>357</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the EU announced a budget of EUR 56 million for medical technology, digital tools and artificial intelligence solutions to COVID-19.<sup>358</sup> This funding aims to improve response capabilities to the COVID-19 crisis, enhance recovery processes, and strengthen preparedness for future public health emergencies.

On 29 May 2020, the European Council adopted the “Draft Council Conclusions on Shaping Europe’s Digital Future — Preparation for the approval — Decision to use the written procedure.”<sup>359</sup> This document emphasizes the post-COVID development of “e-Health, digital education, e-Government, data sharing and broadband connectivity,” digital services and identity.<sup>360</sup>

The EU took substantive actions to leverage digital health technologies between its member states. However, the EU did not work together with other G20 counterparts in doing so, thus demonstrating partial compliance.

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<sup>354</sup> Sources consulted include U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, The President and the White House, and other respective government agencies, major research institutions, as well as news sources found through Google News including CNN, The New York Times, the Washington Post and others.

<sup>355</sup> Exchange of Electronic Health Records across the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/exchange-electronic-health-records-across-eu>

<sup>356</sup> Commission Recommendation, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/recommendation\\_on\\_apps\\_for\\_contact\\_tracing\\_4.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/recommendation_on_apps_for_contact_tracing_4.pdf)

<sup>357</sup> Commission Recommendation, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/recommendation\\_on\\_apps\\_for\\_contact\\_tracing\\_4.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/recommendation_on_apps_for_contact_tracing_4.pdf)

<sup>358</sup> Coronavirus response: €56 million for solutions using medical technologies, digital tools and artificial intelligence, European Commission (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/coronavirus-response-eu56-million-solutions-using-medical-technologies-digital-tools-and>

<sup>359</sup> Document Information, European Council (Brussels) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/register/en/content/out?&typ=ENTRY&i=ADV&DOC\\_ID=ST-8098-2020-INIT](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/register/en/content/out?&typ=ENTRY&i=ADV&DOC_ID=ST-8098-2020-INIT)

<sup>360</sup> LEAK: EU in push for digital transformation after COVID-19 crisis, Euractiv (Brussels) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/leak-eu-in-push-for-digital-transformation-after-covid-19-crisis/>

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.<sup>361</sup>

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hon*

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<sup>361</sup> Sources consulted include the European Commission's Public Health website and other respective government sources, major research institutions, and news sources found through Google News.

## 4. Health: Research and Development

“We further commit to working together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines”

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

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		+0.40 (70%)	

### Background

The G20 leaders held their first extraordinary video conference on 26 March 2020 in order to address the global health, social and economic impacts of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. At the summit, the leaders pledged their commitment to “do whatever it takes to overcome the pandemic, along with the World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group (WBG), United Nations, and other international organizations.”<sup>362</sup>

The G20 did not address issues related to global health and healthcare until its summit in Brisbane in 2014. Responding to growing concerns about the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, the G20 members approved a joint statement on Ebola, pledging to work together to contain and extinguish the outbreak. They also urged the WBG and the IMF to continue support for the affected countries and acknowledged that the Ebola outbreak reveals “the urgency of addressing longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious diseases.”<sup>363</sup> In addition, the leaders pledged to fully implement

<sup>362</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Riyadh) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>363</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Research Group (Brisbane) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

the WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR) addressing "longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease."<sup>364</sup>

The G20 continued putting global health issues on their agenda at the following summits. At the 2015 summit in Antalya, Turkey the leaders agreed that "more attention should be given to global health risks, such as antimicrobial resistance, infectious disease threats and weak health systems" and that "these can significantly impact growth and stability."<sup>365</sup>

Two years later in 2017, the G20 health ministers held their first ever ministerial in Berlin and produced the Berlin Declaration. The ministers acknowledged the importance of putting global health on the G20 agenda and affirmed that "the global interconnectedness of societies, businesses and governments means that an infectious disease risk anywhere can become a health risk everywhere — with far-reaching humanitarian, social, political, economic and security consequences."<sup>366</sup> The declaration built on the previous health initiatives of the G20, acknowledging the importance of the WHO's IHR. The ministers also agreed that "Research and Development (R&D) are necessary for the timely availability and development of new and improved quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical equipment for containing emergencies."<sup>367</sup> At the leaders-level summit in Hamburg in 2017, the leaders once again acknowledged that the G20 plays a crucial role in the "advancing preparedness and responsiveness against global health challenges."<sup>368</sup> The leaders also acknowledged the threat posed to public health and economic growth by antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and committed to the implementation of their National Action Plans by the end of 2018.

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the leaders again addressed the issue of global health by "[encouraging] the activities of the World Health Organization (WHO), together with all relevant actors, to develop an action plan for implementation of health-related aspects of SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] by 2030."<sup>369</sup> The leaders also expanded the health agenda of the G20 through committing to "tackle malnutrition, with a special focus on childhood overweight and obesity, through national, community-based and collaborative multi-stakeholder approaches."<sup>370</sup>

Finally, at the most recent 2019 Osaka Summit, the leaders remarked that health is a "prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive economic growth."<sup>371</sup> The leaders committed to "improving public health preparedness and response including strengthening [their] own core capacities and supporting

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<sup>364</sup> G20 Leaders' Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Research Group (Brisbane) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

<sup>365</sup> G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Research Group (Antalya) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>366</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Research Group (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>367</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Research Group (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>368</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Research Group (Hamburg) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>369</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Research Group (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>370</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Research Group (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>371</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Osaka), 29 June 2019. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

capacities of other countries in compliance with the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (2005).”<sup>372</sup>

This G20 commitment on working together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines is reflective of its larger commitment to strengthen global health systems and disaster preparedness. It also demonstrates that the G20’s mandate has expanded over time, and that its core mission of financial stability and economic growth have been expanded to include other issues of the global scale.

## **Commitment Features**

### **Definitions**

Further: to develop or make progress in something;<sup>373</sup>

Increase: to make something become larger in amount or size;<sup>374</sup>

Vaccines: a substance containing a virus or bacterium in a form that is not harmful, given to a person or animal to prevent them from getting the disease that the virus or bacterium causes;<sup>375</sup>

Medicines: treatment for illness or injury.<sup>376</sup>

### **Concepts**

“Working together” is interpreted as measurable joint effort by one or more G20 member to coordinate on the development of vaccines and medicines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;

“Research and development” funding can be understood as direct investment by governments in innovative activities and initiatives in developing new vaccines and medicines to combat the effects of the COVID-19 virus on the human body.

## **General Interpretive Guidelines**

The G20 commitment is to work “together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.” Within the context of the G20’s Statement on COVID-19, this commitment refers specifically to working together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicine to tackle the COVID-19 virus, particularly for future preparedness. In addition to committing to work together on research and development funding, the leaders pledged to close the funding gap in the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and provide “immediate resources to the WHO’s COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, on a voluntary basis.”<sup>377</sup>

This commitment includes two components. The first is working together with the fellow G20 members on increasing global efforts for vaccines and medicines. The second component is increasing research and development funding for vaccines and medicines domestically. Thus, it entails collective action from the G20 members to support innovative research and research

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<sup>372</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Research Group (Osaka), 29 June 2019. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>373</sup> Further, Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/further>

<sup>374</sup> Increase, Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/increase>

<sup>375</sup> Vaccine, Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/vaccine>

<sup>376</sup> Medicine, Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/medicine>

<sup>377</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Riyadh) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>



platforms that will provide vaccines and medicines for not only this pandemic, but for future, unforeseen global health emergencies.

### **Part One: Working Together**

The first component, “working together,” signifies that members must demonstrate their participation in cooperative initiatives either with other states, international organizations such as the WHO or partner universities in G20 members. The cooperative initiatives should also take concrete action to increase research and development for vaccines and medicines to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. An example of such an initiative would be allocating funding to scientific research teams, which demonstratively cooperate on vaccine and medicine research with their G20 counterparts. Another example would be direct assistance to relevant international programs or initiatives.

### **Part Two: Increase Research and Development Funding for Vaccines and Medicines**

The second component, “increase research and development funding,” refers to strengthening national, regional and global capacity to the COVID-19 outbreak through accelerating research efforts for vaccines and medicines. This component recognizes the importance of measurable federal support for scientific research programs, thus increasing resources available to scientific teams. For future preparedness, the G20 members should invest in R&D on both vaccines and medicines, as both can play a role in preventing the spread of and minimizing the harms of the virus. In order to fully comply with the commitment, a G20 member must demonstrate a measurable effort to strengthen research initiatives within their own country. Examples include direct government funding for scientific programs and research teams conducting research for vaccines and medical treatment to fight COVID-19.

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 towards working together to increase R&D funding for vaccines and medicines. For this report, strong is defined as “effective;” of a good quality or level and likely to be successful. To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take strong actions according to both components of this commitment. This means that members should not only advance research efforts at home, but also contribute to the global effort for vaccines and medicines. A member must demonstrate clear, strong and measurable initiative to work together to increase R&D funding with other G20 members. A member which demonstrates some effort to increase R&D funding at home but does not support a coordinated response, such as international programs or WHO’s initiatives, or does not share information with fellow G20 members will be awarded with a score of partial compliance. In addition, a member which demonstrates some effort of best practices and information sharing on vaccines and medicines but does not contribute to global coordinated funding would receive a score of 0. A member which fails to demonstrate effort to work together with other G20 members on R&D funding and fails to increase R&D funding at home will receive a score of no compliance.

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

## Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member took insufficient action to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.
0	The G20 member demonstrated measurable action to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines BUT did not demonstrate effort to participate in international research efforts; OR the G20 member demonstrates effort to share best practices and information on vaccines and medicines BUT does not contribute to global coordinated funding.
+1	The G20 member demonstrated measurable action to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines AND demonstrated measurable effort to participate in international research efforts.

*Compliance Director: Maria Zelenova*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 27 March 2020, Argentina's National Scientific and Technological Agency opened applications for a USD 5,000,000 government-funding program (with grants of up to USD 100,000 each) concerning "prevention, treatment, monitoring and other aspects related with COVID-19."<sup>378</sup> The program is currently in the evaluation phase.<sup>379</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the José de San Martín hospital in Buenos Aires began a trial to evaluate the performance of the Telmisartan drug for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.<sup>380</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the Secretary of Health Quality for Argentina announced the beginning of a blood plasma transfusion trial at the Hospital El Cruce in Florencio Varela.<sup>381</sup> In the statement, the Minister also confirmed both government involvement in the trial and cooperation with other countries.<sup>382</sup>

Argentina introducing new government funding programs and participating in the Solidarity trials are clear evidence of both increasing research and development funding and working together with other G20 members. There is no evidence, however, of Argentina directly contributing to any multilateral funding initiatives.<sup>383</sup>

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: John Smith*

<sup>378</sup> 'COVID-19 - Convocatoria Extraordinaria' [in Spanish], Argentinian National Scientific and technological Agency (Buenos Aires) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/frontend/agencia/convocatoria/437>

<sup>379</sup> 'COVID-19 - Convocatoria Extraordinaria' [in Spanish], Argentinian National Scientific and technological Agency (Buenos Aires) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/frontend/agencia/convocatoria/437>

<sup>380</sup> 'Telmisartan for Treatment of COVID-19 Patients', U.S. National Library of Medicine (Washington) 21 April 2020. Access Date: May 16 2020 <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04355936>

<sup>381</sup> 'Argentina tiene "gran expectativa" en el ensayo con plasma para tratar el COVID-19' [in Spanish] Agencia EFE (Buenos Aires) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/argentina-tiene-gran-expectativa-en-el-ensayo-con-plasma-para-tratar-covid-19/20000013-4247140>

<sup>382</sup> 'Argentina tiene "gran expectativa" en el ensayo con plasma para tratar el COVID-19' [in Spanish] Agencia EFE (Buenos Aires) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/argentina-tiene-gran-expectativa-en-el-ensayo-con-plasma-para-tratar-covid-19/20000013-4247140>

<sup>383</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Health and other respective government websites, The Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, and other news sources found through Google News.

## **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 30 March 2020, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne began clinical trials to test the Bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccine against tuberculosis for effectiveness against COVID-19.<sup>384</sup> The World Health Organization is aware of the trial, and has stated that it “will evaluate the evidence when it is available.”<sup>385</sup> The Murdoch Children's Research Institute receives most of its funding from the Australian government; in the last financial year for which it issued reports more than 50 per cent of its funding came from research and government grants.<sup>386</sup>

On 1 April 2020, Australia's National Science Agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), began clinical trials to test two vaccines; one which the United Kingdom's Oxford University developed and another by American company Inviro.<sup>387</sup> The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI) organized the trial, which will involve the CSIRO cooperating with the multilateral initiative.<sup>388</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Indian Immunologicals Ltd announced that it was collaborating with Griffith University to develop a candidate vaccine for COVID-19.<sup>389</sup> Griffith University previously announced on 30 March that mouse model trials would progress for the candidate vaccine.<sup>390</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the University of Melbourne launched a clinical trial to test the effectiveness of two different drug treatments — lopinavir/ritonavir and hydroxychloroquine — to treat COVID-19. This is a bilateral initiative as the trial will be simultaneously conducted in Australia and New Zealand.<sup>391</sup>

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<sup>384</sup> ‘BCG Vaccination to Protect Healthcare Workers Against COVID-19 (BRACE)’, U.S. National Library of Medicine (Washington) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04327206>

<sup>385</sup> ‘Bacille Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccination and COVID-19: Scientific Brief’, World Health Organization (Geneva) 12 April 2020. Access date: 16 May 2020. [https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/bacille-calmette-gu%C3%A9rin-\(bcg\)-vaccination-and-covid-19](https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/bacille-calmette-gu%C3%A9rin-(bcg)-vaccination-and-covid-19)

<sup>386</sup> Murdoch Children's Research Institute, ‘Annual Report 2018’ 26 August 2019. Access Date: 26 May 2020. p. 44-45. [https://issuu.com/murdochchildrens/docs/mcri\\_2018annualreport\\_master\\_final-digital](https://issuu.com/murdochchildrens/docs/mcri_2018annualreport_master_final-digital)

<sup>387</sup> ‘Australia begins pre-clinical testing for coronavirus vaccine’, Reuters (Sydney) April 2 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-australia-vaccine/australia-begins-pre-clinical-testing-for-coronavirus-vaccine-idUSKBN21K0LD>

<sup>388</sup> ‘Australia begins pre-clinical testing for coronavirus vaccine’, Reuters (Sydney) April 2 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-australia-vaccine/australia-begins-pre-clinical-testing-for-coronavirus-vaccine-idUSKBN21K0LD>

<sup>389</sup> ‘Indian Immunologicals and Australia's Griffith University tie-up for COVID-19 vaccine research’, The Hindu (New Delhi) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/iil-ties-up-with-griffith-university-for-covid-19-vaccine-research/article31279175.ece>

<sup>390</sup> ‘GRIDD researchers take next step in COVID-19 vaccine development’, Griffith University (Brisbane) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://news.griffith.edu.au/2020/03/30/gridd-researchers-take-next-step-in-covid-19-vaccine-development/>

<sup>391</sup> ‘Clinical trial into two potential COVID-19 treatments commences’, University of Melbourne (Melbourne) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/newsroom/news/2020/april/clinical-trial-into-two-potential-covid-19-treatments-commences>

On 27 April 2020, CEPI announced funding worth USD 3.5 million for private company Clover Biopharmaceuticals Australia to conduct a Phase 1 trial of the S-Trimer vaccine in Australia.<sup>392</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison pledged AUD 352 million “towards this global effort to fight COVID-19 and to find that vaccine.” AUD 15 million will fund a joint effort between CEPI and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, a Swiss-based non-governmental organization. The other AUD 337 million will go to efforts within Australia to fund “research and development work on vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and respiratory medicine”<sup>393</sup>.

Australia has demonstrated a clear effort to work together with multilateral groups to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines. Australia has also demonstrated effort to increase research and development funding for domestic programs.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 31 March 2020, Fiocruz announced that it was working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct clinical trials in Brazil as part of the Solidarity trial initiative. In a press release, Fiocruz stated that “the initiative aims to investigate the effectiveness of four treatments for COVID-19 and will be implemented in 18 hospitals in 12 states in Brazil with the support of the Department of Science and Technology of MoH [Ministry of Health] and coordination by INI/Fiocruz.”<sup>394</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Fiocruz launched a public-private funding initiative called “United against Covid-19.” The program aims to bring together different public and private sector stakeholders to improve funding for both primary healthcare and research and development initiatives.<sup>395</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Fiocruz began trials to test the effectiveness of chloroquine on COVID-19 patients; the trials were halted 11 days later after patients with larger doses displayed more severe symptoms.<sup>396</sup>

On 6 April 2020, Fiocruz published on the BiorXiv international platform the results of a trial that the foundation conducted to test the efficacy of the anti-HIV drug Atazanavir against COVID-19.<sup>397</sup>

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<sup>392</sup> ‘CEPI Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Development Partnership With Clover Biopharmaceuticals’ Australian Subsidiary’, CEPI & Clover Biopharmaceuticals (Oslo) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20200427005277/en/CEPI-Announces-COVID-19-Vaccine-Development-Partnership-Clover>

<sup>393</sup> ‘Video Message - Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Event: Transcript’, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/coronavirus-global-response-international-pledging-event>

<sup>394</sup> ‘Fiocruz builds new hospital center and invests in clinical trials with WHO’, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Rio de Janeiro) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://portal.fiocruz.br/en/news/fiocruz-builds-new-hospital-center-and-invests-clinical-trials-who>

<sup>395</sup> ‘Fiocruz launches a partnership program for actions against Covid-19’, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, 17 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://portal.fiocruz.br/en/news/fiocruz-launches-partnership-program-actions-against-covid-19>

<sup>396</sup> ‘Brazil to begin chloroquine tests with mild COVID-19 patients’, The Brazilian Report (Rio de Janeiro) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://brazilian.report/coronavirus-brazil-live-blog/2020/04/03/brazil-to-begin-chloroquine-tests-with-mild-covid-19-patients/>

On 4 May 2020, Brazil declined to participate in the Coronavirus Global Response initiative. Instead, the government of Brazil echoed American criticisms of the WHO.<sup>398</sup>

On 11 May 2020, Nelson Teich, the (now former) Brazilian Minister of Health, announced Brazil's intentions to join a multinational group testing vaccine against COVID-19 for the first time.<sup>399</sup>

On 25 May 2020, in an interview with CNN Fiocruz President Nísia Trindade Lima stated that Fiocruz was cooperating with global partners to collaborate on developing a vaccine. This is in addition to a separate lead candidate vaccine program that Fiocruz is participating in, and Trindade Lima did not specify which international partners Fiocruz was working with.<sup>400</sup>

Brazil has increased its research and development funding domestically to produce and trial vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. In addition, through Fiocruz Brazil is participating in global medical trials and sharing research openly with global partners. There is no evidence however of Brazil joining any multilateral fundraising initiatives and the Brazilian government openly repudiated the Coronavirus Global Response.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.<sup>401</sup>

*Analyst: John Smith*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 2 April 2020, the Government of Canada and Canadian Institutes of Health Research announced an investment of an additional CAD 25.8 million in research, bringing the total number of funded grants to 99 and a total investment of CAD 54.2 million.<sup>402</sup> This investment comes as a portion of the CAD 275 million of funds for medical countermeasures against COVID-19, which was announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 11 March 2020.<sup>403</sup>

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<sup>397</sup> 'Fiocruz investigates the action of anti-retrovirals against Covid-19', Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, 09 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://portal.fiocruz.br/en/news/fiocruz-investigates-action-anti-retrovirals-against-covid-19>

<sup>398</sup> 'A busca global por uma vacina contra a covid-19. Sem o Brasil' [in Portuguese], Nexo Journal (Rio de Janeiro) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.nexojournal.com.br/expresso/2020/05/05/A-busca-global-por-uma-vacina-contra-a-covid-19.-Sem-o-Brasil>

<sup>399</sup> 'Teich: País negocia para entrar em grupo que testará 1ª vacina contra covid... - Veja mais em' [in Portuguese], UOL (Rio de Janeiro) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020 <https://noticias.uol.com.br/saude/ultimas-noticias/redacao/2020/05/11/teich-brasil-negocia-para-entrar-em-grupo-que-testara-1-vacina-para-covid.htm?cmpid=copiaecola>

<sup>400</sup> 'Fiocruz trabalha em vacina contra Covid-19 e pode produzir doses concorrentes' [in Portuguese], CNN Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/saude/2020/05/26/fiocruz-desenvolve-estudo-por-vacina-contra-covid-19-e-pode-produzir-doses>

<sup>401</sup> Sources consulted include Brazil's Ministry of Health and other relevant government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including Correio Braziliense and Estado de Minas.

<sup>402</sup> 'Government of Canada funds 49 additional COVID-19 research projects - Details of the funded projects', Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-funds-49-additional-covid-19-research-projects-details-of-the-funded-projects.html>

<sup>403</sup> 'Government of Canada funds 49 additional COVID-19 research projects - Details of the funded projects', Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-funds-49-additional-covid-19-research-projects-details-of-the-funded-projects.html>

On 5 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced the allocation of CAD 159.5 million in funding to support international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>404</sup> This investment includes the CAD 50 million announced by Prime Minister Trudeau earlier in March 2020 and comes as part of Canada's commitment to support its partners on the frontlines working to counter the spread of COVID-19.<sup>405</sup>

On 23 April 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD 1.1 billion for medical research and testing for a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>406</sup> This commitment comes in addition to the CAD 275 million in funds for medical countermeasures against COVID-19 which the government of Canada announced in March.<sup>407</sup> The new funds of over CAD 1 billion are aimed at vaccine development and clinical trials, and include a commitment of CAD 600 million over two years through a federal innovation fund.<sup>408</sup>

On 3 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an additional CAD 175 million to support the research efforts on a COVID-19 vaccine of a Vancouver-based company, AbCellera Biologics Inc.<sup>409</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau joined other global leaders to announce the launch of the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>410</sup> The program aims to raise more than USD 8 billion to help researchers and innovators accelerate vaccine development, as well as to develop other medical countermeasures.<sup>411</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the National Research Council of Canada announced a collaboration with CanSino Biologics Inc, a Chinese-based company, to “advance bioprocessing and clinical development in Canada of a candidate vaccine against COVID-19.”<sup>412</sup>

Canada fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines. Canada has made financial investments in research and

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<sup>404</sup> “Canada’s support for international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic”, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<sup>405</sup> “Canada’s support for international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic”, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<sup>406</sup> ‘Trudeau announces \$1.1B to fund COVID-19 vaccine development, tracking of cases’, Global News (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6857058/coronavirus-canada-science-vaccine-funding/>

<sup>407</sup> ‘Trudeau announces \$1.1B to fund COVID-19 vaccine development, tracking of cases’, Global News (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6857058/coronavirus-canada-science-vaccine-funding/>

<sup>408</sup> ‘Trudeau announces \$1.1B to fund COVID-19 vaccine development, tracking of cases’, Global News (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6857058/coronavirus-canada-science-vaccine-funding/>

<sup>409</sup> ‘Justin Trudeau announces millions in COVID-19 treatment funding’, The Star (Toronto) 3 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<sup>410</sup> ‘Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response’, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>411</sup> ‘Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response’, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>412</sup> ‘The National Research Council of Canada and CanSino Biologics Inc. announce collaboration to advance vaccine against COVID-19’, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/national-research-council/news/2020/05/the-national-research-council-of-canada-and-cansino-biologics-inc-announce-collaboration-to-advance-vaccine-against-covid-19.html>

development for countermeasures against COVID-19. Furthermore, Canada has participated in international collaborations on increasing research and development funding.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

### **China: 0**

China partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 4 May 2020, China abstained from participating in an online pledging “marathon” organized by the European Union and its partners, where world leaders raised at least EUR 7.5 billion for research into a possible vaccine and medicines against COVID-19.<sup>413</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Government of China granted approval access to a COVID-19 vaccine candidate created by the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products under the China National Pharmaceutical Group, Sinopharm, and Wuhan Institute of Virology.<sup>414</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Chinese-based company CanSino Biologics Inc. announced joint efforts with the National Research Council of Canada and Canadian researchers to develop a vaccine against COVID-19.<sup>415</sup>

China has demonstrated some initiative to participate in international efforts to increase funding for research and development for vaccines and medicines. However, China has not met the “depth and breadth” criteria in demonstrating a strong commitment to working together to increase research and development funding and increase funding programs at home.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.<sup>416</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

### **France: +1**

France fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 6 April 2020, the French National Agency for Research on HIV/AIDS issued a call for COVID-19 projects focusing on low- and middle-income countries in Africa; the total budget is EUR 4 million and vaccine research is explicitly within the scope of the program.<sup>417</sup>

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<sup>413</sup> ‘Trudeau urges world leaders to pull together as U.S. steers clear of COVID-19 vaccine pledging conference’, CBC (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/global-vaccine-pledge-trudeau-1.5554278>

<sup>414</sup> ‘China approves clinical trials of third Covid-19 vaccine candidate’, Clinical Trials Arena (London) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.clinicaltrialsarena.com/news/china-third-covid-19-vaccine-trial/>

<sup>415</sup> ‘National Research Council strikes deal with China to develop COVID-19 vaccine in Canada’, Globe and Mail (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-national-research-council-strikes-deal-with-china-to-develop-test/>

<sup>416</sup> Sources consulted include the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China and other respective government agencies, as well as news sources found through Google News including China Daily.

<sup>417</sup> ‘LIVE BLOG: R&D response to COVID-19 pandemic’, ScienceBusiness, 21 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://sciencebusiness.net/covid-19/news/live-blog-rd-response-covid-19-pandemic>

On 11 April 2020, the French government and the private investment bank Bpifrance announced a joint public-private funding initiative for research into vaccines and treatments.<sup>418</sup> The programme deadline is 30 September and successful candidates will receive between four and EUR 50 million.<sup>419</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs announced, as part of the international initiative to address the impact of COVID-19 in Africa, the mobilisation of EUR 1.2 billion of additional funding.<sup>420</sup> France will allocate part of this funding to supporting research and development for vaccines and treatments in Africa.<sup>421</sup> France will distribute much of this funding through multilateral channels, such as the World Health Organization.<sup>422</sup>

On 15 April 2020, France participated in a call for funding through the Eureka intergovernmental network, for research into vaccines and medicines.<sup>423</sup> This is a cooperative initiative where France works with other G20 national health agencies, including Canada, South Africa, and Turkey, and France is offering repayable advances of between EUR 50,000 and EUR 3 million per project.<sup>424</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France played a key role in launching a collaboration initiative through the World Health Organization (WHO) involving global cooperation on testing, treatment and vaccine development.<sup>425</sup> A press statement which France's delegation to the United Nations released stated that President Emmanuel Macron would lead the initiative, along with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and WHO Director-General Tedros.<sup>426</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France played a leading role in coordinating the European Union's Coronavirus Global Response. France acted as a co-convenor of the fundraising drive and also pledged EUR 510 million in additional funding.<sup>427</sup>

On 18 May 2020, during the WHO's 73rd World Health Assembly France publicly backed the notion that any coronavirus vaccine would be universally accessible.<sup>428</sup> President Macron stated that "If we

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<sup>418</sup> 'Investissements d'avenir "projets de recherche et développement structurants pour la compétitivité": Cahier des charges de l'appel à projets spécifique à la crise sanitaire COVID-19' [in French], French Republic & bpifrance (P98aris) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/cahier\\_des\\_charges\\_pspc\\_aap\\_-\\_covid\\_0.pdf](https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/cahier_des_charges_pspc_aap_-_covid_0.pdf)

<sup>419</sup> 'Investissements d'avenir "projets de recherche et développement structurants pour la compétitivité": Cahier des charges de l'appel à projets spécifique à la crise sanitaire COVID-19' [in French], French Republic & bpifrance (P98aris) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/cahier\\_des\\_charges\\_pspc\\_aap\\_-\\_covid\\_0.pdf](https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/cahier_des_charges_pspc_aap_-_covid_0.pdf)

<sup>420</sup> 'COVID-19: assistance for Africa', French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/news/article/covid-19-assistance-for-africa>

<sup>421</sup> 'COVID-19: assistance for Africa', French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/news/article/covid-19-assistance-for-africa>

<sup>422</sup> 'COVID-19: assistance for Africa', French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/news/article/covid-19-assistance-for-africa>

<sup>423</sup> EUR EKA, 'Multilateral call for solutions for COVID-19 Echo Period - Life without a vaccine' 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.eurekanetwork.org/content/multilateral-call-solutions-covid-19-echo-period>

<sup>424</sup> 'Multilateral call for solutions for COVID-19 Echo Period - Life without a vaccine', EUR EKA (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.eurekanetwork.org/content/multilateral-call-solutions-covid-19-echo-period>

<sup>425</sup> 'COVID19: launch of a global initiative on diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccine', French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Nouvelle-traduction-Lutte-contre-le-COVID-19-Initiative-mondiale-sur-les>

<sup>426</sup> 'COVID19: launch of a global initiative on diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccine', French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Nouvelle-traduction-Lutte-contre-le-COVID-19-Initiative-mondiale-sur-les>

<sup>427</sup> 'Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 million raised for universal access to vaccines', French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Coronavirus-Global-Response-EUR-7-4-billion-raised-for-universal-access-to>



do discover a vaccine against Covid-19, it will be a global public good, and everyone must have access to it ... Human health cannot be quarrelled over, cannot be appropriated, and cannot be bought and sold.”<sup>429</sup>

Since the G20 virtual summit in March, France has invested a significant amount of money and done a considerable amount to facilitate research and development for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. France has participated in multinational trial initiatives and has also played a leading role in multilateral funding initiatives such as the Coronavirus Global Response. Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 9 April 2020, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, a German funding organization, joined a multinational research network led by the Austrian Science Fund for pandemic related research.<sup>430</sup> Austria explicitly set up the project to fund cross-border research initiatives and medicine research is in scope.<sup>431</sup>

On 22 April 2020, German Health Minister Jens Spahn announced that a candidate vaccine that German pharmaceutical company BioNTech developed will go into trial.<sup>432</sup> BioNTech is working jointly with Pfizer on the project, and the Paul Erlich Institute facilitated the candidate vaccine’s progress to clinical trials.<sup>433</sup>

On 27 April 2020, German research minister Anja Karliczek announced a plan to invest EUR 150 million in a university hospitals research network to develop diagnostic and treatment strategies for COVID-19.<sup>434</sup>

On 29 April 2020, Germany announced an “umbrella scheme,” which the European Commission approved, to fund research and development of vaccines and new medical treatments for

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<sup>428</sup> ‘France’s President Macron says human health “cannot be bought and sold”’, CNN (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-18-20-intl/h\\_1a073cf579cd5d1bae66e3718c3f98f6](https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-18-20-intl/h_1a073cf579cd5d1bae66e3718c3f98f6)

<sup>429</sup> ‘France’s President Macron says human health “cannot be bought and sold”’, CNN (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-18-20-intl/h\\_1a073cf579cd5d1bae66e3718c3f98f6](https://edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-05-18-20-intl/h_1a073cf579cd5d1bae66e3718c3f98f6)

<sup>430</sup> ‘Research into the Coronavirus: the FWF looks to European Cooperation and Solidarity’, Austrian Science Fund (Vienna) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/news-and-media-relations/news/detail/nid/20200408-2508/?tx\\_rsmnews\\_detail%5Bref%5D=l&cHash=27d9aa21b88409e42090255421b64e9b](https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/news-and-media-relations/news/detail/nid/20200408-2508/?tx_rsmnews_detail%5Bref%5D=l&cHash=27d9aa21b88409e42090255421b64e9b)

<sup>431</sup> ‘Research into the Coronavirus: the FWF looks to European Cooperation and Solidarity’, Austrian Science Fund (Vienna) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/news-and-media-relations/news/detail/nid/20200408-2508/?tx\\_rsmnews\\_detail%5Bref%5D=l&cHash=27d9aa21b88409e42090255421b64e9b](https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/news-and-media-relations/news/detail/nid/20200408-2508/?tx_rsmnews_detail%5Bref%5D=l&cHash=27d9aa21b88409e42090255421b64e9b)

<sup>432</sup> ‘Germany to start first coronavirus vaccine trial’, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-start-first-coronavirus-vaccine-trial/a-53211375>

<sup>433</sup> ‘Germany to start first coronavirus vaccine trial’, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-start-first-coronavirus-vaccine-trial/a-53211375>

<sup>434</sup> ‘Karliczek: Durch Wissensaustausch in der Medizin Covid-19 besser behandeln’ [in German], German Ministry for Education and Research (Berlin) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://www.bmbf.de/\\_pressestelle/karliczek-durch-wissensaustausch-in-der-medizin-covid-19-besser-behandeln-11468.html](https://www.bmbf.de/_pressestelle/karliczek-durch-wissensaustausch-in-der-medizin-covid-19-besser-behandeln-11468.html)

COVID-19.<sup>435</sup> According to the European Commission, the scheme “aims to enhance and accelerate both the development and the production of products directly relevant to the coronavirus outbreak... such as vaccines, hospital and medical equipment (including ventilators), and protective clothing and equipment.”<sup>436</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Germany played a leading role in coordinating the European Union’s Coronavirus Global Response. Germany acted as a co-convenor of the fundraising drive and also pledged EUR 525 million in additional funding.<sup>437</sup>

On 11 May 2020, German research minister Anja Karliczek announced an EUR 750 million research package to facilitate the development and distribution of vaccines.<sup>438</sup> Germany will allocate EUR 500 million to expanding trial capacity and will use the remaining EUR 250 million to expand production capacity.<sup>439</sup>

Since the G20 virtual summit in March, Germany has invested a significant amount of money in research and development and done a considerable amount to facilitate research and development for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. Germany has also played a leading role in multilateral funding initiatives such as the Coronavirus Global Response.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **India: -1**

India failed to comply with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 4 May 2020, India abstained from participating in an online pledging “marathon” organized by the European Union and its partners, where world leaders raised at least EUR 7.5 billion for research into a possible vaccine and medicines against COVID-19.<sup>440</sup>

Research was not able to identify demonstrated effort by India to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines. Sources consulted include India’s Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies as well as global research institutes that track coronavirus vaccines such as the WHO and The New York Times’ trackers. News sources consulted include The Times of India and The Economic Times and other sources generated on Google News.

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<sup>435</sup> ‘State aid: Commission approves German “umbrella” scheme to support research, development, testing and production of coronavirus relevant products’, European Commission (Brussels) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_774](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_774)

<sup>436</sup> ‘State aid: Commission approves German “umbrella” scheme to support research, development, testing and production of coronavirus relevant products’, European Commission (Brussels) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_774](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_774)

<sup>437</sup> ‘Coronavirus Global Response’, European Union (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Date Accessed: 23 May 2020. [https://global-response.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/index_en)

<sup>438</sup> ‘Germany to spend €750 million on coronavirus vaccine’, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-spend-750-million-on-coronavirus-vaccine/a-53396167>

<sup>439</sup> ‘Germany to spend €750 million on coronavirus vaccine’, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-spend-750-million-on-coronavirus-vaccine/a-53396167>

<sup>440</sup> World leaders pledge €7.4bn to research Covid-19 vaccine, The Guardian (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/04/world-leaders-pledge-74bn-euros-to-research-covid-19-vaccine>

Thus, India receives a score of  $-1$ .<sup>441</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 6 April 2020, Indonesia's Ministry of Research and Technology announced the formation of a technology research consortium for handling COVID-19, which involves research into vaccines and medicines; funding is IDR 38 billion.<sup>442</sup>

On 23 April 2020, Indonesia began actively participating in World Health Organization (WHO) Solidarity trials as the country registered its first hospital and trial patient.<sup>443</sup> By 30 April, 19 patients from six trials had enrolled.<sup>444</sup>

On 29 April 2020, Indonesia participated in a meeting which the WHO organized in Delhi to evaluate vaccine manufacturing capacity in the Southeast Asia region. A press release which the WHO released stated that "mapping the full landscape of vaccine development activities in the Region will help coordination with global stakeholders, and support countries preparing COVID19 vaccine deployment plans," paraphrasing Regional Director of the WHO in Southeast Asia Poonam Khetrapal Singh.<sup>445</sup>

On 5 May 2020, Indonesia's Research and Technology Ministry commits IDR 90 billion to a consortium, which the Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology is leading, in cooperation with BioFarma to develop a vaccine.<sup>446</sup> The consortium is cooperating with CEPI on the project, but formal cooperation with other countries has yet to begin owing to the Eijkman Institute's reservations about potential inequalities of access to technology.<sup>447</sup>

On 17 May 2020, Indonesian Research and Technology Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro announced that Indonesia was beginning clinical trials to test the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine against

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<sup>441</sup> Sources consulted include India's Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies as well as global research institutes that track coronavirus vaccines such as the WHO and The New York Times' trackers. News sources consulted include The Times of India and The Economic Times and other sources found through Google News.

<sup>442</sup> 'Kemenristek BRIN Bentuk Konsorsium Riset Teknologi Penanganan COVID-19' [in Indonesian], Indonesian Ministry of Research and technology (Jakarta) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://covid19.go.id/p/berita/kemenristek-brin-bentuk-konsorsium-riset-teknologi-penanganan-covid-19>

<sup>443</sup> 'Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report - 6', World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/who-situation-report-6.pdf?sfvrsn=83d038dc\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/who-situation-report-6.pdf?sfvrsn=83d038dc_2)

<sup>444</sup> 'Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report - 6', World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/who-situation-report-6.pdf?sfvrsn=83d038dc\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/who-situation-report-6.pdf?sfvrsn=83d038dc_2)

<sup>445</sup> WHO convenes manufacturers, regulatory authorities meet on COVID-19 vaccines', World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/29-04-2020-who-convenes-manufacturers-regulatory-authorities-meet-on-covid-19-vaccines>

<sup>446</sup> 'Indonesia targets local COVID-19 strain in Eijkman-led 2022 vaccine initiative', The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/05/indonesia-targets-local-covid-19-strain-in-eijkman-led-2022-vaccine-initiative.html>

<sup>447</sup> 'Eijkman: China, Canada offer joint study on COVID-19 vaccine', Tempo (Jakarta) May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://en.tempo.co/read/1339490/eijkman-china-canada-offer-joint-study-on-covid-19-vaccine>

COVID-19. Bambang also stated that the government was acquiring more antiviral drugs to trial and potentially use to treat COVID-19.<sup>448</sup>

On 20 May 2020, Indonesian President Joko Widodo stated that Indonesia wished to export any COVID-19 vaccine it developed to other countries. President Widodo said of an eventual vaccine that “it must be mass-produced to meet our domestic needs and to be exported abroad.”<sup>449</sup>

Indonesia has clearly increased their research and development spending in order to find a vaccine and medicines for COVID-19. They have also taken part in globally coordinated clinical trials and have cooperated with global partners on research. Indonesia has not, however, participated in multilateral fundraising initiatives or furthered this cooperation.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.<sup>450</sup>

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 4 May 2020, Italy participated in a video-conference summit hosted by the European Union on raising funding for research to find a vaccine against COVID-19.<sup>451</sup> The government of Italy pledged to provide EUR 100 million to the joint fund for research on medical countermeasures against the virus, adding to the total amount of EUR 7.4 billion raised for research and development.<sup>452</sup>

On 6 May 2020, an Italian research team from Takis Biotech reported progress in developing a coronavirus vaccine.<sup>453</sup> The research team stated that in order to succeed in this research, they need additional funding support from the government and foreign organizations and collaborators.<sup>454</sup>

Italy has demonstrated some initiative to participate in international efforts to increase funding for research and development for vaccines and medicines. However, Italy has not met the “depth and breadth” criteria in demonstrating a strong commitment to working together to increase research and development funding and increase funding programs at home.

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<sup>448</sup> ‘Indonesia Trials Quinine as Covid-19 Treatment’, Jakarta Globe (Jakarta) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://jakartaglobe.id/news/indonesia-trials-quinine-as-covid19-treatment>

<sup>449</sup> ‘Jokowi: We Need to Develop Our Own COVID-19 Vaccine’, Tempo (Jakarta) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://en.tempo.co/read/1344441/jokowi-we-need-to-develop-our-own-covid-19-vaccine>

<sup>450</sup> Sources consulted include Indonesia’s Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, coronavirus vaccine trackers such as the WHO’s, as well as news sources found through Google News including The Jakarta Post.

<sup>451</sup> ‘World leaders pledge billions for virus vaccine research’, ABC News (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/world-leaders-pledge-billions-virus-vaccine-research-70493896>

<sup>452</sup> ‘World leaders pledge billions for virus vaccine research’, ABC News (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/world-leaders-pledge-billions-virus-vaccine-research-70493896>

<sup>453</sup> ‘Coronavirus Vaccine: Italy gains significant ground in vaccine development for Covid-19 pandemic’, Financial Express (Delhi) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/coronavirus-vaccine-italy-gains-significant-ground-in-vaccine-development-for-covid-19-pandemic/1949821/>

<sup>454</sup> ‘Coronavirus Vaccine: Italy gains significant ground in vaccine development for Covid-19 pandemic’, Financial Express (Delhi) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/coronavirus-vaccine-italy-gains-significant-ground-in-vaccine-development-for-covid-19-pandemic/1949821/>

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.<sup>455</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 27 March 2020, Japan announced that it would contribute USD 476 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in order to facilitate their continued work in areas including Research and Development.<sup>456</sup> This includes funds to support treatment for COVID-19.

On 5 April 2020, the Japanese government stated that it planned to allocate funding in order to triple supplies of the anti-flu drug Avigan (favipiravir) so that it can be used to potentially treat COVID-19 patients.<sup>457</sup> The government ultimately allocated JPY 13.9 billion in funding to this initiative.<sup>458</sup>

On 22 April 2020, Japan committed USD 10 million to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative's COVID-19 vaccine research program, in partnership with the World Bank.<sup>459</sup>

On 28 April 2020, Japanese foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi announced a USD 1 million grant for the United Nations Office for Project Services to buy and distribute Avigan, an anti-flu drug which is currently in clinical trials as a treatment candidate for COVID-19.<sup>460</sup> In the statement, Motegi said that Japan would provide the drug for free to 38 other countries, including 25 in Europe, six in Asia, five in the Middle East and two from other regions.<sup>461</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Japan played a leading role in coordinating the European Union's Coronavirus Global Response. Japan acted as a co-convenor of the fundraising drive and also pledged more than USD 800 million in additional funding.<sup>462</sup>

On 12 May 2020, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that the country planned on launching clinical trials of a candidate vaccine for COVID-19 by July.<sup>463</sup> Japan's National Institute of

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<sup>455</sup> Sources checked include Italian Ministry of Health and other government agencies, coronavirus vaccine trackers such as the WHO's, as well as news agencies such as La Repubblica, The Local, and La Stampa.

<sup>456</sup> 'Tuberculosis and Malaria', Japan Secures \$476 million Contribution to the Global Fund', The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-03-27-japan-secures-usd476-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund/>

<sup>457</sup> 'Japan to boost Avigan drug stockpile as part of coronavirus stimulus', The Japan Times (Tokyo) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/04/05/national/science-health/japan-avigan-drug-stockpile-coronavirus-stimulus/#.Xsvo5BNKhQJ>

<sup>458</sup> 'Japan to offer anti-flu Avigan to 38 countries as early as this week', Kyodo News (Tokyo) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/01f746e01617-japan-to-offer-anti-flu-avigan-to-38-countries-as-early-as-this-week.html>

<sup>459</sup> 'Japan Commits to COVID-19 Vaccine Research', International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (New York) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.iavi.org/newsroom/press-releases/2020/japan-commitment-covid-19-vaccine-research>

<sup>460</sup> 'Japan to offer anti-flu Avigan to 38 countries as early as this week', Kyodo News (Tokyo) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/01f746e01617-japan-to-offer-anti-flu-avigan-to-38-countries-as-early-as-this-week.html>

<sup>461</sup> 'Japan to offer anti-flu Avigan to 38 countries as early as this week', Kyodo News (Tokyo) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/01f746e01617-japan-to-offer-anti-flu-avigan-to-38-countries-as-early-as-this-week.html>

<sup>462</sup> 'World leaders pledge billions for virus vaccine research', Associated Press (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/world-leaders-pledge-billions-virus-vaccine-research-70493896>

Infectious Diseases and the public universities of Tokyo and Osaka have all been developing candidate vaccines.<sup>464</sup> Abe also added that Japan will cooperate with several other countries on vaccine development, and that Japan planned to approve Avigan for treatment of COVID-19 patients by the end of the month.

On 22 May 2020, the Japanese government announced that it would subsidise the production of coronavirus vaccines through a programme for producers.<sup>465</sup> The government has said that the size of the investment will depend on the rate of progress.<sup>466</sup>

Japan has clearly demonstrated a significant commitment both to domestic funding of research and development initiatives related to COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, and to multilateral funding initiatives such as the Coronavirus Global Response. Moreover, by making Avigan available to other countries for free Japan has demonstrated its willingness to work together as per the commitment.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

Since 10 March 2020, Korea's National Institute of Health and Centres for Disease Control and Development has been funding a USD 840,000 project supporting the development of vaccines and therapeutics against COVID-19.<sup>467</sup>

On 9 April 2020, President Moon Jae-in pledged KRW 210 billion for the development of vaccines and medicines against COVID-19.<sup>468</sup> President Moon also called for stronger public-private partnerships to increase the development of countermeasures to COVID-19.<sup>469</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the research team in the publicly-funded Centre for RNA Research in Seoul's Institute for Basic Science announced success in identifying a high-resolution map of the COVID-19

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<sup>463</sup> 'Japan expects to launch clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine in July', Clinical Trials Arena, 12 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.clinicaltrialsarena.com/news/japan-covid-19-vaccine-trial/>

<sup>464</sup> 'Japan expects to launch clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine in July', Clinical Trials Arena, 12 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.clinicaltrialsarena.com/news/japan-covid-19-vaccine-trial/>

<sup>465</sup> 'Japan to subsidize mass production of eventual coronavirus vaccine', The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/22/national/science-health/japan-subsidies-coronavirus-vaccine/#.Xs2skxNKhQI>

<sup>466</sup> 'Japan to subsidize mass production of eventual coronavirus vaccine', The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/22/national/science-health/japan-subsidies-coronavirus-vaccine/#.Xs2skxNKhQI>

<sup>467</sup> Science Business 'Canada pledges C\$275M for coronavirus R&D, adding to global funding rush', Science Business. 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://sciencebusiness.net/covid-19/news/canada-pledges-c275m-coronavirus-rd-adding-global-funding-rush>

<sup>468</sup> 'Moon vows W210b funds for COVID-19 vaccine R&D', The Korea Herald (Seoul) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200409000706>

<sup>469</sup> 'Moon vows W210b funds for COVID-19 vaccine R&D', The Korea Herald (Seoul) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200409000706>

genome, marking a step towards better understanding of its characteristics and life cycle.<sup>470</sup> The discovery allows for more precise testing of vaccine and medicine candidates.

On 13 April 2020, the Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) announced that a clinical trial of a vaccine against COVID-19 is likely to begin in Korea soon.<sup>471</sup> KCDC pledged to increase financial investment in research and development for vaccines and medicines, as well as to consider supporting research based on the national health insurance system.<sup>472</sup>

Korea has demonstrated a clear effort to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines. However, Korea did not demonstrate initiative to work together on international efforts to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines against COVID-19.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.<sup>473</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 22 April 2020, the public Autonomous University of Querétaro (UAQ) announced that it is in the process of developing a vaccine against COVID-19.<sup>474</sup> UAQ is currently drawing funding from its Rectory but is hoping to be able to access funding from the National Council of Science and Technology.<sup>475</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Mexican foreign minister Marcelo Ebrard announced that Mexico would participate in the Coronavirus Global Response,<sup>476</sup> and that it would contribute EUR 1 million to the response.<sup>477</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the regional government of Mexico City announced that it was building a laboratory in collaboration with the public National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in

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<sup>470</sup> 'South Korean scientists map coronavirus genome, paving the way for vaccine and better tests', South China Morning Post (Seoul) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/health-environment/article/3079431/south-korean-scientists-map-coronavirus-genome-paving>

<sup>471</sup> 'COVID-19 vaccine trial likely to start in April', Korea Biomedical Review (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=7988>

<sup>472</sup> 'COVID-19 vaccine trial likely to start in April', Korea Biomedical Review (Seoul) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=7988>

<sup>473</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health and Welfare and other government sites, coronavirus vaccine trackers, as well as news sources such as the Korea Times and the Korea Herald and other sources on Google News.

<sup>474</sup> 'UAQ DESAR ROLLA VACUNA CONTRA EL COVID-19' [in Spanish], Autonomous University of Querétaro (Querétaro) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <http://noticias.uaq.mx/index.php/vida/3356-uaq-desarrolla-vacuna-contra-el-covid-19>

<sup>475</sup> 'UAQ DESAR ROLLA VACUNA CONTRA EL COVID-19' [in Spanish], Autonomous University of Querétaro (Querétaro) 22 April

<sup>476</sup> 'México participa en diseño de vacuna contra Covid-19' [in Spanish], Excelsior (Mexico City) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/mexico-participa-en-diseno-de-vacuna-contra-covid-19/1380755>

<sup>477</sup> 'World Leaders Join to Pledge \$8 billion for vaccine as U.S. goes it alone', New York Times (New York) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/04/world/europe/eu-coronavirus-vaccine.html>

order to facilitate the development of a vaccine.<sup>478</sup> The regional government and UNAM will jointly fund the project.<sup>479</sup>

There is clear evidence that Mexico has both increased research and development spending domestically through initiatives such as the laboratory which the Mexico City government is funding. There is also evidence of Mexico's participation in multilateral fundraising initiatives, as it pledged money towards the Coronavirus Global Response.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 20 April 2020, President Vladimir Putin announced funding of RUB 100 million for buying additional technology in order to accelerate research for a possible COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>480</sup> He also stated about the possibility of more funding being allocated towards development of the vaccine.<sup>481</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Russia abstained from participating in an online pledging “marathon” organized by the European Union and its partners, where world leaders raised at least EUR 7.5 billion for research into a possible vaccine and medicines against COVID-19.<sup>482</sup>

On 4 May 2020, scientists from the publicly funded Institute of Gene Biology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and State Virology, the State Virology and Biotechnology Research Centre “Vector” and Belgorod University announced working on the development of COVID-19-sensitive mice to be used as models for tests of potential COVID-19 vaccines and medicines.<sup>483</sup>

On 7 April 2020, the publicly funded Vektor State Virology and Biotechnology Centre stated that it will begin first-phase clinical trials on three vaccine candidates against COVID-19 on 29 June.<sup>484</sup>

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<sup>478</sup> ‘UNAM y CDMX desarrollan fábrica de mascarillas N95 y laboratorio para vacuna de Covid-19’ [in Spanish], Forbes Mexico (Mexico City) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.forbes.com.mx/noticias-unam-cdmx-fabrica-cubrebocas-n95-vacuna-coronavirus/>

<sup>479</sup> ‘UNAM y CDMX desarrollan fábrica de mascarillas N95 y laboratorio para vacuna de Covid-19’ [in Spanish], Forbes Mexico (Mexico City) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.forbes.com.mx/noticias-unam-cdmx-fabrica-cubrebocas-n95-vacuna-coronavirus/>

<sup>480</sup> ‘Для скорейшей разработки вакцины против коронавируса будут ускорены процедуры и выделены дополнительные ресурсы - Путин’, Interfax-Russia (Moscow) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.interfax-russia.ru/koronavirus-v-rossii/dlya-skoreyshey-razrabotki-vakciny-protiv-koronavirusa-budut-uskoreny-procedury-i-vydeleny-dopolnitelnye-resursy-putin>

<sup>481</sup> ‘Для скорейшей разработки вакцины против коронавируса будут ускорены процедуры и выделены дополнительные ресурсы - Путин’, Interfax-Russia (Moscow) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.interfax-russia.ru/koronavirus-v-rossii/dlya-skoreyshey-razrabotki-vakciny-protiv-koronavirusa-budut-uskoreny-procedury-i-vydeleny-dopolnitelnye-resursy-putin>

<sup>482</sup> ‘Trudeau urges world leaders to pull together as U.S. steers clear of COVID-19 vaccine pledging conference’, CBC (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/global-vaccine-pledge-trudeau-1.5554278>

<sup>483</sup> ‘Russia creates its own humanized mice to test COVID-19 vaccines and drugs’, Newswise (Moscow) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.newswise.com/coronavirus/russia-creates-its-own-humanized-mice-to-test-covid-19-vaccines-and-drugs/?article\\_id=731062](https://www.newswise.com/coronavirus/russia-creates-its-own-humanized-mice-to-test-covid-19-vaccines-and-drugs/?article_id=731062)

<sup>484</sup> ‘Russia ready to start testing coronavirus vaccines on humans in June’, Medical Express (Moscow) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-04-russia-ready-coronavirus-vaccines-humans.html>



On 22 May 2020, Russia and Turkey began discussions on potential cooperation in the development of a vaccine against COVID-19.<sup>485</sup> Officials from both countries also discussed the potential for drafting a scientific and technical cooperation agreement.<sup>486</sup>

Russia has demonstrated an effort to increase research and development for vaccines and medicines at home. However, Russia has not demonstrated an effort to work together on international projects to increase research and development funding.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.<sup>487</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

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

Saudi Arabia fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 15 April 2020, the government of Saudi Arabia announced funding for a major scientific initiative to develop a vaccine for COVID-19.<sup>488</sup> The Ministry of Health also assembled a team of top 33 Saudi scientists and researchers to accelerate vaccine research.

On 17 April 2020, Saudi Arabia pledged USD 150 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and research for vaccines and medicines.<sup>489</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Saudi Arabia co-led the Global Response Pledging along with the European Union to raise funds for research and development of a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>490</sup> The funding comes as part of the larger USD 500 million package from Saudi Arabia to support emergency and preparedness response, as well as increasing research and development for vaccines and therapeutics.<sup>491</sup>

Saudi Arabia fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines. Saudi Arabia has allocated funding for international efforts to increase research and development, in addition to increasing research and development funding for vaccines and medicines at home.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

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<sup>485</sup> 'Turkey, Russia discuss joint work on COVID-19 vaccine', Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/turkey-russia-discuss-joint-work-on-covid-19-vaccine/news>

<sup>486</sup> 'Turkey, Russia discuss joint work on COVID-19 vaccine', Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/turkey-russia-discuss-joint-work-on-covid-19-vaccine/news>

<sup>487</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the official website of the Kremlin and other government agencies, coronavirus vaccine trackers, as well as news sources found through Google News, including Russia Today and The Moscow Times and TASS Russian News Agency.

<sup>488</sup> 'Top Saudi research team gets government funding to help COVID-19 vaccine', Arab News (Riyadh) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1658901/saudi-arabia>

<sup>489</sup> 'Saudi Arabia pledges US\$150 Million to Gavi COVID response', Gavi (Geneva) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/saudi-arabia-pledges-us-150-million-gavi-covid-response>

<sup>490</sup> 'Saudi Arabia joins Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Event', G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-pledging-0503.html>

<sup>491</sup> 'Saudi Arabia joins Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Event', G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-pledging-0503.html>

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa partially complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 24 April 2020, South Africa participated in a virtual event co-hosted by the World Health Organization on working together to develop countermeasures to COVID-19.<sup>492</sup>

On 4 May 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa pledged USD 1.3 million towards global research into a possible vaccine and treatment for COVID-19.<sup>493</sup> He did so while participating in the European-Commission hosted pledging conference as part of the Coronavirus Global Response framework.<sup>494</sup>

South Africa has demonstrated some initiative to participate in international efforts to increase funding for research and development for vaccines and medicines. However, South Africa has not met the “depth and breadth” criteria in demonstrating a strong commitment to working together to increase research and development funding and increase funding programs at home.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.<sup>495</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 27 March 2020, Minister for Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank announced that, at the ministry's direction, Ege University in Izmir would begin development of a DNA vaccine with financial support from the Turkish government.<sup>496</sup> On 14 April, the lead researcher on the project, Mert Doskaya, announced that the university had completed an antigen, which they were beginning to conduct laboratory tests on.<sup>497</sup>

On 15 April 2020, Turkey's Scientific and Technological Research Council (TÜBİTAK) participated in a call for funding by the intergovernmental network Eureka, with research for vaccines and medicines being in scope.<sup>498</sup> This is a cooperative initiative where France works with other G20

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<sup>492</sup> 'Global leaders unite to ensure everyone and everyone can access new vaccines, tests and treatments for COVID-19', World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/24-04-2020-global-leaders-unite-to-ensure-everyone-everywhere-can-access-new-vaccines-tests-and-treatments-for-covid-19>

<sup>493</sup> 'South Africa pledges \$1.3 million for COVID-19 vaccine research', CGTN (Istanbul) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://newsaf.cgtn.com/news/2020-05-05/South-Africa-pledges-1-3-million-for-COVID-19-vaccine-research-QeeYa552ta/index.html>

<sup>494</sup> 'South Africa pledges \$1.3 million for COVID-19 vaccine research', CGTN (Istanbul) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://newsaf.cgtn.com/news/2020-05-05/South-Africa-pledges-1-3-million-for-COVID-19-vaccine-research-QeeYa552ta/index.html>

<sup>495</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Health and other respective government agencies, coronavirus vaccine trackers, various research institutions, as well as news sources found through Google News including Hurriyet News.

<sup>496</sup> 'Turkish scientists working on COVID-19 vaccine', Anadolu Agency (Istanbul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-scientists-working-on-covid-19-vaccine/1782157>

<sup>497</sup> 'Turkish scientists working on COVID-19 vaccine', Anadolu Agency (Istanbul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-scientists-working-on-covid-19-vaccine/1782157>

<sup>498</sup> 'Multilateral call for solutions for COVID-19 Echo Period - Life without a vaccine', EUR EKA (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.eurekanetwork.org/content/multilateral-call-solutions-covid-19-echo-period>

national health agencies, including France, Canada and South Africa.<sup>499</sup> TÜBİTAK states that its budget for grants was ‘flexible.’<sup>500</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that the Turkish government would make a financial contribution towards the Coronavirus Global Response, saying that the government would finalize the size and nature of its contribution by 23 May.<sup>501</sup> In the announcement, he also referenced the G20 pledge and said that the vaccine should be “for all.”<sup>502</sup>

On 8 May 2020, Minister for Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank announced that three universities in Turkey were proceeding with vaccine tests, and that the Turkish government was in contact with 17 different companies regarding vaccine production.<sup>503</sup> Varank also stated that the government was “closely follow[ing] vaccination projects all over the world and ... in cooperation.”<sup>504</sup>

On 11 May 2020, Hasan Mandal, president of TÜBİTAK, stated that the council was continuing to work on a vaccine and that TÜBİTAK expected to share ‘positive’ news in June.<sup>505</sup> Mandal also claimed that TÜBİTAK had allocated TRY1.7 billion to vaccine and medicine studies over the previous five years.<sup>506</sup>

Based on the statements of President Erdogan and these government officials, it is clear that Turkey has taken tangible steps both to increase their funding for vaccine and medicine research and development, and that it has participated in global fundraising initiatives such as the Eureka initiative and the Coronavirus Global Response.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: John Smith*

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

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

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<sup>499</sup> ‘Multilateral call for solutions for COVID-19 Echo Period - Life without a vaccine’, EUR EKA (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.eurekanetwork.org/content/multilateral-call-solutions-covid-19-echo-period>

<sup>500</sup> ‘Multilateral call for solutions for COVID-19 Echo Period - Life without a vaccine’, EUR EKA (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.eurekanetwork.org/content/multilateral-call-solutions-covid-19-echo-period>

<sup>501</sup> ‘Virus vaccine should be for all of humanity: Erdogan’, Anadolu Agency (Istanbul) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/virus-vaccine-should-be-for-all-of-humanity-erdogan/1828570#>

<sup>502</sup> ‘Virus vaccine should be for all of humanity: Erdogan’, Anadolu Agency (Istanbul) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/virus-vaccine-should-be-for-all-of-humanity-erdogan/1828570#>

<sup>503</sup> ‘Son dakika | 3 üniversite corona aşısı testlerine başladı! Bakan canlı yayında duyurdu’ [in Turkish], Milliyet (Istanbul) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/ekonomi/son-dakika-bakan-varank-canli-yayinda-mujdeyi-verdi-3-universite-asi-testlerine-basladi-6208091>

<sup>504</sup> ‘Son dakika | 3 üniversite corona aşısı testlerine başladı! Bakan canlı yayında duyurdu’ [in Turkish], Milliyet (Istanbul) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/ekonomi/son-dakika-bakan-varank-canli-yayinda-mujdeyi-verdi-3-universite-asi-testlerine-basladi-6208091>

<sup>505</sup> ‘TÜBİTAK, corona virüs aşısı için tarih verdi’ [in Turkish], Milliyet (Istanbul) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/gundem/tubitak-corona-virus-asisi-icin-tarih-verdi-6210049>

<sup>506</sup> ‘TÜBİTAK, corona virüs aşısı için tarih verdi’ [in Turkish], Milliyet (Istanbul) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.milliyet.com.tr/gundem/tubitak-corona-virus-asisi-icin-tarih-verdi-6210049>

On 26 March 2020, the British Department for International Development (DfID) announced an additional GBP 210 million in funding for international efforts to develop a vaccine.<sup>507</sup> The DfID stated that it planned to channel these funds through Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation.<sup>508</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 12 April 2020, the DfID announced an additional GBP 200 million in funding for various charities and international organizations to assist and support developing countries.<sup>509</sup> Of this amount, the DfID earmarked GBP 65 million for the World Health Organization.<sup>510</sup>

On 12 April 2020, the UK government announced GBP 14 million of funding for vaccine research to fund 21 different vaccine trials; this includes Oxford University's Jenner Institute, which signed agreements to work with an Italian company to produce the vaccine.<sup>511</sup>

On 23 April 2020, British Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced new funding for efforts to find a coronavirus vaccine.<sup>512</sup> The government will grant Imperial College an additional GBP 22.5 million of funding while Oxford's program will receive another GBP 20 million.<sup>513</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the DfID announced a five-year, GBP 330 million scheme to ensure 75 million children in developing countries are vaccinated against COVID-19.<sup>514</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the UK played a leading role in coordinating the European Union's Coronavirus Global Response. The UK acted as a co-convenor of the fundraising drive, having already pledged GBP 338 million in funding.<sup>515</sup>

On 17 May 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma committed GBP 131 million worth of funding for the Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC).<sup>516</sup> GBP 93 million will go to expanding the facilities' capabilities and GBP 38 million will be spent creating a "virtual VMIC."

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<sup>507</sup> 'PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine', British Department for International Development & Prime Minister's Office (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>

<sup>508</sup> 'PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine', British Department for International Development & Prime Minister's Office (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>

<sup>509</sup> 'UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus', ReliefWeb (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/uk-leads-global-fight-prevent-second-wave-coronavirus>

<sup>510</sup> 'UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus', ReliefWeb (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/uk-leads-global-fight-prevent-second-wave-coronavirus>

<sup>511</sup> 'U.K. Boosts Funding for Virus Vaccine as Lockdown Extended', Bloomberg (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-17/u-k-boosts-funding-for-covid-19-vaccine-as-lockdown-extended>

<sup>512</sup> 'UK and Australia pour funds into coronavirus vaccine tests on humans', RFI (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/science-and-technology/20200423-united-kingdom-australia-coronavirus-funding-clinical-trials-vaccine-humans-health>

<sup>513</sup> 'UK and Australia pour funds into coronavirus vaccine tests on humans', RFI (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/science-and-technology/20200423-united-kingdom-australia-coronavirus-funding-clinical-trials-vaccine-humans-health>

<sup>514</sup> 'Vaccine pledge to help protect UK from future coronavirus waves', British Department for International Development (London) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/30/vaccine-pledge-to-help-protect-uk-from-future-coronavirus-waves/>

<sup>515</sup> 'Vaccine pledge to help protect UK from future coronavirus waves', British Department for International Development (London) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/30/vaccine-pledge-to-help-protect-uk-from-future-coronavirus-waves/>

On 18 May 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma announced an additional GBP 84 million worth of funding and manufacturing support for COVID-19 vaccine program.<sup>517</sup> GBP 65.5 million will go to the Oxford Program and GBP 18.5 million will go to the Imperial program.<sup>518</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the British government will host a donor pledging conference for the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, with the aim of raising at least USD 7.4 billion in support of the organization's efforts to fund COVID-19 vaccine development.<sup>519</sup>

Since the G20 virtual summit in March, the United Kingdom has taken a leading role in global efforts to find a vaccine for COVID-19, investing significantly in domestic research and development and coordinating multilateral fundraising initiatives. It is especially worth noting their leading role in organising the forthcoming Gavi donor pledging conference, an important multilateral fundraising initiative.

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

*Analyst: John Smith*

### **United States: -1**

The United States failed to comply with its commitment to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines.

On 30 March, the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson announced that it would partner up with the US government, through an agency under the Department of Health and Human Service, to boost the research for a potential vaccine against COVID-19.<sup>520</sup>

On 15 April 2020, President Donald Trump announced the halting of funding to World Health Organization (WHO) over concerns that it had "severely mismanag[ed] and cover[ed] up the spread of coronavirus."<sup>521</sup> The action received widespread international criticism.

On 16 April 2020, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, which is part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, announced a grant of USD 483 to Moderna Inc to fund the development of the vaccine mRNA-1273 against COVID-19.<sup>522</sup>

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<sup>516</sup> 'Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC) Given Go Ahead to Create "Virtual VMIC," Whilst in Tandem Expanding and Fast-tracking Permanent Vaccines Facility', Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (Harwell) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.vmicuk.com/news/vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre-vmic-given-go-ahead-to-create-virtual-vmic-while-in-tandem-expanding-and-fast-tracking-permanent-vaccines-facility>

<sup>517</sup> 'UK provides funding support for Covid-19 vaccine programme', Pharmaceutical Technology (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/uk-covid-19-vaccine-funding/>

<sup>518</sup> 'UK provides funding support for Covid-19 vaccine programme', Pharmaceutical Technology (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/uk-covid-19-vaccine-funding/>

<sup>519</sup> 'Virtual Conference: 4 June 2020', Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) (Geneva) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/resource-mobilisation-process/gavis-3rd-donor-pledging-conference-june-2020>

<sup>520</sup> 'The \$1 billion bet: Pharma giant and U.S. government team up in all-out coronavirus vaccine push', Science Magazine. 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/03/1-billion-bet-pharma-giant-and-us-government-team-all-out-coronavirus-vaccine-push>

<sup>521</sup> 'Trump halts World Health Organization funding over handling of coronavirus outbreak', CNN (Washington) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/14/politics/donald-trump-world-health-organization-funding-coronavirus/index.html>

<sup>522</sup> 'Moderna Soars after \$483 Million Covid-19 Agreement with U.S.', Bloomberg (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-16/moderna-snares-483-million-u-s-funding-for-covid-vaccine-tests>

On 4 May 2020, President Trump deliberately abstained from participating in an online pledging “marathon” organized by the European Union and its partners, where world leaders raised at least EUR 7.5 billion for research into a possible vaccine and medicines against COVID-19.<sup>523</sup>

On 18 May 2020, President Trump threatened to withdraw the United States from the WHO and permanently end funding to the organization.<sup>524</sup>

The United States increased funding for some domestic research programs for a possible COVID-19 vaccine. However, the United States deliberately pulled back from working together with its international counterparts to increase research and development funding, which violates the spirit of the commitment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of  $-1$ .<sup>525</sup>

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

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

The European Union fully complied with its commitment to working together to increase research and development for vaccines and medicines.

By 16 March 2020, the European Commission had been providing ongoing financial support of EUR 80 million to CureVac, vaccine developer in Germany, to support ongoing research on a coronavirus vaccine.<sup>526</sup> However, because this began before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 31 March 2020, the European Commission announced the allocation of EUR 48.25 million for 18 research projects within Horizon 2020, which is the EU’s program for funding research for vaccines and medicines against COVID-19.<sup>527</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission launched the Coronavirus Global Response framework to raise EUR 7.5 billion to increase research for countermeasures against COVID-19.<sup>528</sup> As part of the framework, the European Union and its partners organized a worldwide pledging marathon, raising EUR 7.5 billion for research for a possible COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>529</sup>

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<sup>523</sup> ‘Trudeau urges world leaders to pull together as U.S. steers clear of COVID-19 vaccine pledging conference’, CBC (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/global-vaccine-pledge-trudeau-1.5554278>

<sup>524</sup> ‘Trump Threatens to Leave W.H.O. and Permanently End Funding’, New York Times (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/us/coronavirus-updates.html>

<sup>525</sup> Sources consulted include U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, The President and the White House, and other respective government agencies, coronavirus vaccine trackers such as the WHO’s, as well as news sources found through Google News including CNN, The New York Times, the Washington Post and others.

<sup>526</sup> ‘EU action: research on Covid-19 vaccines and cures’, European Parliament (Brussels) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200323STO75619/eu-action-research-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-cures>

<sup>527</sup> ‘EU action: research on Covid-19 vaccines and cures’, European Parliament (Brussels) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200323STO75619/eu-action-research-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-cures>

<sup>528</sup> ‘Coronavirus Global Response: EU Launches Pledging Effort’, European Commission (Brussels) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_710](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_710)

<sup>529</sup> ‘Coronavirus Global Response: EU Launches Pledging Effort’, European Commission (Brussels) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_710](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_710)

On 13 May 2020, the European Union announced the mobilisation of an additional EUR 140 million to develop vaccines and new treatments for COVID-19.<sup>530</sup> In addition, the European Union announced EUR 164 million for small and medium enterprises and start-ups for innovative research programs for COVID-19 treatment and vaccine.<sup>531</sup>

The European Union has demonstrated action to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines. It has also demonstrated a clear commitment to work together with other countries to increase research and development for countermeasures to COVID-19.

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

*Analyst: Maria Zelenova*

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<sup>530</sup> 'The common EU response to COVID-19', European Union (Brussels) 31 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://europa.eu/european-union/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/coronavirus-response_en)

<sup>531</sup> 'The common EU response to COVID-19', European Union (Brussels) 31 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://europa.eu/european-union/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/coronavirus-response_en)

## 5. Global Economy: Policy Tools

“We commit to do whatever it takes and to use all available policy tools to minimize the economic ... damage from the pandemic.”

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

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall Score	+0.75 (88%)		

### Background

On 26 March 2020, the G20 leaders met by videoconference, hosted by Saudi Arabia’s King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. During the virtual meeting, the leaders discussed their opinions and suggestions to face the crisis arising from the COVID-19 virus global pandemic. The “Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19” is the G20’s joint statement produced after the virtual meeting. It mentions the agreements the leaders made on social assistance, economic and financial policies, as well as public health to combat COVID-19. It presents the members in a “united front against this common threat.”<sup>532</sup> Also, during the videoconference, the G20 leaders’ affirmed that they play an important role in facing and overcoming the pandemic and its economic consequences around the world, reiterating the important role of the G20 in global health governance and economic stability.

Health has been mentioned in the G20’s agenda since the first G20 Washington Summit in 2008, gaining importance at the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit.<sup>533</sup> Yet, this is the first time that an

<sup>532</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group. Access Date: April 2, 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>533</sup> G20 Global Health Governance, 2008-2018, Daniela Vana. October 7, 2019. Access Date: April 7, 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/biblio/Vana-G20-health-governance.html>.



Extraordinary Virtual Summit of the G20 has taken place in response to a health emergency. In 2014, the Ebola outbreak denoted a moment where the G20 became extremely significant as a forum of global health governance, as the G20 stepped in to support the work of international organizations to extinguish the outbreak and deal with the crisis.<sup>534</sup> At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the “G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola” was published, where the G20 recognized the “serious humanitarian, social and economic impacts” and “committed to do what is necessary to ... extinguish the outbreak and address its medium-term economic and humanitarian costs.”<sup>535</sup> This was the first time in G20 history that an official statement document that focused on responding to the outbreak of an infectious disease was released. Therefore, the Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit in response to the COVID-19 pandemic marks a pivotal event as the first Extraordinary Virtual Summit takes place in response to a pandemic in G20 global health governance history.

The application of appropriate, firm, and targeted policy tools by the G20 governments will be essential for the recovery and restoration of confidence in the global economy during and after the pandemic. In fact, researchers at the International Monetary Fund have suggested that “the success of the pace of recovery [of the global economy] will depend crucially on policies undertaken during the crisis.”<sup>536</sup> The impacts of the crisis are expected to be severe. The European Central Bank predicts that growth in global gross domestic product is projected to decline by 0.4 per cent in 2020, expecting adverse impacts on euro area activity affecting supply and demand, with similar falls expected in other economies.<sup>537</sup> This is not the first time that G20 leaders committed to using a variety of policy tools to minimize the global economic damage from an event or crisis. The G20 was created to respond to global crises that required harmonized action between the world’s most powerful economies. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 emergency makes this the first time the G20 made commitments in response to a health crisis and consequently, will require fast, bold, and coordinated responses.

### **Commitment Features**

The G20 committed to “do whatever it takes and to use all available policy tools to minimize the economic ... damage from the pandemic.”<sup>538</sup> The word “commit” is defined as “to do or perform, pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.”<sup>539</sup>

Defining “whatever it takes” is challenging, as each sovereign country will decide the kind of actions that are necessary to improve their unique economic challenges. “Whatever it takes” refers to any policy action that aims to mitigate negative economic impacts of the pandemic, that would not normally be considered due to various domestic and global economic constraints. Thus, “whatever it takes” refers to any policy that may be considered an emergency measure or is invoked for the purpose of managing the crisis.

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<sup>534</sup> G20 Global Health Governance, 2008-2018, Daniela Vana. 7 October 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/biblio/Vana-G20-health-governance.html>.

<sup>535</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Research Group. 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>.

<sup>536</sup> Economic Policies for the COVID-19 War, International Monetary Fund Blog. 1 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/01/economic-policies-for-the-covid-19-war/>.

<sup>537</sup> ECB staff macroeconomic projections for the euro area, European Central Bank. March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. [https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/projections/html/ecb.projections202003\\_ecbstaff~dfa19e18c4.en.html](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/projections/html/ecb.projections202003_ecbstaff~dfa19e18c4.en.html).

<sup>538</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19. G20 Research Group. Access Date: 2 April 2020, <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>.

<sup>539</sup> Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding, G20 Research Group. Access Date: 28 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

“Using all available policy tools” can be measured by looking at the various economic policies taken by each G20 member that aim to support national or global economic development. For this reason, this compliance report will take a closer look at the various policy tools that can minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

The commitment to “use all available policy tools” to recover from the economic damage of this pandemic will be measured by the number of specific policy instruments, specifically, any expansionary fiscal or monetary policies, that each government takes to safeguard the economy. Policy tools will be defined as specific economic policies taken at a government level that are aimed at improving the economy and can include:

1. Expansionary Fiscal Policy: Policies that increase aggregate demand by either by (a) increasing government spending or (b) decreasing taxes.
  - a. Government spending can include efforts such as unemployment benefits, wage support, credit support, and direct transfers to support households and businesses.
    - Government credit support or guarantee for businesses can decrease the chances that this temporary fall in revenue would constrain the recovery of businesses that were doing well before the pandemic.
    - Government transfers to and bailouts of businesses have the potential to help small and medium enterprises recover after a time of slow or no economic activity. Researchers from London School of Economics consider this policy essential to avoid permanent damage to the supply-side of the economy.<sup>540</sup>
    - Unemployment benefits can support employees that are laid-off because of this pandemic. Actions like making unemployment benefits more generous, streamlined, or comprehensive can help people continue their economic activity until employment opportunities become available.
    - Direct transfers to the population or business-owners could allow to continue economic activity despite a fall in income during and after the pandemic.
    - Other policy tools that can help the economy recover and continue smooth consumption. In a Centre for Macroeconomics survey on policy proposals to deal with the COVID-19 crisis, panelists suggested various measures that could fall outside of the above categories. These included strategies like “holidays on mortgage payments and credit card debt backed by regulatory forbearance;” “withdrawals from pension funds without tax penalties;” and support for businesses through “partial wage subsidies.”<sup>541</sup>
  - b. Tax cuts and tax deferrals indirectly increase aggregate demand as consumption and investment become more attractive. Researchers have agreed that “aggressive fiscal measures, especially to support small and medium-sized enterprises are a must.”<sup>542</sup>
2. Expansionary Monetary Policy: Policies that increase the money supply in an economy and thus, decrease interest rates and expands consumption, net exports, and investments.

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<sup>540</sup> “COVID-19: The economic policy response,” Centre for Economic Policy Research Portal. 28 March 2020. Access date 28 March 2020. <https://voxeu.org/article/covid-19-economic-policy-response>.

<sup>541</sup> “COVID-19: The economic policy response,” Centre for Economic Policy Research Portal. March 28, 2020. Access date March 28, 2020. <https://voxeu.org/article/covid-19-economic-policy-response>.

<sup>542</sup> Policy in the time of Coronavirus. Mitigating the COVID Economic Crisis: Act Fast and Do Whatever It Takes., Yale University. P. 198. Access date April 13, 2020 <https://voxeu.org/content/mitigating-covid-economic-crisis-act-fast-and-do-whatever-it-takes>.

- a. Consumption expands as the money supply increases because borrowing money becomes cheaper. Also, lower interest rates will translate to an increase in available income when payments become lower (i.e. mortgage interest payment)
  - b. Exports increase as the lower interest rate causes the currency to depreciate, and thus, increases exports and import prices.
  - c. Investments increase because the returns from saving are lower.
  - d. The Central or National Banks can also perform open market activities (such as buying back government bonds) to lower interest rates and indirectly expand other investments.
3. Financial Assets Purchases and Quantitative Easing can increase the money supply in an economy providing with the necessary liquidity to overcome this period.

In evaluating each member's actions, some actions have more weight than others. As mentioned above, doing "whatever it takes" and using "all available policy tools" can include a variety of strategies, some with a bigger impact than the others in bettering economic conditions. Therefore, G20 members' performance is based on the real impact, and not the total number, of their action relative to that country's economic situation.

Each G20 member has different capabilities, as well as unique social and economic backgrounds that will determine the kind and number of policy tools that will be applied to deal with the crisis. The nature and number of policies will depend largely on the country in which they are implemented and the policy tools that are available to them given their unique economic constraints. Obviously, a country with a higher GDP will be able to spend large amounts of money more easily than a country with a smaller GDP. This will be considered in the scores. Scores will also be assigned consistently and relative to other G20 members' efforts as this commitment is a collective G20 commitment. Therefore, to evaluate compliance, we will consider their efforts relative to other G20 members' performance while also considering their unique economic and social conditions.

Full compliance of this commitment will be achieved by members that clearly put a strong effort in implementing fiscal and monetary policies that better the domestic and global economy. As mentioned earlier, because each member has different capabilities, we will evaluate each member's actions relative to other members' efforts while also considering their unique capabilities. Therefore, compliance will happen whenever a G20 member responds with fiscal and monetary policy measures that show a strong commitment and determination of the member to minimize the economic damage to all segments of their population and sectors of the economy that are hit particularly hit hard by the economic turbulence caused by COVID-19. Thus, the member should work towards creating, implementing or revising policies to improve the economic conditions for their population. This can be achieved through actions at the federal government level, through the central bank, or through actions collaboration with or support to the international community, non-governmental organizations and international organizations. Policy tools that count towards compliance can be any of the abovementioned economic policy instruments that can help recover from the crisis and continue global economic activity.

Partial compliance will be achieved when a G20 member responds by applying a policy that are aimed to improve the economic conditions, but that might only help a certain segment of the population or some industries of the economy while others are suffering. Also, members will score partial compliance whenever they make verbal declarations of policies and strategies to improve economic conditions but do not implement them. G20 members implementing policy tools, but with economic and social realities that could allow implementing bolder or more generous policies to support more segments of the economy, will also be scored partial compliance.

No compliance is scored when a G20 member does not engage in actions or policy aimed at minimizing the domestic or global damage to the economy in response to the pandemic.

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

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	No progress toward compliance or action counter to compliance. The member implemented little or no monetary or fiscal policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic and the measures only support a very small segment of the population.
0	Partial compliance with the stated goals of the commitment. The member used policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic, yet these efforts only benefited some segments of the population and/or some industries, while others suffer. The member created a policy or strategy but is not implementing it properly. The member has the potential and capabilities to implement bolder policies, yet has refrained from doing so.
+1	Complete compliance with the stated goals of the commitment. The member implemented fiscal and monetary policies that effectively help minimize the economic damage for all segments of the population and industries hit hard by COVID-19 economic crisis.

*Compliance Director: Eri Kimura*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

Argentina suffers from “chronic financial turmoil” and has been experiencing a currency crisis since 2018, with the capital controls imposed in 2019 limiting volatility created by high inflation.<sup>543</sup> Facing a third year of recession when the pandemic hit, Argentina’s actions in response to the pandemic are very constrained.

The Government of Argentina has implemented various fiscal policies to reduce the financial and economic stress in the economy, these are estimated to total around ARS 1,089 billion or 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product.<sup>544</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Government of Argentina created a guarantee fund of ARS 30 billion to facilitate the access of micro, small, and medium enterprises to loans for working capital. In a different decree the same day, it prohibited to lay-off employees without justification for 60 days.<sup>545</sup> On 18 May, the prohibition was extended for an additional 60 days.<sup>546</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the government announced the Programa de Asistencia de Emergencia al Trabajo y a la Producción as a strategy to support struggling businesses and vulnerable populations continue their activities and survive the crisis. The program includes a 50 per cent compensation in workers’ salaries paid by the government to businesses whose revenues have been affected by the tensions in

<sup>543</sup> Argentina’s economic crisis poised to go from bad to worse, Al Jazeera (New York) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/argentina-economic-crisis-poised-bad-worse-200623203522114.html>

<sup>544</sup> Argentina in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated April 30, 2020. Access Date: May 5, 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>545</sup> Decreto de Necesidad y Urgencia que Instruye a constituir un Fondo de Afectación Específica con el objeto de otorgar garantías para facilitar el acceso a préstamos para capital de trabajo, por parte de las Micro, Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas, Sistema Argentino de Información Jurídica, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <http://www.saij.gob.ar/326-nacional-decreto-necesidad-urgencia-instruye-constituir-fondo-afectacion-especifica-objeto-otorgar-garantias-para-facilitar-acceso-prestamos-para-capital-trabajo-parte-micro-pequenas-medianas-empresas>

<sup>546</sup> Factbox 5/26/20: Latin America moves to mitigate impact of COVID-19, Latin Finance. 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.latinfinance.com/daily-briefs/2020/5/26/factbox-52620-latin-america-moves-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19#argentina>

the economy, a reduction up to 95 per cent in employers' social security contributions, government credits up to ARS 150,000 with no interest rates to autonomous workers and extended unemployment insurance benefits.<sup>547</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the government announced the extension of the Ahora Program until the end of June 2020. Ahora is a government-credit program offering zero interest rates in purchases of different basic products in periods from three up to 18 months.<sup>548</sup>

On 12 April 2020, the Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (AFIP) published General Resolution 4795, which extended the temporary closing of AFIP until 26 April 2020. The temporary closing implied that procedures related to tax, social security, and customs duties matters are also extended.<sup>549</sup>

On 15 April 2020, an emergency assistance program was established through Decree 332/2020 to provide relief to businesses that have suffered because of the pandemic. The assistance program allows "critically affected" businesses to 1) postpone their payment of employer contributions to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System (SIPA), 2) reduction of up to 98 per cent of the payment of employer contributions to SIPA, and 3) up to 50 cent of the wages can be covered during April and May.<sup>550</sup>

On 22 April 2020, Argentina presented a debt-restructuring offer to investors worth USD 66 billion of central government foreign debt to reunite investments to combat the pandemic. The offer would include a 5.5 per cent reduction on capital bonds, reduction of 62 per cent on interest payments and asks for a 3-year grace period before it begins to pay back.<sup>551</sup>

On 29 April 2020, all households in the "food cards" conditional cash-transfer program received a one-time bonus cash transfer of ARS 4,200, or ARS 6,330 for households with more than one child.<sup>552</sup> The Government of Argentina also pledged that workers in the public and private healthcare industries will be granted monthly bonuses of ARS 5,000 from May until July.<sup>553</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Argentinean tax authorities, the "Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos" (AFIP), postponed until 29 May the annual filling of personal deductions in the annual income tax assessment, with payments or reimbursements of that assessment to be made until 10 June 2020.<sup>554</sup>

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<sup>547</sup> Beneficios para empresas, monotributistas y autónomos, Government of Argentina. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/medidas-economicas-COVID19/beneficios-empresas-monotributistas-y-autonomos>

<sup>548</sup> Gobierno oficializó la extensión del Ahora 12: se suman alimentos y medicamentos. April 1, 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2020. <https://www.lavoz.com.ar/ciudadanos/gobierno-oficializo-extension-del-ahora-12-se-suman-alimentos-y-medicamentos>

<sup>549</sup> Economic and Fiscal measures in LATAM, Deloitte. 24 April 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/mx/es/pages/tax/articles/medidas-fiscales-y-economicas-COVID-19-en-Latinoamerica.html>

<sup>550</sup> Argentina-COVID-19: Fiscal Relief for Companies, KPMG. 15 April 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/flash-alert-2020-174.html>

<sup>551</sup> Factbox 5/26/20: Latin America moves to mitigate impact of COVID-19, Latin Finance. 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.latinfinance.com/daily-briefs/2020/5/26/factbox-52620-latin-america-moves-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19#argentina>

<sup>552</sup> Key Country policy responses, OECD (Paris). Access Date: 4 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>553</sup> Bonos para sectores vulnerables, Government of Argentina. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/medidas-economicas-COVID19/bonos>

<sup>554</sup> Economic and Fiscal measures in LATAM, Deloitte. 24 April 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/mx/es/pages/tax/articles/medidas-fiscales-y-economicas-COVID-19-en-Latinoamerica.html>

On 3 May 2020, the Government of Argentina announced it would continue the “Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia Program” through a second round of transfers during the month of May.<sup>555</sup> The program was made official through Decree 310/2020, on March 23, and consists on granting one-time ARS 10,000 bonuses to informal, independent and domestic workers as well as vulnerable families.<sup>556</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the Argentinian Central Bank (ACB) extended loans to the banking system to allow the possibility of loans for small and medium-sized enterprises, independent and autonomous workers that would otherwise not be able to access credit.<sup>557</sup>

On 14 May 2020, President Alberto Fernandez announced the “Argentina Construye” public investment program. Through this program, the government will spend ARS 29 billion in improvements in gas, electricity and sanitary infrastructure, as well as social housing which is expected to generate more than 700,000 jobs.<sup>558</sup>

On 16 May 2020, the Ministry of Commerce extended the freeze of the basket of essential goods prices until 20 June 2020 in order to prevent inflation and protect consumers.<sup>559</sup>

In terms of tax relief, the Government of Argentina has implemented measures that total around ARS 68 billion.<sup>560</sup>

Argentina made efforts and implemented both policy and non-policy tools to deal with the economic effects of the pandemic through programs such as “Programa de Asistencia de Emergencia al Trabajo y a la Producción” and its support for the most vulnerable populations by extending direct cash transfers, price freezes, and public investment programs.

Argentina made efforts and implemented both policy and non-policy tools to deal with the economic effects of the pandemic through programs such as “Programa de Asistencia de Emergencia al Trabajo y a la Producción” and its support for the most vulnerable populations by extending direct cash transfers, price freezes, and public investment programs. Since 2018, Argentina has been dealing with an economic crisis which has limited their capability to implement more aggressive policies, facing limited options to finance support measures from debt. This can explain why their measure to reestablish household incomes and support businesses have been limited compared to other G20 countries. During the compliance period the government has implemented policies within their

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<sup>555</sup> Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia, Government of Argentina. Access Date: 4 May 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/medidas-economicas-COVID19/ingresofamiliardeemergencia>

<sup>556</sup> Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia, Government of Argentina. Access Date: 4 May 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/medidas-economicas-COVID19/ingresofamiliardeemergencia>

<sup>557</sup> Comunicación “A” 7006, Banco Central de la República Argentina. May 8, 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Pdfs/comytexord/A7006.pdf>

<sup>558</sup> La Nación lanzó el programa Argentina Construye al que destinarán 29 mil millones de pesos, El Tribuno. 14 May 2020. Access date 20 May 2020. <https://www.tribuno.com/salta/nota/2020-5-14-19-28-0-la-nacion-lanzo-el-programa-argentina-construye-al-que-destinaran-29-mil-millones-de-pesos>

<sup>559</sup> Factbox 5/26/20: Latin America moves to mitigate impact of COVID-19, Latin Finance. 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.latinfinance.com/daily-briefs/2020/5/26/factbox-52620-latin-america-moves-to-mitigate-impact-of-covid-19#argentina>

<sup>560</sup> Breaking down the G20 Covid-19 Fiscal Response, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2020. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/breaking-down-g20-covid-19-fiscal-response>

capacity that support businesses, employment, extend credit and create employment opportunities to support the economy recover from the crisis. Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.<sup>561</sup>

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic effects from the pandemic.

On 30 March 2020, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) announced implementation of the Job Keeper Program to help affected taxpayers. Through this program, the ATO is allowing companies unable to pay their obligations deferrals on the Pay-As-You-Go, GST and exercise tax obligations.<sup>562</sup> The ATO will also grant tax relief support of up to AUD 100,000 for SMEs and non-for-profit organizations for them to continue their operations.<sup>563</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Government of Australia announced help for struggling households by committing to provide free childcare to one million families and supporting the education system until 28 June 2020.<sup>564</sup>

On 7 April 2020, the government introduced a mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies. The code will allow commercial rent reductions proportional to the tenant's fall in turnover.<sup>565</sup> These actions can help ease economic tensions and reactivate spending in households.

On 8 April 2020, the Parliament passed AUD 140 billion for the "JobKeeper Payment," to provide wage subsidies of up to 50 per cent for employers of businesses affected by the pandemic until 30 June 2020. The program covers at least AUD 1,500 per fortnight for full-time and part-time workers, as well as casual employees.<sup>566</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Fair Work Act was amended to allow employees across a large range of work types to receive two weeks of unpaid pandemic leave or receive half-payment for double the duration of annual leave if they are prevented from working.<sup>567</sup>

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<sup>561</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Economy, and other respective government websites, research institutions' and organizations' trackers such as the IMF's, The Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, and other news sources found through Google News.

<sup>562</sup> Australian Taxation Office clarifies what COVID-19 relief measures are available, Hall and Wilcox. 24 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/thinking/ato-clarifies-covid-19-relief-measures/>

<sup>563</sup> Economic Stimulus Package, Joint media release with The Hon. Scott Morrison MP. 12 March 2020. Access Date: 6 May 2020. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/economic-stimulus-package>

<sup>564</sup> COVID-19 Economic response- free childcare, Parliament of Australia. 6 April 2020. Access Date: 6 May 2020. [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/FlagPost/2020/April/Coronavirus\\_response-Free\\_child\\_care](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2020/April/Coronavirus_response-Free_child_care)

<sup>565</sup> Australia in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access Date: June 4, 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>566</sup> Whatever it takes Covid-19 Policy Responses in Australia, Deloitte 26 March 2020. Access Date: 6 May 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/au/Documents/covid-19/deloitte-au-covid-19-dae-policy-responses.pdf>

<sup>567</sup> Unpaid pandemic leave and annual leave changes to awards, Australian Government Fair Work Ombudsman, 12 May 2020. Access Date: 7 June 2020. <https://coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws/temporary-changes-to-workplace-laws-during-coronavirus/unpaid-pandemic-leave-annual-leave-changes-in-awards/default>

On 9 April 2020, the state governments agreed to additional national measures to provide as much support as possible to financially stressed households and small businesses. The measures include offering flexible payment options, prohibition of suspension or restrictions of state-granted services, deferral of debt recover proceedings and credit default listings, and waiving debts' late fees and interest charges.<sup>568</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Government of Australia introduced increased income support through the "Coronavirus Supplement." The program will accelerate payments and pay an additional AUD 550 per fortnight to recipients of the Jobseeker payment, Youth allowance Jobseeker, Parenting payment, Farm household alliance and the Special Benefit for six months.<sup>569</sup>

The "Cash Flow Boosts" program was created to provide tax-free cash flow amounts to support businesses from March until June 2020. Under this scheme, some businesses are eligible for a tax-free refund of their employees' tax instalment deductions.<sup>570</sup> Additionally, AUD 1.3 billion will be allocated to provide with wage subsidies until September this year for apprentices and trainees.<sup>571</sup> However, because the program was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 5 May 2020, Australia participated in the "Coronavirus Global Response" pledging event where it granted AUD 352 million towards the global fight against COVID-19 and for efforts to find a vaccine.<sup>572</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the ATO introduced a policy that allows people financially affected by COVID-19 to access up to AUD 10,000 of their superannuation, the Australian pension program.<sup>573</sup>

As of 15 May 2020, the Government of Australia announced their actions to be valued at more than AUD 178 billion, representing approximately 12.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>574</sup>

During the compliance period, Australia implemented strong, targeted, and generous policy tools to respond to the economic effects of the pandemic. It developed economic stimulus packages with fiscal measures to protect businesses, employees, households, and vulnerable groups.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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<sup>568</sup> Australia in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>569</sup> Increased and accelerated income support, Australian government. 15 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Increased-and-accelerated-income-support>

<sup>570</sup> Boosting cash flow for employers, Government of Australia. Last updated 29 April 2020. Access Date: 6 May 2020. <https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Boosting-cash-flow-for-employers>

<sup>571</sup> Economic Stimulus Package, Joint media release with The Hon. Scott Morrison MP. 12 March 2020. Access Date: 6 May 2020. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/economic-stimulus-package>

<sup>572</sup> Video Message - Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Event, Prime minister of Australia. 5 May 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/coronavirus-global-response-international-pledging-event>

<sup>573</sup> COVID-19 early release of super, Australian Taxation Office. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Super/In-detail/Withdrawing-and-using-your-super/COVID-19-early-release-of-super/>

<sup>574</sup> COVID-19 Fiscal Response Tracker, Centre for Strategic and International Studies. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/breaking-down-g20-covid-19-fiscal-response>



## **Brazil: +1**

Brazil fully complied with its commitment to use all available policy tools and do whatever it takes to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, the Government of Brazil announced a temporary emergency credit line available for two months for small and medium-sized enterprises to finance salaries that will have a six-month grace period and 36 months for repayment of the loan.<sup>575</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Brazilian senate passed a bill which grants emergency aid of BRL 600 to informal workers and BRL 1,200 to support single-mother households. The impact of the aid is expected to total BRL 44 billion.<sup>576</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) announced measures to support the airlines and healthcare manufacturers industries through financial support through purchases of shares and expansion of credit lines.<sup>577</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the federal government published PM 935, the “Emergency Employment and Income Maintenance Program” which established schemes for proportional reductions in work hours and salaries and temporary layoffs up to 90 days to help employers confront the crisis. To support temporary laid-off employees’ income, the federal government will grant an emergency benefit to affected employees which corresponds to a percentage of the unemployment insurance.<sup>578</sup> On April 15, the federal government proposed to extend the emergency employment aid to more segments of the population whose vulnerabilities have increased because of the pandemic.<sup>579</sup>

On 4 April 2020, Brazil’s House of Congress approved a constitutional amendment for the creation of a “war budget,” which separated Coronavirus-related spending from the primary budget to allow the expansion on public expenditure and protect the economy from the pandemic-related crisis.<sup>580</sup> The “war budget” is an emergency measure that can help ease fiscal and budgetary constraints by allowing the central bank to purchase national treasury bonds and allows the federal government to sell bonds to pay federal debt interest and charges.<sup>581</sup>

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<sup>575</sup> Brazil Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>576</sup> Brazil Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>577</sup> Brazil Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>578</sup> MP 936: New Labor and Employment measures to confront Covid-19. 1 April 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.machadomeyer.com.br/en/recent-publications/publications/labor/mp-936-new-labor-and-employment-measures-to-confront-covid-19>

<sup>579</sup> Brazil Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>580</sup> Brazil’s legislators approve coronavirus ‘war budget’, Al Jazeera. 4 April 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/brazil-legislators-approve-coronavirus-war-budget-200404172329877.html>

<sup>581</sup> Brazil’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, Secretariat for international economic affairs in Brazil. Last updated 7 April 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/publicacoes/publicacoes-em-outros-idiommas/covid-19/brazil2019s-policy-responses-to-covid-19>

On 8 April 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture announced a BRL 500 million relief plan for family farms and small agriculture producers.<sup>582</sup> The National Telecommunications Agency is also providing BRL 30 vouchers for three months so users can continue to use their cellphones while the National Electric Energy Agency authorized a BRL 2.022 billion fund to bailout or support companies in the electricity sector.<sup>583</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the state-owned Federal Savings Bank (Caixa) announced they will extend credit lines for small and medium enterprises for BRL 108 billion and cut interest rates on some types of credits. Also, Brazilian Central Bank (BCB) announced increases in the credit limit for 13 million customers and a BRL 100 billion increase in its credit lines for working capital investments, payments of receivables, agriculture industry and credit to individuals.<sup>584</sup> The financial institutions licensed by BCB have temporarily-suspended interest payments on capital, increasing top managerial compensations, and distributing dividends above mandatory minimum to ensure comfortable levels of capital and liquidity conditions.<sup>585</sup>

The BCB lowered the interest rate to a historical minimum of three per cent on 6 May 2020 to increase borrowing and expand investment.<sup>586</sup> Until 31 March 2020, it temporally reduced its reserve requirement ratios that went from 31 per cent to 17 per cent.<sup>587</sup> To provide with long-term liquidity, the BCB has repurchased operations with foreign currency backed by federal government debt securities.<sup>588</sup> Also, to stabilize and maintain the functionality of the foreign exchange market, the BCB conducts currency swaps, operations in the spot market, repo lines of credit, and maintains foreign exchange reserves at nearly 20 per cent of GDP to support foreign exchange interventions.<sup>589</sup>

As of 8 May 2020, the government announced fiscal measures valued at around eight per cent of GDP.<sup>590</sup>

Brazil has implemented various policies and adopted measures that aim to help struggling businesses and populations overcome the negative effects of the pandemic, as well as for vulnerable populations. The BCB has reduced its rate to a historical minimum and acted with bold policy aimed at increasing loans, providing liquidity and expanding investment.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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<sup>582</sup> Brazil Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>583</sup> Brazil Government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>584</sup> Brazil's Policy Responses to COVID-19, Secretariat for international economic affairs in Brazil. Last updated 7 April 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/centrais-de-conteudo/publicacoes/publicacoes-em-outros-idiommas/covid-19/brazil2019s-policy-responses-to-covid-19>

<sup>585</sup> Covid-19, Banco Central Do Brasil. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/about/covid-19-measures>

<sup>586</sup> Banco Central de Brasil recorta tasa de interés a mínimo record de 3% para enfrentar impacto del Covid-19. 6 May 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/empresas/Banco-Central-Brasil-recorta-tasa-de-interes-a-minimo-record-de-3-para-enfrentar-impacto-del-Covid-19--20200506-0086.html>

<sup>587</sup> Covid-19, Banco Central Do Brasil. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/about/covid-19-measures>

<sup>588</sup> Covid-19, Banco Central Do Brasil. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/about/covid-19-measures>

<sup>589</sup> Covid-19, Banco Central Do Brasil. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/about/covid-19-measures>

<sup>590</sup> Brazil in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated April 30, 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

## **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to deal with the economic effects of the pandemic.

On 25 March 2020, the Government of Canada launched the “Canada Emergency Response Benefit” (CERB) with an estimated cost of CAD 35 billion or around 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product to support workers that have lost income because of the pandemic. CERB is a taxable benefit of CAD 2,000 a month for up to four months provided to people in isolation, sick, or unable to work because of the virus, or to workers who are facing unemployment and are not eligible for employment insurance.<sup>591</sup> However, because the program was in place before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance. In May, the government provided a one-time additional payment of CAD 300 per child to individuals eligible for the Canada Child Benefit.<sup>592</sup>

The government has implemented measures to support students whose economies have been affected continue their studies. CAD 291.6 million will be provided to allow for a one-semester extension for students whose research scholarships end between March and August 2020 and want to continue their studies.<sup>593</sup> From March 30 to September 30, 2020, repayments to Canada Student Loans will be paused, with no accumulated interests.<sup>594</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a CAD 100 million investment to help national, regional and local organizations respond to food insecurity arising from the pandemic.<sup>595</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced the “Reaching Home” initiative to provide CAD 157.5 million in funding to support people experiencing homelessness by increasing capacity and implementing measures that protect them from the virus.<sup>596</sup> In addition, the government will provide CAD 50 million to women’s shelters and sexual assault centers to help with their capacity to prevent or manage outbreaks.<sup>597</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Government of Canada launched the “Canada Emergency Business Account” (CEBA) to provide interest-free loans to support smaller businesses and not-for-profits continue their activities. Up to 19 May 2020, CEBA had provided more than CAD 24 billion in credit to over 600,000 small or independent businesses.<sup>598</sup> On 19 May 2020, CEBA was expanded to include small businesses and non-for-profits.

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<sup>591</sup> Government introduces Canada Emergency Response Benefit to help workers and businesses, Department of Finance Canada. 25 March 2020 (Ottawa). Access date 9 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

<sup>592</sup> Canada child benefit (CCB) payment increase: CRA and COVID-19, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/covid-19-ccb-payment-increase.html>

<sup>593</sup> Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

<sup>594</sup> Canada Student Loans- COVID19, Government of Canada. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/notice-covid-19.html>

<sup>595</sup> Prime Minister announces support for food banks and local food organizations, Justin Trudeau PM of Canada. 3 April 2020 (Ottawa). Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198?wbdisable=true>

<sup>596</sup> Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy Directives, Government of Canada. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/directives.html>

<sup>597</sup> Supporting women’s shelters and sexual assault centres during COVID-19, Government of Canada. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/fun-fin/shelters-refuges-en.html>

<sup>598</sup> Prime Minister announces expansion of support for workers and small businesses, Justin Trudeau. 19 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/19/prime-minister-announces-expansion-support-workers-and-small>

Starting 9 April 2020, a one-time boost to the goods and services tax refundable credit will allow lower income households to receive around CAD 400 for single individuals and CAD 600 for couples.<sup>599</sup> Since 3 April 2020, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (a crown corporation to provide housing) will allow lenders to offer deferred payments of up to six months for insured mortgages.<sup>600</sup> However, as these actions were announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, they do not count toward compliance.

On 15 April 2020, the Government of Canada introduced changes to the “Canada Summer Jobs program,” which stated that all employers are eligible to receive a wage subsidy reimbursement up to 100 per cent, allow for part-time work, and extend the employment period beyond summer, between 11 May 2020 and 28 February 2021.<sup>601</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced new support measures of CAD 1.7 billion to businesses dealing with the economic impacts of the pandemic. First, CAD 675 will be provided to small and medium-sized enterprises that are unable to access the existing support measures. CAD 287 million will provide support to rural businesses and communities through increasing access to capital through the Community Futures Network. CAD 500 million will be used to establish a “COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sports Organizations” to allow them to continue supporting artists and athletes. CAD 250 million will be granted to innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing government support. Finally, CAD 20.1 million will be used to support young entrepreneurs in Futurpreneur Canada to provide payment relief for their clients for up to 12 months.<sup>602</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced measures to support the energy sector dealing with global falls in oil prices. It will CAD 1.72 billion in funds to provincial governments that rely largely on the energy sector to implement strategies to clean up orphan or inactive oils and gas wells and simultaneously facilitating the creation of jobs. CAD 750 million will be used towards creating an “Emissions Reduction Fund” to encourage firms in the oil and gas industries to reduce greenhouse emissions.<sup>603</sup>

On 21 April 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the “Emergency Community Support Fund,” a CAD 350 million investment granted to non-profit organizations and charities to ensure the most vulnerable populations have access to essential services during the crisis.<sup>604</sup>

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<sup>599</sup> Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

<sup>600</sup> COVID-19: Understanding Mortgage Payment Deferral, CMHL. 24 March 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020.

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/mortgage-loan-insurance/the-resource/covid19-understanding-mortgage-payment-deferral>

<sup>601</sup> Canada summer jobs 2020 temporary flexibilities for employers, Government of Canada. Access date 10 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs/temporary-flexibility.html>

<sup>602</sup> Prime Minister announces new support to protect Canadian jobs, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020.

Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/17/prime-minister-announces-new-support-protect-canadian-jobs>.

<sup>603</sup> Prime Minister announces new support to protect Canadian jobs, Justin Trudeau, PM of Canada. 17 April 2020.

Access date 3 June 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/17/prime-minister-announces-new-support-protect-canadian-jobs>

<sup>604</sup> Prime Minister announces further support to help Canadians in need, Justin Trudeau PM of Canada. 21 April 2020 (Ottawa). Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/21/prime-minister-announces-further-support-help-canadians-need>

On 24 April 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the “Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance,” an agreement with provinces and territories to allow small businesses affected by COVID-19 lower their rent by 75 per cent during April, May, and June.<sup>605</sup>

Since March, Canada has provided around CAD 85 billion in tax deferrals to support liquidity in the economy.<sup>606</sup> Deadlines to file tax returns have been deferred until 31 August and pushing the payment of income taxes until September.<sup>607</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it will provide CAD 3 billion to support provinces and territories in providing temporary wage top-ups for low-income essential workers.<sup>608</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the government of Canada announced a one-time payment of CAD 300 to seniors in the old age security plus an additional CAD 200 to seniors in the Guaranteed Income Supplement, to help seniors cover increased costs from COVID-19.<sup>609</sup> Additionally, the minimum required withdrawals from registered retirement income funds have been reduced by 25 per cent to help retirees access pension savings.<sup>610</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Government of Canada introduced the “Regional Relief and Recovery Fund” (RRRF) to support businesses affected by the pandemic. The RRRF is a CAD 962 million government funding for businesses and organizations in key sectors that need additional help to recover from the pandemic.<sup>611</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the “Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility” was launched to help large companies meet their financing needs if they are not covered by the existing programs.<sup>612</sup>

The Bank of Canada has performed various open-market operations to deal with the economic impact of the pandemic. Throughout March, rates were cut by 150 basis points to 0.25 per cent to keep inflation low and extend access to credit.<sup>613</sup> Since March the government has put in place

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<sup>605</sup> Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#>

<sup>606</sup> Canada in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated 14 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>607</sup> Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses>

<sup>608</sup> Prime Minister announces agreements to boost wages for essential workers, Justin Trudeau. 7 May 2020 (Ottawa).

Access Date: 10 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/07/prime-minister-announces-agreements-boost-wages-essential-workers>

<sup>609</sup> Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

<sup>610</sup> Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, Government of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>

<sup>611</sup> Regional Relief and Recovery Fund, Government of Canada. 15 May 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/atlastic-canada-opportunities/campaigns/covid19/rrrf.html>

<sup>612</sup> Government announces support program for large employers in open for applications, Department of Finance

Canada. 20 May 2020. Access date 20 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-announces-support-program-for-large-employers-is-open-for-applications.html>

<sup>613</sup> COVID-19: Actions to support the Economy and Financial System, Bank of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/markets/market-operations-liquidity-provision/covid-19-actions-support-economy-financial-system/#actions>

various large-scale asset purchases to support liquidity, access to financing, and enhance stability in the market.<sup>614</sup>

To ensure liquidity of the system, the Bank of Canada engaged in several open market operations, created programs and reduced the rate. Also, the government showed they did “whatever it takes,” providing funding to organizations to support vulnerable populations, people experiencing homelessness, and women experiencing violence or assault to increase their capacities and resources. Compared to other similar G20 members, Canada has implemented extraordinary measures like universal cash payments, support for students, and support to non-governmental organizations.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **China: 0**

China partially complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 27 March 2020 the State Council published a notice giving full play to the role of government backed financing to actively support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), farmers, agricultural businesses and businesses in rural areas. In the notice, government-owned financing institutions affirmed that throughout 2020, they will increase credit for SMEs, reduce by 50 per cent the charges for financing guarantee and re-guarantee, and helping affected businesses resume business activities.<sup>615</sup> Also, President Xi Jinping announced on 27 March that China would raise the fiscal deficit ratio and sell special government bonds in efforts to stimulate the economy.<sup>616</sup>

On 28 March 2020, the Government of China announced that to preserve jobs, all the SMEs that do not lay off any workers during the year will be refunded with the full amount of unemployment insurance premiums at the end of 2020.<sup>617</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the State Council announced some additional measures to support economic recovery from the pandemic. First, RMB 1 trillion would be allocated to support small and medium-sized banks to provide loans at a special rate and lower the required reserve ratio (RRR).<sup>618</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Ministry of Commerce announced they will put efforts to reduce the COVID-19 impact on the global supply chain. The government will stabilize and facilitate foreign trade through fostering large companies with global competitive advantages and innovative SMEs.<sup>619</sup>

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<sup>614</sup> COVID-19: Actions to support the Economy and Financial System, Bank of Canada. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/markets/market-operations-liquidity-provision/covid-19-actions-support-economy-financial-system/#actions>

<sup>615</sup> Notice regarding giving full play to the role of government financing guarantees to increase small and micro enterprises and “Sannong” entities, Ministry of Finance. 27 March 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-04/01/content\\_5498050.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-04/01/content_5498050.htm)

<sup>616</sup> Coronavirus: China to raise fiscal deficit ratio after G20 pledges US\$5 trillion economic rescue package, South China Morning Post. 27 March 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3077344/coronavirus-china-raise-fiscal-deficit-ratio-after-g20>

<sup>617</sup> Refund of unemployment insurance premiums for small, medium, and micro enterprises raised to 100%, The People’s government of Beijing municipality. 28 March 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2020. [http://www.beijing.gov.cn/zhengce/zcjd/202003/t20200328\\_1744138.html](http://www.beijing.gov.cn/zhengce/zcjd/202003/t20200328_1744138.html)

<sup>618</sup> For some Chinese businesses, there’s no going back to life before the coronavirus, CNBC. 2 April 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/02/for-some-chinese-businesses-no-going-back-to-pre-coronavirus-ways.html>

On 3 April 2020, the People's Bank of China (PBC) announced it will reduce the interest rates on excess reserves from 0.72 per cent to 0.35 per cent starting on 7 April.<sup>620</sup> As well, on 3 April the Government of China announced targeted reduction of the Required Reserve Ratio for small and medium sized banks by 100 basis points, which will release around RMB 400 billion in liquidity to the economy.<sup>621</sup> Additionally, on 3 April China announced it is targeting reduction of the RRR for small and medium-sized banks by 50 basis points from April 15 and additional 50 basis points from May 15.

As of 10 April 2020, China had sent testing and protection equipment to 137 countries, 13 medical teams to 11 countries, and held over 170 web conferences for experience and data sharing with more than 150 countries and regions. Also, they have donated medical supplies to over 100 countries.<sup>622</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the State Council had an executive meeting where measures to provide additional support vulnerable populations and financial services for SMEs. It announced assistance for people living in poverty in rural areas through extended employment opportunities in national projects, extending payments deadlines for small loans for poverty relief, and efforts to promote farmers' sales of feature products.<sup>623</sup> It will also expand coverage of unemployment insurance to all insured urban and rural people without a job.<sup>624</sup> In addition, it was announced that small and micro firms in the service industry are exempted from paying rent for three months in 2020, if the landlord is state-owned. Also, the State Council is offering tax exemptions or preferential-interest loans to private landlords that offer rent reduction or exemption, to encourage them to forego rent from small and micro enterprises.<sup>625</sup> Also, to provide additional credit to SMEs, China temporarily raised the percentage assigned to inclusive finance to over 10 per cent when assessing performance of banks and lowered the provision coverage ratio for small and medium banks by 20 per cent.<sup>626</sup> Finally, during the executive meeting, the provision of temporary unemployment assistance for workers that do not meet the conditions for unemployment insurance was extended to include migrant workers and unemployed individuals that have not been covered by welfare until now or that earn less than minimum living standards.<sup>627</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the Cabinet announced a strategy for new infrastructure to promote industrial upgrading, increase job creations and drive economic growth. The strategy will support growth of information networks and other new infrastructure with expected investments of up to RMB 750

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<sup>619</sup> Ministry plans more steps to boost trade, State Council of the PRC. 3 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202004/03/content\\_WS5e868abb6d0c201c2cc00e2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202004/03/content_WS5e868abb6d0c201c2cc00e2.html)

<sup>620</sup> China in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access Date: 3 June 2020.

<sup>621</sup> China frees up \$56 billion for virus-hit economy by slashing small banks' reserve requirements, Reuters (Beijing) 3 April 2020. Access date June 4, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-economy-rrr-cut/china-frees-up-56-billion-for-virus-hit-economy-by-slashing-small-banks-reserve-requirements-idUSKBN21L1JI>

<sup>622</sup> China says it has help over 130 countries and international organizations fight COVID-19 pandemic, CGTN. 10 April 2020. Access date 9 May 2020. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-04-10/Chinese-experts-share-experiences-in-combating-COVID-19-PzeGmp0uHe/index.html>

<sup>623</sup> Quick view: State Council executive meeting on April 21, State Council of the PRC. 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202004/22/content\\_WS5e9ff2d2c6d0b3f0e94961b9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202004/22/content_WS5e9ff2d2c6d0b3f0e94961b9.html)

<sup>624</sup> Quick view: State Council executive meeting on April 21, State Council of the PRC. 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202004/22/content\\_WS5e9ff2d2c6d0b3f0e94961b9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202004/22/content_WS5e9ff2d2c6d0b3f0e94961b9.html)

<sup>625</sup> China in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 9 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>626</sup> Quick view: State Council executive meeting on April 21, State Council of the PRC. 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202004/22/content\\_WS5e9ff2d2c6d0b3f0e94961b9.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202004/22/content_WS5e9ff2d2c6d0b3f0e94961b9.html)

<sup>627</sup> Coronavirus: China extends welfare support to vast migrant labour force amid unprecedented challenges, Sun of China Morning Post. 21 April 2020. Access date May 9, 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3080931/coronavirus-china-extends-welfare-support-vast-migrant-labour>

billion for new information infrastructure and RMB 280 billion for network infrastructure, including 5G, on 2020. This strategy is forecasted to create three million jobs by 2025.<sup>628</sup>

On 7 May 2020, China announced it would remove quotas for their dollar-denominated and yuan-denominated qualified foreign institutional investor schemes to attract capital inflows and offset the negative impacts of the Coronavirus to the economy. The new policy is set to come into effect on 6 June.<sup>629</sup> As of 7 May 2020, PBC open market operations had provided a liquidity injection of RMB 3.33 trillion into the market.<sup>630</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the State Council announced the government's "six priorities" to overcome the difficulties of the crisis and stabilize employment, trade, investment finances and expectations. These are "safeguarding employment, people's livelihoods, food, and energy security, the stable operation of industrial and supply chains, and the smooth functioning of society."<sup>631</sup> It was agreed that the government would stick to those parameters to increase the macroeconomic regulation, get better results from the monetary, fiscal, social security and employment policies.<sup>632</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the government announced in a report that they are planning to issue RMB 3.75 of local government special bonds, an increase of RMB 1.6 from last year.<sup>633</sup>

Compared to other major G20 economies, China has been relatively restrained from spending on big support packages or injecting money into the financial system. China's 2.5 per cent of GDP stimulus plan is low compared to other similar-sized economies, like the US's fiscal spending of 11 per cent of GDP or Germany's 18.2 per cent of GDP. The PBC has announced measures to support the economy and increase liquidity. China has implemented policies to support the economy through tax relief, partial coverage of unemployment insurance, social security provision to vulnerable populations and expanding credit for individuals and businesses. Yet, different from other large economies, China did not implement policy measures like direct transfers to individuals or businesses, forbearance, partial wage subsidies, or other tools that could better support income for consumers and not only for key industries or most vulnerable sectors.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.<sup>634</sup>

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **France: +1**

France fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

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<sup>628</sup> New infrastructure to drive growth, China Daily. 6 May 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/06/content\\_WS5eb20ecfc6d0b3f0e9497089.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/06/content_WS5eb20ecfc6d0b3f0e9497089.html)

<sup>629</sup> Removal of quota caps to boost capital inflows, State Council of the PRC. 9 May 2020. Access Date: 4 June 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/09/content\\_WS5eb608a8c6d0b3f0e9497426.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/09/content_WS5eb608a8c6d0b3f0e9497426.html)

<sup>630</sup> China in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated 7 May 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>631</sup> Govt policy moves from past week, State Council. 19 May 2020. Access date 4 June 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/19/content\\_WS5ec3364ec6d0b3f0e9497f30.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/19/content_WS5ec3364ec6d0b3f0e9497f30.html)

<sup>632</sup> Govt policy moves from past week, State Council. May 19, 2020. Access date June 4, 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/19/content\\_WS5ec3364ec6d0b3f0e9497f30.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202005/19/content_WS5ec3364ec6d0b3f0e9497f30.html)

<sup>633</sup> Government Work Report, China Government Network. 22 May, 2020. Access date July 14, 2020.

[http://www.gov.cn/premier/2020-05/22/content\\_5513757.htm?mc\\_cid=eda4261765&mc\\_eid=ab3d30d2a3](http://www.gov.cn/premier/2020-05/22/content_5513757.htm?mc_cid=eda4261765&mc_eid=ab3d30d2a3)

<sup>634</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Commerce and other respective government agencies, research institutions' and organizations' trackers such as the IMF's, as well as news sources found through Google News including China Daily.



Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Government of France has implemented a fiscal package for households, businesses and the healthcare sector valued at around EUR 16.5 billion. Around EUR 8.5 billion have been allocated to the short-time work scheme, around EUR 4.5 billion were allocated for various health measures, while EUR 1.5 billion was spent in the “Solidarity Fund” to support self-employed workers and small enterprises.<sup>635</sup>

The states and the regions set up a EUR 1 billion Solidarity Fund to support self-employed workers and small businesses survive the effects of the crisis, so far, insurance companies, inter-municipal authorities, and larger companies have contributed to the fund.<sup>636</sup> The fund will allow companies to receive aid in an amount equal to their losses from March to May 2020, up to a limit of EUR 1,500. Also, the fund allows for the possibility of additional aid between EUR 2,000-5,000 for companies who cannot cover their debts with the initial amount.<sup>637</sup>

To support businesses, France is deferring April and May payments of social security contributions for three months and without penalties to the “Union de recouvrement des cotisations de sécurité sociale et d’allocations familiales,” the main collector of employer social security contributions. This tax deferral measure is available to entrepreneurs, self-employed individuals and companies with less than 5,000 employees.<sup>638</sup> Also, micro-entrepreneurs can request partial or total assistance to pay their contributions in the case that they are having difficulties to pay arising from the crisis.<sup>639</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the Council for Social Protection for Independent Workers announced that craftsmen and retail traders would get a one-time tax-free payment of up to EUR 1,250.<sup>640</sup> In addition, to support economically insecure individuals and avoid homelessness, France has extended the suspension of evictions from living spaces until the end of July 2020 and increased the housing spaces for homeless people through hotel rooms requisition.<sup>641</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Government of France announced an extension to the initial emergency plan, making EUR 110 billion available to deal with the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>642</sup> The extension adds to the existing EUR 45 billion fund, and will be used to provide bonuses to health workers, funds for households in poverty, and additional unemployment aid. Through the package, workers were granted a bonus of EUR 1,500 euros for working extra hours. Also, EUR 1 billion will be put towards granting emergency aid to more than four million families

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<sup>635</sup> France in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>636</sup> Fonds de solidarité pour les TPE, indépendants et micro-entrepreneurs: une aide pouvant aller jusqu’à 1500 Euros, Gouvernement de la France. Access date 18 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/fonds-de-solidarite-pour-les-tpe-independants-et-micro>

<sup>637</sup> Fonds de solidarité pour les TPE, indépendants et micro-entrepreneurs: une aide pouvant aller jusqu’à 1500 Euros, Gouvernement de la France. Access date 18 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/fonds-de-solidarite-pour-les-tpe-independants-et-micro>

<sup>638</sup> Délais de paiement d’échéances sociales et/ou fiscales (URSSAF, impôts directs), Gouvernement de la France. Access date 18 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/delais-de-paiement-decheances-sociales-et-ou-fiscales-urssaf>

<sup>639</sup> Délais de paiement d’échéances sociales et/ou fiscales (URSSAF, impôts directs), Gouvernement de France. Access date 18 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/delais-de-paiement-decheances-sociales-et-ou-fiscales-urssaf>

<sup>640</sup> France in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 19 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>641</sup> France in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 19 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>642</sup> French Government boosts Covid-19 emergency fund to 110 billion euros, RFI. 4 April 2020. Access date 18 May 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200415-french-government-boosts-covid-19-emergency-fund-to-110-billion-euros-health-workers-unemployed-coronavirus>

receiving welfare benefits through a one-time bonus of EUR 150 per family, plus an additional EUR 100 per child.<sup>643</sup> The extension will also assign EUR 24 billion in support to laid-off workers in the private sector, and EUR 7 billion to support small businesses, and independent workers affected by the lockdown.<sup>644</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance extended loan guarantees to real estate companies, firms in difficulty since January 2020, and “Young Innovative Companies.”<sup>645</sup> The government is granting up to EUR 300 billion on loan guarantees for “companies of all sizes and whatever their legal form” until December 2020.<sup>646</sup> Also, the government is offering support by assigning Bank of France credit mediators to help businesses define a financing action plan until June 2020.<sup>647</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Government of France launched the “Tourism Support Plan” developed by the Interministerial Committee for Tourism. The announcement extended the solidarity fund for companies in the tourism, events, culture, and sports industries until the end of 2020 and includes an equity investment plan of EUR 1.3 billion.<sup>648</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Germany and France proposed to the European Commission to raise EUR 545 billion to set up a “Coronavirus Aid Fund.” The proposal is for the EU to borrow and use the money as grants for hard-hit regions and sectors. As of 26 May 2020, the proposal is yet to be approved by the other EU members.<sup>649</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Government of France announced they would support French exporting companies through 1) state-guarantees and pre-financing of export projects, 2) extending the prospecting-running insurance for one year, 3) providing EUR 2 billion to short-term export credit insurance, and 4) support and information by the export team in France.<sup>650</sup>

France has implemented policy tools to help the most affected populations and businesses deal with the effects of the pandemic. They government has crafted a bold and generous emergency response that protects unemployment, vulnerable households, and the healthcare system through help in the social security, one-time bonuses, tax deferrals and reductions, and loan-guarantees.

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<sup>643</sup> French Government boosts Covid-19 emergency fund to 110 billion euros, RFI. 4 April 2020. Access date 18 May 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200415-french-government-boosts-covid-19-emergency-fund-to-110-billion-euros-health-workers-unemployed-coronavirus>

<sup>644</sup> French Government boosts Covid-19 emergency fund to 110 billion euros, RFI. 4 April 2020. Access date 18 May 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200415-french-government-boosts-covid-19-emergency-fund-to-110-billion-euros-health-workers-unemployed-coronavirus>

<sup>645</sup> Prêt garanti par l'État, Gouvernement de France. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/pre-garanti-par-letat>

<sup>646</sup> Prêt garanti par l'État, Gouvernement de France. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/pre-garanti-par-letat>

<sup>647</sup> Government measures to assist companies and workers impacted by COVID-19, Choose France. March 18, 2020. Access Date 18 May 2020. [https://qa.ambafrance.org/IMG/pdf/french\\_government\\_measures\\_coronavirus\\_eng.pdf?4305/9e028b92467446818491552f56cb4f288a0b99d2](https://qa.ambafrance.org/IMG/pdf/french_government_measures_coronavirus_eng.pdf?4305/9e028b92467446818491552f56cb4f288a0b99d2).

<sup>648</sup> Launch of the Tourism Support Plan, Government of France. May 15, 2020. Access date May 18, 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/lancement-plan-tourisme-evenementiel-sportif-culturel#>

<sup>649</sup> Merkel, Breaking German ‘taboo’, backs shared E.U. Debt to Tackle Virus, The New York Times. May 15, 2020. Access date May 26, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/world/europe/coronavirus-european-union-fund.html>

<sup>650</sup> Support plan for French exporting Companies, Government of France. March 31, 2020. Access date May 18, 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/les-mesures/plan-de-soutien-aux-entreprises-francaises-exportatrices>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with its commitment to use all available policy tools and do whatever it takes to minimize the economic effects from the pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, the Bundesrat adopted the Wirtschaftsstabilisierungsfonds (WSF), a comprehensive direct income support package for employees and enterprises. It will provide up to EUR 50 billion in immediate financial assistance in the form of grants of EUR 15,000 for companies of up to 10 employees and EUR 9,000 for companies with up to five employees to cover for operating costs for three months. Independent workers and freelancers will also be compensated for the lost earnings.<sup>651</sup> Additionally, the WSF will provide EUR 400 billion to provide guarantees and tackle liquidity problems, EUR 100 billion for direct state holding and EUR 100 billion for refinancing of large KfW (state-owned development bank) loans.<sup>652</sup> Finally, the WSF will provide additional liquidity assistance and increase lending through loan-guarantees and covering the maximum share of risk permitted by EU legislation for KfW loans.<sup>653</sup>

Starting on 1 April 2020, the government is extending EUR 7.7 billion for social security protection for self-employed persons, as well as simplifying the process for receiving the benefits.<sup>654</sup> The Kinderzuschlag child allowance scheme was also redesigned to include children of parents who temporarily lose income from the pandemic.<sup>655</sup> Because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit, it does not count toward compliance.

Since 1 April 2020, missed rent payment cannot lead to evictions and the payments will be postponed until 30 June. In addition, any household encountering problems to pay for consumption costs, including electricity, gas, telecommunication, and water, can postpone the payment without any late fees or forced debt collection.<sup>656</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced a special EUR 2 billion aid package to increase support for start-ups. The package will increase the funds for co-investments with the private investors and makes financing through venture capital and equity easier.<sup>657</sup>

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<sup>651</sup> Minister Altmaier: "Unprecedented support programme for employees and enterprises," Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. 27 March 2020. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200327-altmaier-unprecedented-support-programme-for-employees-and-enterprises.html>

<sup>652</sup> Minister Altmaier: "Unprecedented support programme for employees and enterprises," Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. 27 March 2020. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200327-altmaier-unprecedented-support-programme-for-employees-and-enterprises.html>

<sup>653</sup> Minister Altmaier: "Unprecedented support programme for employees and enterprises," Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. 27 March 2020. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200327-altmaier-unprecedented-support-programme-for-employees-and-enterprises.html>

<sup>654</sup> Coronavirus emergency aid for companies and the self-employed. Firma.de. 14 April 2020. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.firma.de/en/business-management/coronavirus-emergency-aid-for-companies-and-the-self-employed/>

<sup>655</sup> A strong welfare state in the time of crisis, Bundesministerium für arbeit soziales. 23 March 2020. Access date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/sozialschutzpaket.html>

<sup>656</sup> Germany in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 10 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>657</sup> Start-ups get 2 billion euros, Ministry of Finance. 1 April 2020. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/Finanzpolitik/2020/04/2020-04-01-PM.html>

On 6 April 2020, the Government of Germany announced a “limitless” loan guarantee program to support SMEs by providing 100 per cent guarantee loans of up to EUR 800,000 through KfW for companies between 11 and 250 employees. The deliberate decision to not set any limits on the amount of loans is an extremely significant decision of the federal government and will provide liquidity for the small and medium-sized enterprises to continue their activities.<sup>658</sup>

On 23 April 2020, an additional EUR 10.8 billion was released for further aid measures to help workers in short-time scheme. It will increase the short-time work allowance compensations until December 2020, from 60 per cent to 70 per cent of the net pay from the allowance from the fourth month, while increasing it to 80 per cent of the net pay of the seventh month.

Throughout the compliance period, the Federal Ministry of Finance has implemented various tax relief measures to support struggling taxpayers. First, businesses unable to pay taxes can file applications for temporary interest-free deferrals of income, corporation or value-added taxes until 31 December. Also, businesses, self-employed workers and freelancers who can show an expected loss of income can apply to a readjustment of tax prepayments.<sup>659</sup> Until the end of 2020, the measures to enforce payment of income, corporation and overdue value added tax (VAT) will be waived, as well as late-payment penalties.<sup>660</sup> The VAT rate will be reduced from 19 per cent to 7 per cent between July 2020 and June 2021 to support the recovery of restaurants.<sup>661</sup>

On 19 May, Germany and France proposed to the European Commission to raise EUR 545 billion to set up a Coronavirus Aid Fund. The proposal is for the European Union to borrow and use the money as grants for hard-hit regions and sectors.<sup>662</sup>

During the compliance period, Germany has implemented measures that ensure the protection for all, from households to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and large companies, by covering for social security benefits, short-time work compensation, and providing loan-guarantees and “unlimited” loans.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

## **India: +1**

India fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the policy repo rate by 75 basis points, and the cash reserve ration of all banks by 100 basis points from four to three per cent until 25 March 2021. Also, the marginal standing facility rate and bank rate stand were reduced from 5.40 per

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<sup>658</sup> Germany Plans ‘Limitless’ Credit Program for Small Companies, Bloomberg. Access date 10 May 2020.

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/onweb/germany-plans-limitless-credit-program-for-small-companies>

<sup>659</sup> Tax Measures to assist all businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Federal ministry of Finance. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Corona/2020-03-20-Tax-measures-to-assist-businesses.html>

<sup>660</sup> Tax Measures to assist all businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Federal ministry of Finance. Access date 10 May 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Corona/2020-03-20-Tax-measures-to-assist-businesses.html>

<sup>661</sup> Germany in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 10 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>662</sup> Merkel, Breaking German ‘taboo’, backs shared E.U. Debt to Tackle Virus, The New York Times. 15 May 2020. Access date May 26, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/world/europe/coronavirus-european-union-fund.html>

cent to 4.65 per cent.<sup>663</sup> Also, the RBI provided relief to borrowers and lenders, by allowing companies three months of moratorium on loan repayments while relaxing the norms for debt default.<sup>664</sup>

On 31 March 2020, president Ram Nath Kovind announced some tax relief measures under the Taxation and Other Laws Ordinance. The measures including postponing the income tax return and GST tax deadline from 31 March to 30 June, and reduced rate of interest of nine per cent for delays in payments of the income-tax and cancelling penalties or prosecutions from non-payments.<sup>665</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the RBI created a facility to increase short-term liquidity and released export repatriation limits.<sup>666</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the RBI reduced the liquidity coverage ratio for banks from 100 per cent to 80 per cent to ease tensions in liquidity, which is expected to inject INR 4.74 lakh crore to the economy. They also reduced the reverse repo by 25 basis points to 3.75 per cent through targeted long-term refinancing operations to stimulate bank lending.<sup>667</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the RBI announced that a liquidity injection of INR 50,000 crore to conduct repo operations and provide liquidity for banks to extend loans to mutual funds.<sup>668</sup>

On 12 May 2020, Prime Minister Modi announced the “AtmaNirbhar,” an extension of the economic rescue package pledging to spend an additional INR 20.97 lakh crore to build a “self-reliant India” to overcome the impacts of the crisis. The rescue package is divided in five tranches, which were announced every day from 12 May to 17 May. The first tranche, announced on 13 May, consisted in increasing help for micro, small and medium enterprises with 100 per cent credit-guarantee for loans, funds for equity infusion, subordinate debt for equity support. Additional INR 3 lakh crore were made be available for businesses by providing loans, credit-guarantees for unsecured loans, equity funding in MSMEs, and reducing employers and employees’ contributions to the Employees Provident Support Fund for three months.<sup>669</sup> It also included a liquidity injection of INR 90,000 crore in power distribution companies, and a 25 per cent reduction in rates of tax deducted at source on non-salaried payments until March 2021.<sup>670</sup>

The second tranche was announced on 14 May and included an investment of INR 3,500 crore to supply free food grain to migrants for two months, a special liquidity scheme to provide INR 10,000

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<sup>663</sup> Key highlights of Reserve Bank of India Press Release, Dewan P.N. Chopra and Co March 27, 2020. Access date 15 May 2020.

<sup>664</sup> India in IMF Policy Responses to Covid-19 Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date May 15, 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>

<sup>665</sup> India-COVID-19: Tax Relief Measures, KPMG in India. 13 May 2020. Access date May 15, 2020 <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/05/flash-alert-2020-228.html>

<sup>666</sup> India in IMF Policy Responses to Covid-19 Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date May 15, 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>

<sup>667</sup> India-COVID-19: Tax Relief Measures, KPMG in India. 13 May 2020. Access date May 15, 2020 <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/05/flash-alert-2020-228.html>

<sup>668</sup> Explained: What RBI’s Rs 50,000 crore boost means for mutual funds, The Indian Express. April 28, 2020. Access date May 20, 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-rbis-rs-50000-crore-boost-means-for-mutual-funds-6381134/>

<sup>669</sup> Finance Minister announce measures for relief and credit support related to businesses, especially MSMEs to support Indian Economy’s fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Finance. 13 May 2020. Access date 13 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1623601>

<sup>670</sup> Explained: Breaking down Centre’s Atmanirbhar package, The Indian Express. May 20, 2020. Access date May 20, 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/atmanirbhar-package-full-break-up-of-rs-20-lakh-crore-nirmala-sitharaman-lockdown-6414044/>

to about 5 million street vendors, additional funding of INR 30,00 crore for farmers, and concessional credit to 2.5 crore farmers through government-sponsored credit cards.<sup>671</sup> On 15 May, the third tranche of the AtmaNirbhar package was presented and included INR 100,000 crore in financing for agro-infrastructure projects and INR 15,000 for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure, and funds to safeguard rural employment, post-harvest activities, and fishermen.<sup>672</sup> On 16 May, tranche four of the AtmaNirbhar package pushed old reform proposals of commercial mining and an increase in the foreign direct investment limit for the defense and aerospace sectors.<sup>673</sup> Finally, Tranche 5, announced on 17 May, included a new policy to privatize public sector enterprises in non-strategic sectors and an additional INR 40,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.<sup>674</sup> It was also announced that borrowing limits for the states would be raised from 3 per cent to 5 per cent of gross domestic product conditioned to implementing the proposed reforms under the AtmaNirbhar economic package.<sup>675</sup>

On 22 May, the RBI cut the main policy rate, by 40 basis points to 4 per cent.<sup>676</sup> The same day, the RBI announced a series of additional monetary policy measures to ease the tensions in the economy. To improve the functioning of markets, the RBI extended the periods for a special refinance facility of INR 15,000 crore for Small Industries Development Bank of India and for the Voluntary Retention Route for Foreign Portfolio Investors.<sup>677</sup> Also, To support exports, India is extending export credits, opening a line of credit of INR 15,000 for and extended the deadline for the settlement of import payments from 6 to 12 months.<sup>678</sup>

India's actions and policies have helped alleviate the economy in the short-term, especially by providing food and money transfers to rural workers, seniors, poor populations, and vulnerable households. The RBI has changed its monetary policy and engaged in market activities and injections in the economy to protect it from the negative effects of the crisis. Two major economic rescue packages have been announced which included fiscal and monetary policy tools and have showed that the government is doing "whatever it takes" to deal with the economic effects of the pandemic. India has focused in implementing policies that support vulnerable segments of the population, through programs that support street vendors or farmers, as well as providing support to MSMEs through extending loan access and reducing their pension contributions.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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<sup>671</sup> Explained: Breaking down Centre's Atmanirbhar package, The Indian Express. May 20, 2020. Access date May 20, 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/atmanirbhar-package-full-break-up-of-rs-20-lakh-crore-nirmala-sitharaman-lockdown-6414044/>

<sup>672</sup> Explained: Breaking down Centre's Atmanirbhar package, The Indian Express. 20 May 2020. Access date 20 May 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/atmanirbhar-package-full-break-up-of-rs-20-lakh-crore-nirmala-sitharaman-lockdown-6414044/>

<sup>673</sup> Tranche 4: Mining to aviation, Govt pushes reforms it has already pushed, The Indian Express. 17 May 2020. Access date 20 May 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/nirmala-sitharaman-coronavirus-economic-package-reform-6413632/>

<sup>674</sup> Explained: Breaking down Centre's Atmanirbhar package, The Indian Express. 20 May 2020. Access date 20 May 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/atmanirbhar-package-full-break-up-of-rs-20-lakh-crore-nirmala-sitharaman-lockdown-6414044/>

<sup>675</sup> India in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 20 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>676</sup> India in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 20 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>677</sup> Governor's Statement – May 22, 2020, Reserve Bank of India. 22 May 2020. Access date July 14, 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/bs\\_viewcontent.aspx?Id=3859](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=3859)

<sup>678</sup> Import of goods and services- Extension of time limits for Settlement of import payment, Reserve Bank of India. 22 May 2020. Access date 14 July 2020. <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11900&Mode=0>

## **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 31 March 2020, a third fiscal stimulus package worth IDR 405.1 trillion was announced. The package will allocate IDR 110 trillion in social protection, IDR 75 trillion for health expenses, IDR 70.1 trillion for tax incentives and micro-credit, and IDR 150 trillion for economic recovery.<sup>679</sup> Social protection will be increased through food assistance and discounts in electricity payments for around ten million households. Specifically, starting on 20 April, a staple food package worth IDR 150,000 will be delivered every week to laid-off workers in Jakarta. Also, it will provide IDR 600,000 monthly cash transfers for vulnerable families that do not receive the staple food packages.<sup>680</sup> Free electricity will be provided to 24 million households and IDR 1.5 trillion will be allocated to provide housing interest subsidies for lower income households.<sup>681</sup> The fiscal stimulus also included plans to permanently reduce the corporate income tax rate by three percentage points to 22 per cent over 2020-2022.<sup>682</sup> On the same day, the government announced a relaxation of the state budget deficit policy above 3 per cent of the GDP until 2022.<sup>683</sup>

Starting 1 April 2020, Bank Indonesia (BI) implemented measures to stabilize the rupiah which hit its lowest in April since 1998. These measures included cutting the US dollar reserve requirement ratio (RRR) from 8 per cent to 4 per cent and the rupiah RRR by 50 basis points. BI also purchased government bonds on the secondary market and intervened to stabilize the rupiah in the domestic non-deliverable forward and spot markets.<sup>684</sup>

On 11 April 2020, the Government of Indonesia launched a IDR 20 trillion “Pre-employment Card Program,” to provide a social safety net for 5.6 million unemployed individuals not receiving any unemployment benefits or assistance.<sup>685</sup> As of 5 May, around nine million candidates applied for the program, which would enable them to receive direct aid of IDR 3.5 million over four months plus IDR 1 million for training.<sup>686</sup>

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<sup>679</sup> Indonesia in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 28 April 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>680</sup> Indonesia in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 28 April 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>681</sup> Indonesia in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 28 April 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>682</sup> Indonesia rolls out nearly \$25 billion more spending for coronavirus, Reuters. 31 March 2020. Access date 27 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-indonesia/indonesia-rolls-out-nearly-25-billion-more-spending-for-coronavirus-idUSKBN21I121>

<sup>683</sup> Indonesia, government and institution measures in response to COVID, KPMG. 22 April 2020. Access date July 19, 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/indonesia-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>684</sup> Indonesia in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 3 May 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>685</sup> Govt introduces new social benefit as 2.8 million lose jobs, The Jakarta Post. 13 April 2020. Access date 27 April 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/13/govt-introduces-new-social-benefits-as-2-8-million-lose-jobs.html>

<sup>686</sup> Preemployment card draws criticism as workers ‘need cash aid’, The Jakarta Post. 5 May 2020. Access date 11 May 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/04/preemployment-card-draws-criticism-as-workers-need-cash-aid.html>

On 14 April 2020, BI cut the reserve ratio requirement by 200 basis points and raised the macro prudential liquidity buffer ratio by 200 basis points for conventional banks.<sup>687</sup> The BI also relaxed the credit card policy by lowering minimum payment requirements, penalties for late payments and the upper limit on interest.<sup>688</sup> Other measures include increasing the maximum duration of repo and reverse repo operations to up to twelve months, engaging in daily repo auctions, and increasing the frequency of foreign exchange swap auctions to three times per week.<sup>689</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the Government of Indonesia granted additional funds to the 31 March stimulus package to arrive at a total of IDR 641 trillion. The government increased the amount of money for social security announced on 31 March package from IDR 110 trillion to IDR 172.1 trillion. Also, IDR 34.15 will be used towards loan repayment subsidies for around 60 million borrowers.<sup>690</sup> The money is aimed to reduce the impact from the crisis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and state-owned enterprises. Specifically, the government will allocate IDR 149.29 trillion to bailout twelve state-owned enterprises through cash transfers to support working capital investments. IDR 65.1 trillion will be spent in tourism and housing, as well as reserve for fiscal stimulus. To guarantee working capital investment for MSMEs, Indonesia will provide funds to guarantee loans.<sup>691</sup> The additional money will be used towards tax incentives, strengthening social safety nets, capital injections into state-owned enterprises, and providing interest rates subsidies for MSMEs.<sup>692</sup>

Indonesia is in the process of implementing three stimulus packages to support the populations and respond the shocks to the economy. The adopted measures include monetary and fiscal policies that have been positive to support laid-off employees, specifically in the manufacturing sector, and protect the basic needs of vulnerable populations through staple food packages and support for payments of services. To support businesses, Indonesia is making efforts to extend loans, social security coverage, and reducing taxes. Indonesia is struggling to finance the budget deficit that could allow for policy maneuver space for an effective response. In response, the BI has showed support through their actions, from lowering the RRR to intervening in the primary and secondary markets, while the government will allow this deficit to go beyond the legal limit until 2022.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage of the pandemic.

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<sup>687</sup> Indonesia in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 3 May 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>688</sup> BI 7-Day Reserve Repo Rate Held at 4,50%, Rupiah Reserve Requirement Lowered by 200 bps: Strengthening synergy to mitigate the risk of covid-19, Bank of Indonesia. 14 April 2020. Access date 3 May 2020.

[https://www.bi.go.id/en/ruang-media/siaran-pers/Pages/sp\\_223020.aspx](https://www.bi.go.id/en/ruang-media/siaran-pers/Pages/sp_223020.aspx)

<sup>689</sup> Indonesia in IMF Policy Responses to Covid-19 Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date 3 May 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>

<sup>690</sup> Government rolls out \$43b stimulus in bid to rescue economy. The Jakarta Post. 19 May 2020. Access date July 11, 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/18/govt-rolls-out-43b-stimulus-in-bid-to-rescue-economy.html>

<sup>691</sup> Government rolls out \$43b stimulus in bid to rescue economy, The Jakarta Post. 19 May 2020. Access date 19 July, 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/18/govt-rolls-out-43b-stimulus-in-bid-to-rescue-economy.html>

<sup>692</sup> Government rolls out \$43b stimulus in bid to rescue economy, The Jakarta Post. 19 May 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/18/govt-rolls-out-43b-stimulus-in-bid-to-rescue-economy.html>



On 9 April 2020, the “Liquidity decree” worth over EUR 400 billion came into force to inject liquidity to support the economy. The decree includes several measures aiming to reduce the impact caused by COVID-19 to companies. It will provide loan-guarantees for banks, national, and international financial institutions to extend credit to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through loans of up to EUR 800,000 until 31 December 2020.<sup>693</sup> Additionally, up to EUR 10 billion will be provided in state guarantee to finance medium and big enterprises that would not receive support through the SMEs guarantee program. The decree also included support for exports through a co-insurance system where the State will assume 90 per cent of the export insurance, freeing an additional EUR 200 to increase exports.<sup>694</sup> The “liquidity decree” also expanded the “Gasparini fund,” allowing the suspension of the installment payments on housing mortgage for up to eighteen months. The fund will also be available to employees that have experienced a reduction in working hours or suspension of activities of at least thirty days, and self-employed workers and professionals who have experienced a decrease in turnover of more than 33 per cent.<sup>695</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the government launched “Relaunch” strategy which provided with additional EUR 55 billion to the initial “Cura Italia” package of fiscal measures to recover from the pandemic.<sup>696</sup> The measure will provide additional EUR 25 billion to support employment and guarantee income. EUR 16 billion will be allocated to the “Wages Guarantee Fund” to compensate for 80 per cent of the total wage of workers that stopped their activities because of the pandemic. Also, freelancers, seasonal workers, and self-employed individuals will receive an additional reimbursement of EUR 600 in April, and EUR 1,000 will be disbursed to the most vulnerable individuals.<sup>697</sup> The “Relaunch” program also allows immigrant workers in farm or as domestic helpers to access healthcare and other services in the same way as residents of Italy. The government has also opened the possibility for undocumented migrant workers to apply for a six-month residence permit, and will grant financial support of EUR 160 for each worker that receives residence.<sup>698</sup> The program includes bonuses of EUR 1,200 for parents that cannot take care of their children to be used in hiring childcare services or summer camps. In addition, to support parents with children, the government is allowing to extend the family leave from 15 to 30 days and will pay for 50 per cent of the pay.<sup>699</sup> Finally, EUR 150 million will be used towards funding for assistance and services for people with disabilities.<sup>700</sup> The “Relaunch” decree also included various tax relief measures to support the economy. Medium enterprises and self-employed workers are not required to pay the balance due for the 2019 corporate tax or the first installment of 40 per cent the corporate tax for 2020. Also, during the months of March, April and May, a tax credit equal to 60 per cent of the rent will be given to commercial tenants that have seen a decrease of 50 per cent in turnover

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<sup>693</sup> Sostegno alla liquidità delle famiglie e delle imprese, Government of Italy. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<http://www.mef.gov.it/covid-19/Sostegno-alla-liquidita-delle-famiglie-e-delle-imprese/>

<sup>694</sup> Sostegno alla liquidità delle famiglie e delle imprese, Government of Italy. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<http://www.mef.gov.it/covid-19/Sostegno-alla-liquidita-delle-famiglie-e-delle-imprese/>

<sup>695</sup> Sostegno alla liquidità delle famiglie e delle imprese, Government of Italy. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<http://www.mef.gov.it/covid-19/Sostegno-alla-liquidita-delle-famiglie-e-delle-imprese/>

<sup>696</sup> Decreto Rilancio, 155 miliardi di euro per la Fase due dell’Economia, Government of Italy. 14 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <http://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Decreto-Rilancio-155-miliardi-di-euro-per-la-Fase-due-dellEconomia/>

<sup>697</sup> Decreto Rilancio, 155 miliardi di euro per la Fase due dell’Economia, Government of Italy. May 14, 2020. Access date 20 May 2020. <http://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Decreto-Rilancio-155-miliardi-di-euro-per-la-Fase-due-dellEconomia/>

<sup>698</sup> What you need to know about Italy’s “Relaunch Decree,” The Local it. 15 May 2020. Access date 29 May 2020.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20200514/what-you-need-to-know-about-italy-relaunch-decree>

<sup>699</sup> What you need to know about Italy’s “Relaunch Decree,” The Local it. 15 May 2020. Access date 29 May 2020.

<https://www.thelocal.it/20200514/what-you-need-to-know-about-italy-relaunch-decree>

<sup>700</sup> Decreto Rilancio, 155 miliardi di euro per la Fase due dell’Economia, Government of Italy. 14 May 2020. Access Date 29 May 2020. <http://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Decreto-Rilancio-155-miliardi-di-euro-per-la-Fase-due-dellEconomia/>

because of the crisis.<sup>701</sup> From 8 April to 30 April, the payments for withholding, social security, welfare contributions and premiums on insurance, and value-added tax will be suspended for businesses in the most affected industries of tourism, entertainment, and transport.<sup>702</sup> Also, tax payments for all businesses are postponed to 31 May, and it is possible to divide the payment in five monthly installments without interest or penalties.<sup>703</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Bank of Italy extended the additional credit claim frameworks to include loans backed by COVID-19 guarantees for the public sector.<sup>704</sup> In addition, the National Financial Authorities (CONSOB) suspended the shorting of shares and lowered the minimum threshold for communicating participation in a listed company for three months to avoid volatility in financial markets and strengthen transparency of holdings in the stock exchange.<sup>705</sup>

The Government of Italy has engaged in strong fiscal and monetary policy to help struggling businesses and individuals recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe adopted the “Emergency Economic Package against COVID-19” worth JPY 117 trillion or 21.7 per cent of gross domestic product, adding additional JPY 38 trillion of public spending. The package includes measures to control the spread of the virus and build medical structures, measures in support of business, cash transfers to the population and measures to stimulate demand after the outbreak finishes. The measure in support of businesses included in the economic package include the provision of real interest-free unsecured loans, allowing recurring debts to be refinanced through interest free loans, and deferring payments of national taxes and social security premiums without collateral and penalties.<sup>706</sup> Support will also include expansion of work subsidies, subsidies for rent payments for affected firms.<sup>707</sup> To support employment, Japan will expand the eligibility for companies to receive subsidies to continue to pay the “leave allowance” from 1 April until 30 June 2020.<sup>708</sup> In addition, the government will provide

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<sup>701</sup> Le misure fiscali adottate dal Governo, Government of Italy. Access date 29 May 2020. <http://www.mef.gov.it/covid-19/Le-misure-fiscali-adottate-dal-Governo/>

<sup>702</sup> Insight: COVID-19 Tax Measures Introduced in Italy, Bloomberg Tax. 30 March 2020. Access date 29 May 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-covid-19-tax-measures-introduced-in-italy>

<sup>703</sup> Insight: COVID-19 Tax Measures Introduced in Italy, Bloomberg Tax. 30 March 2020. Access date 29 May 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-covid-19-tax-measures-introduced-in-italy>

<sup>704</sup> Credit claims as collateral for refinancing operations with the Eurosystem: measures taken by the bank of Italy in response to the COVID-19 emergency, Banca d'Italia. 20 May 2020. Access date 28 May 2020. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/credit-claims-as-collateral-for-refinancing-operations-with-the-eurosystem/?com.dotmarketing.htmlpage.language=1>

<sup>705</sup> Italy in IMF policy tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date 28 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>

<sup>706</sup> Emergency economic measures to cope with COVID-19, Cabinet Office of Japan. April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. [https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420\\_economic\\_measures.pdf](https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420_economic_measures.pdf)

<sup>707</sup> Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19, Prime minister of Japan and his Cabinet. Updated 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10900000/000624440.pdf>

<sup>708</sup> COVID-19: Japanese Economic Stimulus Package is Unveiled, The National Law Review. 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-japanese-economic-stimulus-package-unveiled>

JPY 8,330 childcare subsidies for parents that stay at home to take care of their children from also until 30 June.<sup>709</sup> The package also included many loan and loan guarantee programs, where the government will subsidize the interest rate on no-collateral loans for small and medium-sized enterprises struggling because of COVID-19. Japan engaged in refinancing existing loans through government-related institutions to allow for subsidizing interest and no collateral in their loans.<sup>710</sup>

In terms of tax relief, the stimulus package announced 7 April, included various tax relief measures. The government provided one-year moratorium for some national and local taxes while pushing back social insurance premiums payments for businesses that have seen a 20 per cent fall in revenue until 31 January 2021.<sup>711</sup> Japan allowed for expansions in the allowed carry forward operating losses and of the scope of tax deductible from capital investments.<sup>712</sup> Also, to support businesses recovery, Japan employed adjustments for property tax and city planning tax relief for businesses that have seen decreases in revenues and allowed for depreciation on buildings and structures.<sup>713</sup>

The stimulus package also included an investment of JPY 2.3 trillion to provide with cash payments of JPY 2 million for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and JPY 1 million for individual business owners whose revenues have dropped since the pandemic.<sup>714</sup> In addition, the economic package included cash payments of JPY 100 for struggling households experiencing a loss of income from the pandemic.<sup>715</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced they would provide universal cash transfer handouts instead of providing cash transfers only to struggling households experiencing a loss of income. Thus, he pledged JPY 12.9 trillion to deliver JPY 100,000 tax-exempt cash payments to all citizens in Japan “as soon as possible.”<sup>716</sup> The Government of Japan will provide with additional JPY 10,000 per child.<sup>717</sup> The Economic Recovery Package included measures to activate demand through discounts and vouchers in the tourism, transport, food, and events industries to help them recover after the confinement period.<sup>718</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) announced more measures to ease their monetary policy to minimize the damage to the economy. The BoJ will purchase the necessary amount of Japanese

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<sup>709</sup> COVID-19: Japanese Economic Stimulus Package is Unveiled, The National Law Review. 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-japanese-economic-stimulus-package-unveiled>

<sup>710</sup> COVID-19: Japanese Economic Stimulus Package is Unveiled, The National Law Review. 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-japanese-economic-stimulus-package-unveiled>

<sup>711</sup> COVID-19: Japanese Economic Stimulus Package is Unveiled, The National Law Review. 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-japanese-economic-stimulus-package-unveiled>

<sup>712</sup> COVID-19: Japanese Economic Stimulus Package is Unveiled, The National Law Review. 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-japanese-economic-stimulus-package-unveiled>

<sup>713</sup> Japan government COVID-19 tax measures, EY Global Tax. 20 April 2020. Access Date: 18 June 2020. [https://www.ey.com/en\\_jp/ey-japan-tax-library/tax-alerts/2020/ey-japan-tax-alert-20200420-en](https://www.ey.com/en_jp/ey-japan-tax-library/tax-alerts/2020/ey-japan-tax-alert-20200420-en)

<sup>714</sup> Japan to enact 25.69 trill. yen extra budget for coronavirus package, Kyodo News. 30 April 2020. Access date 28 May 2020. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/664fbddd41ea-japan-to-enact-2569-tril-yen-extra-budget-for-coronavirus-package.html>

<sup>715</sup> Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19, Prime minister of Japan and his Cabinet. Updated 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10900000/000624440.pdf>

<sup>716</sup> Abe vows swift cash handouts as national emergency bites, Kyodo News. 17 April 2020. Access date 28 May 2020. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/d81c977f121f-urgent-cut-in-human-contact-not-enough-to-contain-virus-abe.html>

<sup>717</sup> Emergency Economic Measures to Cope with COVID-19, Cabinet Office of Japan. April 2020. Access date 28 May 2020. [https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420\\_economic\\_measures.pdf](https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420_economic_measures.pdf)

<sup>718</sup> Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19, Prime minister of Japan and his Cabinet. Updated 20 April 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10900000/000624440.pdf>

government bonds with no upper limit on amount of purchases and will raise the maximum amount of additional purchases of commercial paper and corporate bonds holdings to JPY 20 trillion.<sup>719</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the BoJ announced it would provide funds against loans to support financing for many small-and medium-sized enterprises through interest-free and unsecured loans.<sup>720</sup> Finally, starting on 25 May, the BoJ opened a swap line of USD 1.5 billion for 84 days and USD 5.3 billion for seven days, to provide USD funding.<sup>721</sup>

Japan has taken strong, bold actions to use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic through its “Emergency Economic Package against COVID-19”, cash transfers, and other actions.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 28 March 2020, the Bank of Korea (BOK) announced it would use the proceeds of swap transactions with the Fed to conduct competitive auction of US dollar loan facilities and increase US dollar funding.<sup>722</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced KRW 7.5 trillion will be allocated to provide relief in social security contributions. It will do this through KRW 7.5 trillion to offer three-month payment deferrals and KRW 0.9 trillion to reduce the contribution rate by 30 per cent for small businesses and low-income households.<sup>723</sup> Also, it will provide KRW 1.3 trillion to defer payments of electricity bills to support small businesses and low income households from April to June.<sup>724</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups announced it will provide additional KRW 2.2 trillion to the COVID-19 Special Guarantee program expand the scope from KRW 105 billion to KRW 905 billion and expanding the target group to include all industries.<sup>725</sup>

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<sup>719</sup> Japan in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated 25 May 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>720</sup> Japan in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated 25 May 2020. Access date 27 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>721</sup> Japan in Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Last updated 25 May 2020. Access date 31 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>722</sup> BOK to provide US dollar funding using the proceeds of swap transactions with the FED, International Department Bank of Korea. 29 March 2020. Access date 3 June 2020.

<sup>723</sup> Korea in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 2 June 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>724</sup> Summary of support measures for businesses by the Korean government during COVID-19, AHK. 31 March 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. [https://korea.ahk.de/fileadmin/AHK\\_Korea/Navigation\\_menu/News/COVID19/20200331\\_Summary\\_of\\_support\\_measures\\_for\\_businesses\\_in\\_Korea.pdf](https://korea.ahk.de/fileadmin/AHK_Korea/Navigation_menu/News/COVID19/20200331_Summary_of_support_measures_for_businesses_in_Korea.pdf)

<sup>725</sup> Rapid supply of technical guarantee of KRW 2,200 billion to overcome corona19, Ministry of SMEs and Startups. 31 March 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. <https://www.mss.go.kr/site/smba/ex/bbs/View.do?cbldx=86&bcldx=1017933&parentSeq=1017933>

On 1 April 2020, the Government of Korea launched a KRW 300 billion full guarantee program for SMEs and small businesses owners, along with the Industrial Bank of Korea's ultra-low interest loan guarantee program.<sup>726</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the National Tax Service provided extensions on VAT filling and payments for businesses earning KRW 60 million or less annually. Also, first VAT payment due in 24 April will be deferred to 27 July 2020 for SMEs and business owners as well as individuals in the most affected regions.<sup>727</sup>

On 8 April 2020 the Government of Korea announced a KRW 36 trillion would be provided as financial support to exporters, through extension of export insurance and guarantees, emergency liquidity of KRW 1 trillion and pre-emptive finance support for trade.<sup>728</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced support to the Sport Industry through an increase of special loans from KRW 30 billion to KRW 50 billion and one-year deferral for repayments in general loans. Also, they announced the scope of the reserve fund for the Agricultural and Fisheries sector will be expanded from KRW 10 billion to KRW 20 billion.<sup>729</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the BOK launched the corporate bond-backed lending facility, to provide a safety net for businesses, banks, and other financial institutions. The program will provide loans backed by high-quality corporate bonds as collateral for up to six months.<sup>730</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the BOK announced KRW 25 trillion in additional measures through the purchase of corporate bonds and commercial paper through a special purpose vehicle. KRW 10 trillion will be put to provide SMEs with additional lending.<sup>731</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the government announced a KRW 85 trillion support package aimed at supporting the worst-hit industries, SMEs and workers. It will provide KRW 40 trillion to support the carmakers, telecoms, airlines, and shipbuilding industries. Also, KRW 35 trillion were allocated to extend the financial relief fund for small merchants and KRW 10 trillion to extend job protection schemes.<sup>732</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the National Assembly approved the second supplementary budget of KRW 12.2 trillion to increase funding of the emergency relief payments program. It will provide emergency relief payments ranging from KRW 400,000 to one-person households to KRW 1 million to

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<sup>726</sup> Summary of support measures for businesses by the Korean government during COVID-19, AHK. 31 March 2020.

Access date 3 June 2020. [https://korea.ahk.de/fileadmin/AHK\\_Korea/Navigation\\_menu/News/COVID19/20200331\\_Summary\\_of\\_support\\_measures\\_for\\_businesses\\_in\\_Korea.pdf](https://korea.ahk.de/fileadmin/AHK_Korea/Navigation_menu/News/COVID19/20200331_Summary_of_support_measures_for_businesses_in_Korea.pdf)

<sup>727</sup> EY Tax COVID-19 Response tracker, EY. 28 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. [https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en\\_gl/topics/tax/tax-pdfs/ey-tax-covid-19-response-tracker-28-april-2020.pdf](https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_gl/topics/tax/tax-pdfs/ey-tax-covid-19-response-tracker-28-april-2020.pdf)

<sup>728</sup> Korea in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 2 June 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>729</sup> Summary of support measures for businesses by the Korean government during COVID-19, AHK. 30 April 2020.

Access date 3 June 2020. [https://korea.ahk.de/fileadmin/AHK\\_Korea/Navigation\\_menu/News/COVID19/20200331\\_Summary\\_of\\_support\\_measures\\_for\\_businesses\\_in\\_Korea.pdf](https://korea.ahk.de/fileadmin/AHK_Korea/Navigation_menu/News/COVID19/20200331_Summary_of_support_measures_for_businesses_in_Korea.pdf)

<sup>730</sup> BOK to launch corporate bond-backed lending facility, Bank of Korea. 16 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.bok.or.kr/eng/bbs/B0000308/view.do?nttid=10057757&menuNo=400380&pageIndex=1>

<sup>731</sup> Korea in IMF Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>

<sup>732</sup> South Korea boosts coronavirus crisis stimulus package to \$200 bn, Financial Times. 22 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/54f5513e-c2fc-4062-acae-538f986a5f65>

households of more than four members. The emergency relief is offered in the form of coupons and cash to encourage consumption.<sup>733</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the government announced it would support temporary and independent workers that did not receive unemployment benefits. The program is expected to reach around 930,000 workers that will receive unemployment benefits through KRW 1.5 million payments each.<sup>734</sup>

On 14 May 2020, Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki announced they aim to create 1.56 million jobs in the public sector and expand the unemployment insurance to freelancers, platform workers and contractual workers.<sup>735</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the BOK announced it would increase the ceiling on the bank intermediated Lending Support Facility from KRW 30 trillion to KRW 35 trillion to support SMEs. The measure will improve access to finance and the conditions for SMEs that have been affected by COVID-19.<sup>736</sup>

Korea has implemented significant measures to support their populations through the coronavirus crisis. It implemented generous measures such as the direct cash payments to all households and extended programs for unemployment benefits to support individuals.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Mexico: -1**

Mexico failed to comply with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020 the INFONAVIT, or the National Institute for Workers' Housing, implemented measures to support laid-off workers continued access to housing because of the pandemic. INFONAVIT will cover credit payments for up to three months for workers who become unemployed, with the possibility of extending it up to three months without additional charges.<sup>737</sup>

On 16 April 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced that the government would grant 1 million credits of MXN 25,000 for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises starting on 4

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<sup>733</sup> Parliament passes extra budget for coronavirus relief funds, Yonhap News Agency. 30 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200428006051315>

<sup>734</sup> Korea in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 2 June 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>735</sup> Korea in IMF Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date 2 June 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>

<sup>736</sup> BOK to Provide Additional Financial Support of 5 Trillion Won to SMEs Affected by COVID-19, Bank of Korea. 13 May 2020. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.bok.or.kr/eng/bbs/B0000308/view.do?nttId=10058185&menuNo=400380&pageIndex=1>

<sup>737</sup> Medidas de apoyo para los trabajadores frente al COVID-19, Infonavit. Access date 23 May 2020.

[https://portal.mx.infonavit.org.mx/wps/portal/infonavit.web/trabajadores/tengo-un-credito/medidas\\_proteccion\\_covid/!ut/p/z1/jZDNCoJQEEafxYXLnLlWcmtnUVpEGCHabELDroJ6wyzp7TNbBfkzuxnOGWY-IPCB8uCZiKBMZB6kdX8i42xYiPZywbccHQ82AeGzpHr6E7BawCd1oLZHUL2xzN9Wqzmu3GuuUyoCE-tpSJw\\_wOgLRxe0AN0vbBFHsA1gd8Mui7YgskUhl-AzfzcMwFUBFdoylqtEdRj-OyvN3nKqpYVZUmpBRppF1kpul\\_JZb3EvxfEm6Z6\\_qYbEYUvipTUd5zLD4f/dz/d5/L2dBISevZ0FBIS9nQSEh/](https://portal.mx.infonavit.org.mx/wps/portal/infonavit.web/trabajadores/tengo-un-credito/medidas_proteccion_covid/!ut/p/z1/jZDNCoJQEEafxYXLnLlWcmtnUVpEGCHabELDroJ6wyzp7TNbBfkzuxnOGWY-IPCB8uCZiKBMZB6kdX8i42xYiPZywbccHQ82AeGzpHr6E7BawCd1oLZHUL2xzN9Wqzmu3GuuUyoCE-tpSJw_wOgLRxe0AN0vbBFHsA1gd8Mui7YgskUhl-AzfzcMwFUBFdoylqtEdRj-OyvN3nKqpYVZUmpBRppF1kpul_JZb3EvxfEm6Z6_qYbEYUvipTUd5zLD4f/dz/d5/L2dBISevZ0FBIS9nQSEh/)

May. The credits will be granted to companies that are part of the Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social (IMSS) and that had not laid off any employees or reduced salaries in the past three months.<sup>738</sup>

On 22 April 2020, President López Obrador implemented a second economic stimulus package, where he announced a vast austerity program including a reduction in salaries of government officials, cancelling ten state secretariats, and cutting funds for all programs except priority ones.<sup>739</sup> He also pledged to maintain oil prices low, claiming that slow growth and low oil prices have left limited room for tax expansion strategies and thus have limited tax expansion abilities. On 22 April, the Mexican Tax Administration Service (SAT) extended the deadline to file personal income tax declarations from 30 April to 30 June.<sup>740</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Government of Mexico announced the launch of an additional credit program for businesses and households registered under the Federal Governments Wellbeing Census. The credit scheme will be similar to the one announced on 16 April, promising to grant an additional 1 million microcredits of up to MXN 25,000.<sup>741</sup>

On 29 April 2020, the IMSS advanced two bimonthly payments of the universal pension for the disabled people and elders.<sup>742</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the Banco Mexico (BANXICO) implemented various measures to inject liquidity to improve domestic markets, enhance credit through government and local banks, and implementing measures to stabilize the debt and foreign exchange markets in Mexico.<sup>743</sup> BANXICO adjusted the Ordinary Additional Liquidity Facility rate and reduced the Monetary Regulation deposit by MXN 50 million.<sup>744</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the Secretary for Economic Development and Nacional Financiera, announced the MXN 1,113 million Impulso program to provide credits ranging from MXN 25,000 to MXN 5 million to support small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>745</sup> Before implementing the program, the federal government had not opened credit-lines that could support medium or larger enterprises, while various states were implementing independent measures at a local level.<sup>746</sup>

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<sup>738</sup> AMLO anuncia un millón de créditos más a pequeñas empresas, Forbes México. 16 April 2020. Access date 23 May 2020. <https://www.forbes.com.mx/politica-extension-de-cuarentena-amlo-anuncia-un-millon-de-creditos-mas-a-pequenas-empresas/>

<sup>739</sup> Estos son los 11 puntos del plan económico de AMLO para enfrentar covid-19, Milenio. 22 April 2020. Access date 23 May 2020. <https://www.milenio.com/politica/coronavirus-mexico-plan-economico-amlo-11-puntos>

<sup>740</sup> Mexico in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 23 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>741</sup> Ante la pandemia del coronavirus, fortalece Gobierno Federal apoyo a pequeños negocios, Secretaría de Economía. 23 April 2020. Access date 24 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/ante-la-pandemia-del-coronavirus-fortalece-gobierno-federal-apoyo-a-pequenos-negocios>

<sup>742</sup> Coronavirus: SME Policy Responses, OECD. 19 May 2020. Access date 23 May 2020. [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=119\\_119680-di6h3qgi4x&title=Covid-19\\_SME\\_Policy\\_Responses](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=119_119680-di6h3qgi4x&title=Covid-19_SME_Policy_Responses)

<sup>743</sup> Mexico in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 23 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>744</sup> 10 medidas de Banxico para fortalecer el sector financiero ante Covid-19, El Economista. 21 April 2020. Access date 23 May 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/sectorfinanciero/10-medidas-de-Banxico-para-fortalecer-el-sector-financiero-ante-Covid-19--20200421-0077.html>

<sup>745</sup> Sedeco y Nafin aportan mil 113 mdp para créditos Pymes, Excelsior. 8 May 2020. Access date 23 May 2020. <https://www.excelsior.com.mx/comunidad/sedeco-y-nafin-aportan-mil-113-mdp-para-creditos-pymes/1380649>

<sup>746</sup> Mexico in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 23 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

The BANXICO lowered the overnight interbank interest rate by 150 basis points in the period from March to May 2020, which was at 5.5 per cent on 14 May.

Mexico has not considered taking on debt to fund a stimulus package, and instead, has implemented austerity measures and has not offered any tax benefits.<sup>747</sup> Also, support through credits was very limited and is only offered to a reduced segment of the population. Mexico has not implemented fiscal policies like direct transfers, unemployment benefits, forbearance, wage subsidies, tax cuts, or any other measures. Instead, most of their stimulus has been through granting credits, advancing benefit payments, and delaying tax processes. At a Federal level, little has been done to support the consumer side or the industry. BANXICO has made efforts to implement monetary policies that help sustain the economy, inject liquidity and increase credit through commercial banks.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.<sup>748</sup>

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, President Vladimir Putin announced a series of economic measures that would be put in place in response to the pandemic. An additional RUB 5,000 per month will be granted to families eligible for maternity capital for each child under three years old.<sup>749</sup> Payments were increased at minimum wage to provide unemployment allowance until the end of the year for workers that between April and June experience losing their job or take sick leave because of the pandemic will be given.<sup>750</sup> From April 1 until December 2020, sickness benefit will be increased to minimum wage.<sup>751</sup>

From 1 April 2020, the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) provided additional funding of RUB 500 billion, beyond its previous operational limit of RUB 175 billion, to increase and support growth in bank lending to SMEs.<sup>752</sup> Also, it started to offer one-year loans at a 4% annual rate to credit institutions while offering unsecured loans to “highly rated credit institutions.”<sup>753</sup> From April 1, 2020,

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<sup>747</sup> Mexico’s economy shrinks under pressure from coronavirus, Financial Times. 30 April 2020. Access date 24 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/b91c4ac7-76ad-4c1e-bbb5-2caebe148feb>

<sup>748</sup> Sources consulted include Mexico’s Office for Economic Affairs and other respective government agencies, organizations that track economic policy updates due to COVID-19 such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News, including La Jornada, El Universal and Reforma.

<sup>749</sup> In First Address to Nation on the Coronavirus, Putin holds back from stringent measures, The Moscow Times. 27 March 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/03/25/in-first-address-to-nation-on-the-coronavirus-putin-holds-back-from-stringent-measures-a69748>

<sup>750</sup> In First Address to Nation on the Coronavirus, Putin holds back from stringent measures, The Moscow Times. 27 March 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/03/25/in-first-address-to-nation-on-the-coronavirus-putin-holds-back-from-stringent-measures-a69748>

<sup>751</sup> Russia in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Last updated July 3, 2020. Access date July 10, 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/country-policy-tracker/#Fiscalmeasures>

<sup>752</sup> Bank of Russia approves measures to support people, economy and financial sector during coronavirus, Bank of Russia Press Service. 20 March 2020. Access date July 10, 2020.

[http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020\\_170800eng2020-03-23T17\\_07\\_10.htm](http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020_170800eng2020-03-23T17_07_10.htm)

<sup>753</sup> Bank of Russia approves measures to support people, economy and financial sector during coronavirus, Bank of Russia Press Service. 20 March 2020. Access date July 10, 2020.

[http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020\\_170800eng2020-03-23T17\\_07\\_10.htm](http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020_170800eng2020-03-23T17_07_10.htm)



the CBR reduced add-ons to risk weights on mortgage loans and loans under equity construction contracts and changed the procedures to determine risk weight surcharges on loans.<sup>754</sup>

From April to June 2020, the government will offer additional family benefits of RUB 5000 per child per month for all families. Also in April and June 2020, people that lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 crisis as well as individual entrepreneurs who seized their activities can access the maximum level of unemployment benefits of RUB 12130 per month, regardless of their previous wage and employment record.<sup>755</sup> From June to August, unemployed parents will be entitled to an additional RUB 3000 per month for each dependent child.<sup>756</sup>

On 1 April, Federal Law 98-FZ entered into force which forced landlords to defer rent payments if the tenants requested it.<sup>757</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Russia implemented Decision No. 409, to provide additional measures to support the most affected businesses by the crisis. Payments of corporate income tax, simplified tax system and unified social tax will be deferred for six months for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while smaller businesses will get a six-month deferral on their tax bills and no-penalty extensions to their loans. Also, all taxpayers will get an extension until May 2020 to submit their tax returns and calculations.<sup>758</sup> Larger businesses in the most affected sectors are also eligible to defer their tax payments for up to 12 months, with the ability to extend it up to five years in specific cases.<sup>759</sup> For businesses that are not in the list of “most affected” provided by the government, the deadline for submissions of reports is postponed while the date for payments of taxes is the same.<sup>760</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced that RUB 2.6 billion would be allocated to support struggling SMEs access loans to maintain employment in the tourism, transport, trade show, catering, sports, and extended education industries. The state-owned banks will pay two thirds of the interest paid on loans payments to banks to offer loans to SMEs for a six-month period.<sup>761</sup> Additionally, RUB 5 billion would be granted to credit-providing organizations to enable delaying credit payment deadlines for businesses.<sup>762</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the CBR expanded the support measures offered to borrowers, commercial and national banks, and the local economy. The risk weights on mortgage loans issued prior to 1 April were softened, which increases around RUB 110 billion for additional lending through commercial

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<sup>754</sup> Bank of Russia approves measures to support people, economy and financial sector during coronavirus, Bank of Russia Press Service. 20 March 2020. Access date July 10, 2020.

[http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020\\_170800eng2020-03-23T17\\_07\\_10.htm](http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020_170800eng2020-03-23T17_07_10.htm)

<sup>755</sup> Russia in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Last updated July 3, 2020. Access date July 10, 2020.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/country-policy-tracker/#Fiscalmeasures>

<sup>756</sup> Russia in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Last updated July 3, 2020. Access date July 10, 2020.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/country-policy-tracker/#Fiscalmeasures>

<sup>757</sup> Support measures for those affected by COVID-19, Deloitte. 16 June 2020. Access date July 19, 2020.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ru/Documents/tax/support-measures-covid-en.pdf>

<sup>758</sup> Russian government start to implement measures to support businesses, Schneider Group. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://schneider-group.com/en/news/russian-government-starts-to-implement-measures-to-support-business/>

<sup>759</sup> COVID-19- The Russian government’s measures to support the Russian economy, White and Case. 1 May 2020.

Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/covid-19-russian-governments-measures-support-russian-economy>

<sup>760</sup> Russian government start to implement measures to support businesses, Schneider Group. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://schneider-group.com/en/news/russian-government-starts-to-implement-measures-to-support-business/>

<sup>761</sup> Government meeting, Russian Government. 2 April 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>762</sup> Government meeting, Russian Government. 2 April 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

banks.<sup>763</sup> It also extended the number of banks able to grant Russia's loan program for small businesses from 31 to 64, by easing the rating criteria. Further, it extended the number of eligible securities to include securities accepted as collateral for the loans issued to banks by the government.<sup>764</sup>

On 2 April 2020, through Government Resolution No. 428, moratoriums on the filings of insolvency claims from 6 April until 6 October 2020 were introduced for entrepreneurs and businesses in the most affected sectors. During this period, debtors are not obliged to file insolvency petitions.<sup>765</sup>

On 4 April 2020, Federal Law No. 50-FZ passed, and will allow banks to give vacations until September 2020, on mortgages and consumer loans repayment for individuals who experience a drop on income of more than 30 per cent.<sup>766</sup>

On 15 April 2020, President Vladimir Putin announced a second package of measures to support businesses struggling because of the pandemic. First, the government will pay RUB 12,130 per employee per month to small and medium businesses in the designated "most-affected sectors" that maintain at least 90 per cent of their employees. Second, the federal government will grant RUB 200 billion to support for regional budgets. Third, at least RUB 23 billion will be offered to support airlines.<sup>767</sup> On 23 April 2020, Government Resolution No. 566 passed to subsidise interest rates under mortgage loans so banks can provide lower-interest rates loans to the construction sector.<sup>768</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the CBR lowered the interest rate by 50 basis points to 5.5 per cent and suggested more cuts to follow.<sup>769</sup> The same day, the CBR increased the limit on its foreign exchange swap operations to USD 5 billion.<sup>770</sup> On 27 April 2020, the CBR lowered interest rate from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent on loans to support lending to SMEs.<sup>771</sup>

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<sup>763</sup> Russian Central Bank bolsters support for banks, economy amid COVID-19 outbreak, S&P Global. 6 April 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/russian-central-bank-bolsters-support-for-banks-economy-amid-covid-19-outbreak-57921215>

<sup>764</sup> Russian Central Bank bolsters support for banks, economy amid COVID-19 outbreak, S&P Global. 6 April 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/russian-central-bank-bolsters-support-for-banks-economy-amid-covid-19-outbreak-57921215>

<sup>765</sup> COVID-19- The Russian government's measures to support the Russian economy, White and Case. 1 May 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/covid-19-russian-governments-measures-support-russian-economy>

<sup>766</sup> Russian Central Bank bolsters support for banks, economy amid COVID-19 outbreak, S&P Global. 6 April 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/russian-central-bank-bolsters-support-for-banks-economy-amid-covid-19-outbreak-57921215>

<sup>767</sup> Russian government adopts a third economic stimulus package, calls for rescue plans by June 1, Intellinews. 12 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.intellinews.com/russian-government-adopts-a-third-economic-stimulus-package-calls-for-rescue-plans-by-june-1-182674/>

<sup>768</sup> COVID-19-The Russian government's measures to support the Russian economy, White and Case. 1 May 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/covid-19-russian-governments-measures-support-russian-economy>

<sup>769</sup> Russia cuts key interest rate and slashes forecasts as coronavirus and oil Price plunge take hold, CNBC. 24 April 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/24/russia-cuts-key-interest-rate-as-coronavirus-and-oil-price-plunge-take-hold.html>

<sup>770</sup> COVID-19 Policy Response to Macro-Fiscal Policy in Russia, The World Bank. Access date July 10, 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/brief/covid-19-response-macro-fiscal-russia#russia>

<sup>771</sup> Russia in IMF Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>

On 24 April 2020, Government Resolution No. 582 passed which allowed “systemically important” companies (in transportation, manufacturing and energy sectors) access up to RUB 3 billion working capital bank loans for up to twelve months where the government will subsidize any banks’ loss from lower interest rates.<sup>772</sup> Additionally, the Ministry of Economic Development announced it would provide individual support to systemically important companies after the owners and banks exhaust their ability to support the company.<sup>773</sup> Also, on 24 April 2020, Government Resolution No. 576 was amended that will provide state aid to the most affected SMEs to cover costs of wages and immediate needs during April and May 2020.<sup>774</sup>

Effective 1 May 2020, the CBR lowered the limits for online cash transfers between individuals transfers of up to RUB 100,000 per month at no charge, and over RUB 100,000 per month at fees not exceeding 0.5 per cent of the payment amount, to ease and lower the cost for online cash transactions.<sup>775</sup>

On 11 May 2020, President Putin adopted a third stimulus package adding more measures to support SMEs and the economy. The new package offers loan-guarantees of 85 per cent for a new subsidised interest-free salary loans to support employment in the most affected sectors of the economy. Through these loans, the government is offering loans that can pay for the minimum wage of employees up to six months and can be repaid until April 2021.<sup>776</sup> Also, SMEs in the most affected sectors will be exempted from all their social contributions and tax obligations, except for value-added tax, for the second quarter of 2020.<sup>777</sup> Also on 11 May 2020, President Putin announced that the government along with regional authorities and business unions will draft a National Recovery Plan for 1 June aiming to repair the damage from the pandemic.<sup>778</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and the Russian Export Center announced “anti-crisis” amendments to support exports had been put in place. Amendments to Government Decree No. 191 were enacted to simplify and reduce times for exporters’ application consideration, as well as for Government Decree No. 496 to expand the number of companies able to access the transport subsidy and offers the possibility to provide a quarterly instead of annual subsidy payment.<sup>779</sup>

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<sup>772</sup> COVID-19-The Russian government’s measures to support the Russian economy, White and Case. 1 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/covid-19-russian-governments-measures-support-russian-economy>

<sup>773</sup> COVID-19-The Russian government’s measures to support the Russian economy, White and Case. 1 May 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/covid-19-russian-governments-measures-support-russian-economy>

<sup>774</sup> COVID-19-The Russian government’s measures to support the Russian economy, White and Case. 1 May 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/covid-19-russian-governments-measures-support-russian-economy>

<sup>775</sup> Bank of Russia approves measures to support people, economy and financial sector during coronavirus, Bank of Russia Press Service. 20 March 2020. Access date July 10, 2020. [http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020\\_170800eng2020-03-23T17\\_07\\_10.htm](http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR/?file=23032020_170800eng2020-03-23T17_07_10.htm)

<sup>776</sup> COVID-19: New measures to support businesses in Russia, Accace. 18 May 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://accace.com/covid-19-new-measures-to-support-businesses-in-russia-may-2020-news-flash/>

<sup>777</sup> COVID-19: New measures to support businesses in Russia, Accace. 18 May 2020. Access date 30 May 2020. <https://accace.com/covid-19-new-measures-to-support-businesses-in-russia-may-2020-news-flash/>

<sup>778</sup> Russian government adopts a third stimulus, calls for rescue plans by June 1, Intellinews. 12 May 2020. Access date: 18 June <https://www.intellinews.com/russian-government-adopts-a-third-economic-stimulus-package-calls-for-rescue-plans-by-june-1-182674/>

<sup>779</sup> Developed proposals for Anti-crisis export support measures, Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia. May 14, 2020. Access date July 10, 2020. [https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/#!razrabotany\\_predlozheniya\\_po\\_antikrizisnym\\_meram\\_podderzhki\\_eksporta](https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/#!razrabotany_predlozheniya_po_antikrizisnym_meram_podderzhki_eksporta)

On 16 May 2020, the government passed Resolution No 696, which made available soft loans to companies affected by the pandemic to cover business operation costs.<sup>780</sup>

Russia has implemented both fiscal and monetary policy measures to support the economic recovery from the pandemic. The sharp drop in oil prices might explain why the government spending of around 2 per cent is low compared to other G20 economies, such as India with 5.2 per cent, Turkey with 4.3 per cent or the Euro zone with 4.3 per cent. Still, the fiscal measures put in place have supported individuals facing unemployment, struggling companies, and vulnerable households. Russia has extended loan restructuring, tax deferrals, and social security contributions for SMEs and larger companies in affected industries to continue their operations and support employment. The CBR has lowered the interest rate and passed changes to support lending and economic activity. Russia is also supporting at-risk populations through extending the benefits of existing social programs to support unemployed individuals.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia partially complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 29 March 2020, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) launched precautionary measures to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Through this measures, SAMA has requested banks to 1) work to provide lending support to businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic, 2) provide support to businesses through concessional loans to maintain employment, 3) support individuals that are unemployed because of the crisis, 4) waive all fees and charges arising from the use of digital channels for six months, 5) waive all minimum balance charges for all bank accounts for up to six months, 6) exempt individuals from all refinancing and breakage costs, and 7) reassess credit cards and refund charges from cancellations because of the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>781</sup>

On 3 April 2020, King Salam Bin Abdulaziz announced the government would subsidize 60 per cent of the salaries of workers in the hardest-hit private sector industries. This measure will be implemented in accordance with conditions for the unemployment insurance system and are expected to cover 1.2 million Saudis from May to July 2020.<sup>782</sup>

On 10 April 2020, Saudi Arabia with the alliance of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and others decided to cut production at an historical 9.7 million barrels per day during May and June to balance the market.<sup>783</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Government of Saudi Arabia approved additional measures as part of its support package to further help the economy. The package includes SAR 50 billion to speed up

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<sup>780</sup> Support measures for those affected by COVID-19, Deloitte. 16 June 2020. Access date July 19, 2020.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ru/Documents/tax/support-measures-covid-en.pdf>

<sup>781</sup> SAMA Approves Precautionary Measures Package to Confront Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Economic Sectors, Saudi Press Agency. March 29, 2020. Access date June 6, 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2052727>

<sup>782</sup> Saudi government to cover 60 per cent of salaries amid coronavirus, The National. April 3, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.thenational.ae/world/gcc/saudi-government-to-cover-60-per-cent-of-salaries-amid-coronavirus-1.1001035>

<sup>783</sup> Timeline: Saudi Arabia's precautionary measures against COVID-19, The National. May 11, 2020. Access date June 1, 2020. <https://www.thenational.ae/business/timeline-saudi-arabia-s-precautionary-measures-against-covid-19-1.1017970>

payments to the private sector. It will deliver a 30 per cent discount on electricity bills for businesses in industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors on April and May. Also, the package will offer subscribers in the industrial and commercial sectors the possibility to pay 50 per cent of their electricity bill from April to June and pay the owing amount in a six-month period starting January 2021.<sup>784</sup>

On 23 April 2020, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance Mohammed al-Jadaan announced they would increase borrowing and reduce government spending to deal with the impacts from the coronavirus crisis and lower oil prices. Thus, it will borrow SAR 100 billion on top of the already announced SAR 120 billion from its central bank's reserves to cover for a rising deficit.<sup>785</sup>

On 25 April 2020, the SAMA launched a program to guarantee 95 per cent of loans to provide financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and will exempt them from administrative fees or guarantees in kind.<sup>786</sup>

On 2 May 2020, the Social Development Bank announced a SAR 9 billion contribution to fund financing in loans for SMEs and independent workers and to create a portfolio that will support businesses healthcare sector.<sup>787</sup>

On 3 May 2020, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development announced that companies in the private sector can lower salaries by up to 40 per cent for reduced working hours and can terminate workers if they cannot pay salaries even when receiving the government salary subsidies.<sup>788</sup> Finance Minister al-Jadaan acknowledged the measures were "painful but necessary" to stabilize the economy.<sup>789</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources launched additional measures to support the industry and mining sectors. The measures included deferring and restructuring loan payments, supporting working capital through new products development, extending industrial licences period of expiration and release constraints for new plant constructions, exempting, reducing, or postponing payments due to the ministry, automatic renewal of industrial licences, labour support documents and customs exemption and clearance documents.<sup>790</sup>

On 10 May 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced they will suspend the cost of living allowance as of 1 June and that the value-added tax (VAT) would increase from 5 per cent to 15 per cent as part of austerity measures aimed at economic recovery after it has been hardly hit by the coronavirus crisis

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<sup>784</sup> Saudi Arabia allocates SR50 billion for private sector support, Arab News. 15 April 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://arab.news/wf8j8>

<sup>785</sup> Saudi Arabia to boost borrowing as oil glut weighs on virus-hit economy, Reuters. April 22, 2020. Access date June 1, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-saudi-debt/saudi-arabia-to-boost-borrowing-as-oil-glut-weighs-on-virus-hit-economy-idUSKCN224338>

<sup>786</sup> SAMA launches new program, guarantees 95% of SMEs loans, Argam. 25 April 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://www.argaam.com/en/article/articledetail/id/1370359>

<sup>787</sup> Saudi Arabia grants \$2.4 bn to help small businesses amid Covid-19 crisis, Arabian Business. 2 May 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/banking-finance/446008-saudi-arabia-grants-24bn-to-help-small-businesses-amid-covid-19-crisis>

<sup>788</sup> Saudi Arabia: COVID-19 Employment Related Developments, Baker McKenzie. 9 April 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://me-insights.bakermckenzie.com/2020/04/09/saudi-arabia-covid-19-employment-related-developments/>

<sup>789</sup> Timeline: Saudi Arabia's precautionary measures against COVID-19, The National. 11 May 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://www.thenational.ae/business/timeline-saudi-arabia-s-precautionary-measures-against-covid-19-1.1017970>

<sup>790</sup> Saudi Arabia's Government launches measures to support industrial & mining sectors in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Saudi Press Agency. 5 May 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2082598>

and low oil prices.<sup>791</sup> The allowance had been introduced in 2018 and provided SAR 1,000 per month to state employees to support increases in VAT and oil prices.<sup>792</sup>

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with this commitment. Saudi Arabia has taken action on the global stage through its G20 presidency. However, its domestic response has been largely focused in providing loans to SMEs in the most affected sectors and have failed to protect employment or support the most affected populations.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.<sup>793</sup>

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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

South Africa fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 21 April 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the first COVID-19 economic rescue package valued at ZAR 500 billion or 10 per cent of gross domestic product.<sup>794</sup> The package will increase social security transfers by increasing child support grants by ZAR 500 per month and old age pensions, disability grants, and foster grants by ZAR 250 per month. Also, a ZAR 3350 monthly grant will be introduced to support individuals that are unemployed and do not receive any other kind of social security payment. The grants are expected to cover 8 million people earning below ZAR 3,500, who are unemployed or who are not receiving unemployment insurance funds payments.<sup>795</sup> The package will include ZAR 100 billion to protect and create jobs and support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and informal businesses, with ZAR 40 billion to support wage payments for employers that are unable to pay their workers. The COVID-19 economic rescue package will also allocate ZAR 200 billion for a credit-guarantee scheme. The National Treasury and South African Reserve Bank will provide guarantees for commercial banks to extend special loans to businesses suffering from the pandemic.<sup>796</sup> It will also allocate ZAR 70 billion in measures for income support, in tax relief, mostly through tax deferrals and holidays on skills development levy contributions. The package will also include ZAR 20 million in support to municipalities.<sup>797</sup>

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<sup>791</sup> Saudi Arabia suspending cost of living allowance, raising VAT to mitigate economic impact of COVID-19 crisis, Arab News. 11 May 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://arab.news/y5wy6>

<sup>792</sup> Saudi Arabia triples VAT to support coronavirus-hit economy, BBC News. 11 May 2020. Access date 1 June 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52612785>

<sup>793</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Economy and Planning and other respective government agencies, organizations that track economic policy updates due to COVID-19 such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News, including Arab News and Saudi Gazette.

<sup>794</sup> Unpacking the South Africa's government's COVID-19 "rescue package," Gilad Isaacs. 21 April 2020. Access date 2 June 2020. <https://africasacountry.com/2020/04/unpacking-the-rescue-package-from-south-africas-government>

<sup>795</sup> Unpacking the South Africa's government's COVID-19 "rescue package," Gilad Isaacs. 21 April 2020. Access date 2 June 2020. <https://africasacountry.com/2020/04/unpacking-the-rescue-package-from-south-africas-government>

<sup>796</sup> Unpacking the South Africa's government's COVID-19 "rescue package," Gilad Isaacs. 21 April 2020. Access date 2 June 2020. <https://africasacountry.com/2020/04/unpacking-the-rescue-package-from-south-africas-government>

<sup>797</sup> Economic measures for COVID-19, Department of National Treasury Republic of South Africa. 30 April 2020. Access date 2 June 2020. [http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm\\_media/press/2020/20200428\\_COVID\\_Economic\\_Response\\_final.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2020/20200428_COVID_Economic_Response_final.pdf)

On 1 April 2020, the Department of Employment launched a ZAR 30 billion temporary employee relief scheme to provide income support to workers who have been temporarily or permanently laid-off because of coronavirus.<sup>798</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Department of Small Business Development launched a debt relief scheme to support SMEs that have been affected by the pandemic.<sup>799</sup>

On 23 April 2020, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni announced a second set of tax measures to support businesses and individuals through the pandemic. From 1 May, skills development levy contributions, which are around 1 per cent of salaries, will go through a four-month holiday. Individuals who receive living annuity funds will be allowed to increase up to a maximum of 2 per cent their proportion of annuity income to assist individuals who need immediate cash flow needs. Also, value-added tax refunds will be speeded up by allowing smaller businesses to file monthly instead of bi-monthly tax refunds to increase their cash flows.<sup>800</sup> The filling and payment of carbon tax liabilities will be delayed from 31 July to 31 October 2020 to provide cash flow relief for businesses. As part of the new measures, South Africa will also postpone the implementation of some measures for the 2020 Budget to broaden the corporate income tax base through restrictions on the net interest expense deductions and limiting the carry forward of assessed losses to 80 per cent of taxable income.<sup>801</sup>

On 23 April 2020, Finance Minister Mboweni announced extensions to the first set of tax measures that had been announced earlier in March 2020. The expanded employment tax incentive amount will be increased from ZAR 500 to ZAR 750 per month to provide wage subsidies for employees earning less than ZAR 6,500 per month. Also, the initial deferrals of 20 per cent of businesses employees' tax liabilities and a portion of provisional corporate income tax payments for four months were extended to allow deferrals of 35 per cent while the income threshold was doubled from ZAR 50 million to ZAR 100 million to provide cash flow relief to more enterprises.<sup>802</sup> Finally, large businesses with income of more than ZAR 100 million struggling to pay taxes, can apply to defer tax payments without penalties in a case-by-case application.<sup>803</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) launched a ZAR 300 million loan scheme, as planned as part of the economic rescue package announced on 21 April. It provides government-guaranteed loans to businesses with annual turnover below ZAR 300 million to help cover operating expenses.<sup>804</sup>

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<sup>798</sup> UIF has R30bn available for Covid-19 income support to laid-off workers, Business Maverick. 1 April 2020. Access date 2 June 2020. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-04-01-uif-has-r30bn-available-for-covid-19-income-support-to-laid-off-workers/#gsc.tab=0>

<sup>799</sup> Debt Relief Finance Scheme, Department of Small Business development. Access date 2 June 2020. [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_documents/SMME%20Debt%20Relief%20Scheme.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_documents/SMME%20Debt%20Relief%20Scheme.pdf)

<sup>800</sup> Further tax measures to provide support, South African Government News Agency. 23 April 2020. Access date 2 June 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/further-tax-measures-provide-support>

<sup>801</sup> Further tax measures to provide support, South African Government News Agency. April 23, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/further-tax-measures-provide-support>

<sup>802</sup> Further tax measures to provide support, South African Government News Agency. April 23, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/further-tax-measures-provide-support>

<sup>803</sup> Further tax measures to provide support, South African Government News Agency. April 23, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/further-tax-measures-provide-support>

<sup>804</sup> South Africa opens new coronavirus loan scheme – what you need to know, Business Tech. May 12, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/banking/397199/south-africa-opens-new-coronavirus-loan-scheme-what-you-need-to-know/>

On 23 April 2020, Finance Minister Mboweni announced that the 10 per cent deductions will be increased by additional 10 per cent for donations to the Solidarity Fund. Also, the “pay-as-you-earn” donations of up to 5 per cent of monthly salaries factored by employers were extended to up to 33.3 per cent to encourage more donations to the fund.<sup>805</sup>

On 28 March 2020, the SARB announced temporary relief for bank capital requirements and reduced the liquidity ratio from 100 per cent to 80 per cent.<sup>806</sup> On April 6, the SARB issued guidance on dividend and cash bonuses distribution.<sup>807</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the SARB cut repo rates by 100 basis points to 4.25 per cent in efforts to mitigate the economic impact.<sup>808</sup> Later, it lowered the rate further by 50 basis points to 3.75 per cent on 21 May.<sup>809</sup> On 11 and 12 May, it reduced number of repo auctions to once a day and announced measure to cooperate with financial institutions on prudential matters, governance and operational activities, and supervision.<sup>810</sup>

South Africa implemented an economic relief package that provided monetary and fiscal policy measures that provide support to struggling individuals and businesses. South Africa has showed it is using all available policy tools by offering grants and income support to unemployed workers, loan guarantees for SMEs, income support, tax deferrals, wage subsidies and extensions of cash transfers for vulnerable populations.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey partially complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 30 March 2020, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) reduced the minimum front payment for credit card transactions from 30 per cent to 20 per cent and authorized credit-card holders to postpone their reimbursements until December 2020.<sup>811</sup> The same day, CBRT announced additional measures against the financial and economic impacts of the pandemic. The measures will increase the flexibility for conducting open market operations, increase in the limits of liquidity facilities to support credit flow to corporations, accepting asset-backed and mortgage-backed

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<sup>805</sup> Further tax measures to provide support, South African Government News Agency. April 23, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/further-tax-measures-provide-support>

<sup>806</sup> Press release on regulatory relief measures and guidance to the banking sector in response to COVID-19, Prudential Authority of South African Reserve bank. April 6, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.centralbanking.com/central-banks/financial-stability/7516671/sarb-consults-on-covid-19-regulatory-easing>

<sup>807</sup> South Africa in IMF Policy tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#I>

<sup>808</sup> SAR B cuts rates in latest response to COVID-19, Polity. April 14, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.polity.org.za/article/sarb-cuts-rates-in-latest-response-to-covid-19-2020-04-14>

<sup>809</sup> SAR B cuts rates in latest response to COVID-19, Polity. April 14, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.polity.org.za/article/sarb-cuts-rates-in-latest-response-to-covid-19-2020-04-14>

<sup>810</sup> SAR B cuts rates in latest response to COVID-19, Polity. April 14, 2020. Access date June 2, 2020. <https://www.polity.org.za/article/sarb-cuts-rates-in-latest-response-to-covid-19-2020-04-14>

<sup>811</sup> Turkey in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date June 4, 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>



securities as collateral in bank transactions, and expanding available rediscount credits for exporters.<sup>812</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Government of Turkey announced it would pay 60 per cent of workers' salaries for a period of 3 months for businesses that were forced to close because of the pandemic. Through this short-term employment allowance program, the government will make direct transfers and will also pay for health insurance during the period. For employees that are laid-off after the three-month period, the State will offer monthly unemployment benefits of TRY 2,354 per month for up to seven months.<sup>813</sup>

On 7 April 2020, President Tayyip Erdoğan announced additional support for the 136,000 small and medium-sized enterprises that are part of the loan support program offered by the Administration of Small and Medium Sized Industrial Enterprises (KOSGEB). He announced that KOSGEB will cover the deferral costs for companies that are postponing their loan payments on April, May and June.<sup>814</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Ministry of Treasury and Finance declared force majeure for taxpayers that have been directly impacted by the pandemic, specifically in the commercial, agricultural, and self-employment industries. Taxpayers will be allowed to defer the filing of withholding tax and value-added tax returns from 27 May to 27 July 2020 and extended the deadline for payments of these taxes until the end of 2020.<sup>815</sup>

On 15 April 2020, custom tariffs were increased by 5 per cent for some steel products. From April 18, a surcharge of 50 per cent will be applied to imports of game consoles, to be reduced to 20 per cent in October.<sup>816</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the CBRT announced a third package of measures to support the economy recover from the financial impacts of coronavirus. These include an increase from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in the limit of CBRT funding through open market operations, regulation of the primary dealer banks outright sovereign bond sales, and support for the primary dealership system by easing the conditions for primary dealer banks to sell government domestic debt securities to the CBRT.<sup>817</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Omnibus Bill came to force to provide additional measures to laws to respond to the pandemic. The additional article of the Law No. 6585 regulates that a fair price is being offered on goods and services, encourages friendly competition in the market, and established an

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<sup>812</sup> Press release on Additional Measures taken against the Economic and Financial Impacts of the Coronavirus (2020-21), Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey. March 31, 2020. Access date June 4, 2020.

<sup>813</sup> Turkey takes sweeping steps to cushion coronavirus fallout, Anadolu Agency. April 7, 2020. Access date June 4, 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkey-takes-sweeping-steps-to-cushion-coronavirus-fallout/1795169>

<sup>814</sup> Good News from President Erdoğan for 136 thousand SMEs, Raily News. April 7, 2020. Access date June 4, 2020. <https://www.railynews.com/2020/04/136-thousand-cookie-mujde-from-president-erdogan/>

<sup>815</sup> Turkey: COVID-19: Ministry of Treasury And Finance Declares Force Majeure, Monqad. 15 April 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/litigation-contracts-and-force-majeure/917558/covid-19-ministry-of-treasury-and-finance-declares-force-majeure>

<sup>816</sup> Turkey in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 4 June 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>817</sup> Press Release on Additional Measures Taken against the Economic and Financial Impacts of the Coronavirus (2020-22), Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey. 17 April 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/EN/TCMB+EN/Main+Menu/Announcements/Press+Releases/2020/ANO2020-22>

Unfair Price Assessment Board to make regulations on unfair price increases and stockpiling of manufacturers, suppliers and in retail.<sup>818</sup>

On 18 April 2020, the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency introduced a new Active Ratio for all banks to follow from May, which will increase their credits, swap operations and holdings of domestic securities with the CBRT.<sup>819</sup>

On 5 May 2020, President Erdoğan participated in the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event, where he reaffirmed Turkey's commitment to ensure global access to the vaccine and pledged to release their support amount by the end of the month.<sup>820</sup>

On 12 May 2020, various custom tariffs were increased for various product lines, including construction materials, consumer durables and textile products.

On 20 May 2020, additional custom tariffs were augmented to around 800 more product lines, including agricultural machinery and food processing and packaging equipment.<sup>821</sup>

To support businesses, Turkey implemented measures that protect the domestic economy, extended loan provision, grant short-time work allowances, and extends tax payment deadlines. It has implemented various custom measures that limit global trade and thus, can have a negative impact in the global economy. Turkey has implemented various measures during the period of compliance that support businesses and employees from the most affected sectors and provides direct support to the most vulnerable populations; yet it has not engaged in any “extraordinary” measures like other G20 countries that support larger segments of the population.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.<sup>822</sup>

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 3 April 2020, the UK announced additional measures to support businesses affected by COVID-19. It launched the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme to ensure that larger firms that were not eligible for loans can access 80% government-guaranteed loans of up to GBP 50

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<sup>818</sup> Retail Industry Regulations within the scope of law 7244 on Reducing the Effects of Novel Coronavirus Outbreak, British chamber of commerce Turkey, Moral and Partners. 17 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.bcct.org.tr/news/retail-industry-regulations-within-the-scope-of-law-7244-coronavirus-outbreak/69999>

<sup>819</sup> Turkey in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 4 June 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>820</sup> EU Chief thanks Turkey for solidarity in COVID-19 fight, Daily Sabah. 5 May 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/eu-chief-thanks-turkey-for-solidarity-in-covid-19-fight>

<sup>821</sup> Turkey in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 4 June 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>822</sup> Sources consulted include the Ministry of Economy and other respective government agencies, organizations that track economic policy updates due to COVID-19 such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News, including Hurriyet News.

million. Also, it will provide funding on business interruption loans to increase the number of small businesses that can benefit from financing.<sup>823</sup>

On 9 April 2020, it announced a temporary extension to the Ways and Means facility to provide additional liquidity in the case it that market financing and borrowing through debt management operations is not sufficient.<sup>824</sup>

On 12 April 2020, the UK announced a package of GBP 200 million to provide funding to charities and international organizations to support their efforts to aid developing countries which brought the total amount of UK international aid for coronavirus to GBP 744 million.<sup>825</sup>

On 20 April 2020, Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced a GBP 1.25 billion package to protect businesses driving innovation in the UK. The package will allocate GBP 500 million for an investment fund for high-growth companies impacted by the crisis, and GBP 750 million in grants and loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) doing research and development.<sup>826</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the Bank of England (BoE) and the UK Debt Management Office announced they would more than double the proportion of gilts held in the Asset Purchase Facility. The gilts purchased are normally available for the Debt Management Office to use in its market operations and its standing and special repo facilities. Increasing the amount of gilts available every day can ensure that it can continue lending to the market.<sup>827</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the government launched the Bounce Back Loan Scheme to provide loans to struggling SMEs. The scheme will allow them to access 100 per cent government-guaranteed loans ranging from GBP 2,000 up to 25 per cent of their turnover, with a maximum of GBP 50,000 with no payable fees or interests for the first 12 months and an interest of 2.5 per cent afterwards.<sup>828</sup>

On 29 April 2020, the UK launched the COVID-19 Business Support Finder Tool to help businesses and self-employed individuals determine what kind of financial support they can access.<sup>829</sup>

On 2 May 2020, the UK announced it would increase funding by GBP 617 million for the Small Business Grants Fund and the Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund, that will provide to businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure. The additional funding is aimed at small businesses with

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<sup>823</sup> Chancellor strengthens support on offer for business as first government-backed loans reach firms in need, UK Government News. 3 April 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-strengthens-support-on-offer-for-business-as-first-government-backed-loans-reach-firms-in-need>

<sup>824</sup> HM Treasury and Bank of England announce temporary extension to Ways and Means facility, Bank of England (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 6 June 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/news/2020/april/hmt-and-boe-announce-temporary-extension-to-ways-and-means-facility.pdf>.

<sup>825</sup> UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus, UK Department for International Development. 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>

<sup>826</sup> UK businesses driving innovation and development will be helped through the coronavirus outbreak with a £1.25 billion government support package, the Chancellor announced today, UK Government News. 20 April 2020. Access date 5 June 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-support-package-for-innovative-firms-hit-by-coronavirus>

<sup>827</sup> Statement on increase to APF gilt lending limits, Bank of England. 22 April 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/april/statement-on-increase-to-apf-gilt-lending-limits>

<sup>828</sup> Apply for a coronavirus Bounce Back Loan, UK Government. 27 April 2020. Access date 5 June 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

<sup>829</sup> Regulatory, Monetary and fiscal policy initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Deloitte. 1 June 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/financial-services/articles/regulatory-monetary-and-fiscal-policy-initiatives-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>

fixed costs related to their property and will increase the funding by 5 per cent to a total of GBP 12.33 billion.<sup>830</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the UK announced it would extend the “Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme” until the end of October 2020 to avoid a sudden removal of wage support. The scheme allowed companies that had stopped their activities because of the pandemic to receive a grant covering 80 per cent of their retained workers’ wages. Also, it announced that between August and October, 80 per cent of wages will continue to be paid to workers experiencing a reduction in working hours.<sup>831</sup> On 15 May, the UK extended the Job Retention Scheme until October 2020.

On 13 May 2020, the UK government announced it would temporarily guarantee business-to-business transactions that are normally covered by the Trade Credit Insurance, to ensure that most of the insurance is available to the market. The guarantee will cover trading by domestic firms and exporting firms, which will reinforce global supply chains and help businesses trade without the fearing that a customer will default on payment.<sup>832</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the government announced extensions to the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme launched early in April. It will increase the maximum loan size from GBP 50 million to GBP 200 million. Companies borrowing above GBP 50 million it will be restricted on dividend payments and cash bonuses during the period of the loan.<sup>833</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the BoE announced they discounted three-month Contingent Term Repo Facility operations at the end of May with the final operation scheduled on 28 May.<sup>834</sup>

The UK has implemented generous fiscal policy measures to support economic recovery, and in the compliance period, extended various programs to provide support and 100 per cent government-guaranteed loans to SMEs and large firms recover and support employees through the pandemic. Although it did not implement measures like universal cash transfers, it has provided income support for laid-off workers, self-employed individuals and generous funding to various sectors.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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

The United States fully complied with its commitment to do whatever it takes and use all available policy tools to minimize the economic damage from the pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). In the act, the government pledged it would provide 1) USD 293 billion

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<sup>830</sup> Top-up to local business grant funds scheme, UK Government News. 2 May 2020. Access date 4 June 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/top-up-to-local-business-grant-funds-scheme>

<sup>831</sup> United Kingdom in OECD Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 5 June 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>832</sup> Government to support businesses through Trade Credit Insurance guarantee, UK Government News. 13 May 2020. Access date 5 June 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-support-businesses-through-trade-credit-insurance-guarantee>

<sup>833</sup> Regulatory, Monetary and fiscal policy initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Deloitte. 1 June 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/financial-services/articles/regulatory-monetary-and-fiscal-policy-initiatives-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<sup>834</sup> Regulatory, Monetary and fiscal policy initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Deloitte. 1 June 2020. Access date 4 June 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/financial-services/articles/regulatory-monetary-and-fiscal-policy-initiatives-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>

for one-time tax rebates for individuals, 2) USD 349 billion for forgivable small business administration loans, 3) USD 25 billion to ensure food security for vulnerable populations, 4) USD 510 billion for loans and guarantees to avoid corporate bankruptcy, 5) USD 268 billion to expand unemployment benefits, 6) USD 100 billion for supporting hospitals, 7) USD 150 billion in aid for state and local governments, and 8) USD 49.9 billion to provide international assistance to fight the pandemic. This fiscal stimulus package is calculated to provide aid of around 11 per cent of gross domestic product.<sup>835</sup>

The CARES Act will support households and businesses during the crisis. Households with earning less than USD 75,000, received a one-time direct cash payment of USD 1,200, married couples received USD 2,400 and USD 500 per child. The unemployment insurance was expanded to include coverage to the self-employed and workers in the gig economy, and will also provide insurance payments of USD 600 per week until July.<sup>836</sup> Interest and principal payments of federal student loans will be deferred, while banks and federally-insured residential mortgage loans financial institutions are required to apply forbearance in overdue or late payments.<sup>837</sup>

Businesses will benefit from the CARES Act through USD 221 billion in tax deferrals and reductions. Severely affected employers can receive a 50 per cent refundable payroll tax credit for wages paid during the crisis. Also, businesses can defer tax payments for payrolls from 2020 to 2021 and 2022, and can carry back losses for five years and are eligible for immediate refunds.<sup>838</sup> The CARES Act will also provide lending of USD 25 billion for airlines, USD 4 billion for air cargo firms, and USD 17 billion in firms critical for national security.<sup>839</sup>

The CARES Act will provide USD 350 to support business interruption loans to aid small businesses, where the principal payment of the loans used for payroll, rent, interest rates, and utilities will be forgiven for 8 weeks if they maintain pre-crisis employment levels.<sup>840</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Federal Reserve launched a six-month program to expand the ability of foreign central banks to access US dollars through exchange of US Treasury securities holdings for overnight dollar loans.<sup>841</sup> On 9 April, the Federal Reserve announced a USD 2.3 investment to offer small and medium-sized enterprises four-year loans to companies of up to 10,000 employees and is supporting local governments by directly buying bonds of states and large cities.<sup>842</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Department of Labour announced new measures for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The act would now include reimbursement of tax credits for the costs of

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<sup>835</sup> United States in IMF policy tracker, International Monetary Fund. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>

<sup>836</sup> Congress Approves Economic Relief Plan for Individuals and Businesses, Tax Foundation. 30 March 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. <https://taxfoundation.org/cares-act-senate-coronavirus-bill-economic-relief-plan/>

<sup>837</sup> United States in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 1 June 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>838</sup> United States in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 1 June 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>839</sup> Congress Approves Economic Relief Plan for Individuals and Businesses, Tax Foundation. 30 March 2020. Access date 3 June 2020. <https://taxfoundation.org/cares-act-senate-coronavirus-bill-economic-relief-plan/>

<sup>840</sup> United States in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 3 June 2020.

<http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>841</sup> Factbox: Global economic policy response to coronavirus crisis, Reuters. 14 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-economy-factbox/factbox-global-economic-policy-response-to-coronavirus-crisis-idUSKCN21W2AJ>

<sup>842</sup> Factbox: Global economic policy response to coronavirus crisis, Reuters. 14 April 2020. Access date 3 June 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-economy-factbox/factbox-global-economic-policy-response-to-coronavirus-crisis-idUSKCN21W2AJ>



per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the 27 EU member states.<sup>848</sup> This economic support package will help jobs and workers, businesses, and member states deal with the pandemic and will be divided in three programs: Pan-European Guarantee Fund for Loans to Companies, Pandemic Crisis Support through the European Stability Mechanism, and the Support to Mitigate Unemployment Risks during the Emergency (SURE).<sup>849</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced the creation of a EUR 25 billion Pan-European Guarantee Fund in the face of COVID-19. The fund will aim to support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), mid-caps and corporates through the provision of guarantee-support to commercial banks and other financial institutions. The EIB has calculated that up to EUR 200 billion will become available.<sup>850</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the European Council adopted an instrument for the temporary SURE instrument to support national short-time work schemes and similar measures for workers to keep the jobs despite the crisis. SURE is a safety net scheme that can provide loans to EU members of up to EUR 100 billion backed by the EU budget and guarantees. It will be available to member states that provide the required guarantees until the end of 2022.<sup>851</sup> Also, on 6 April, the EU provided EUR 1 billion to the European Investment Fund as guarantee to support SME financing.<sup>852</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the European Council and Parliament approved the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII). Through the initiative, EUR 37 billion will be allocated in cohesion policy to effectively respond against the crisis in EU countries. Additionally, member states were instructed to use their unspent EU budget as national co-financing for the health sector, support for SMEs working capital and the labour market through short-time work schemes. The CRII also extended the Solidarity Fund and will allow the hardest-hit EU members access financial support of up to EUR 800 million in 2020 to support the implementation of immediate response measures.<sup>853</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) was adopted with proposed additional measures to the CRII.<sup>854</sup> The legislative package allows member states use the non-utilized cohesion policy funds to be mobilized to address economic and public health concerns arising from the crisis. Also, the procedural steps for CRII implementation and audit will be simplified to provide a faster transfer of resources from the fund to the countries.<sup>855</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the European Council endorsed the Pandemic Crisis Support credit lines, and opened credit lines to all euro area countries of up to 2 per cent of their GDP. On 15 May, the Board

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<sup>848</sup> Report on the comprehensive economic policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic, European Council. 9 April 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/09/report-on-the-comprehensive-economic-policy-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>849</sup> Infographic: The EU's emergency response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, European Council. Access date 22 May 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/covid-19-eu-emergency-response/>

<sup>850</sup> Coronavirus outbreak: EIB Group's response, European Investment Bank. Access date 9 May 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/about/initiatives/covid-19-response/index.htm>

<sup>851</sup> EU in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 18 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>852</sup> EU in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access date 18 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>853</sup> Report on the comprehensive economic policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic, European Council. 9 April 2020. Access date 8 May 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/09/report-on-the-comprehensive-economic-policy-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>854</sup> Cohesion policy action against coronavirus, European Commission. Access Date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/coronavirus-response/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/coronavirus-response/)

<sup>855</sup> Cohesion policy action against coronavirus, European Commission. Access Date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/coronavirus-response/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/coronavirus-response/)

of Governors of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) approved their establishment. The credit lines will be available to all members of the EU until the end of 2022, and the funds should be allocated to support domestic financing of direct and indirect costs arising from cure and prevention of the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>856</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the European Commission proposed changes to the Capital Requirements Regulation to provide with temporary capital relief to banks to increase the number of loans to SMEs or for infrastructure investments.<sup>857</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the European Central Bank (ECB) further reduced the interest rate by 50 basis points in targeted longer-term refinancing operations until June 2021. Also, the ECB engaged in seven non-targeted pandemic emergency long-term refinancing operations providing liquidity to the EU area.<sup>858</sup>

The EU has implemented various measures aimed at stabilizing the economy and supporting members of the EU deal with the economic crisis arising from the pandemic. Furthermore, the EU is engaging in international solidarity, by providing financial aid to other non-EU countries.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eri Kimura*

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<sup>856</sup> ESM Pandemic Crisis Support, European Stability Mechanism. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

<https://www.esm.europa.eu/content/europe-response-corona-crisis>

<sup>857</sup> EU in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>

<sup>858</sup> EU in OECD Country Policy Tracker, OECD. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#policy-responses>



## 6. Global Economy: Fiscal Support

“We will continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support.”

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

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	+0.95 (98%)		

### Background

Originating in the Chinese province of Hubei in January 2020, the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) was declared a public health emergency of international concern in March 2020, and as of 25 May has infected over 5.5 million people worldwide, claiming the lives of more than 346,000 people.<sup>859</sup> To combat the spread of the virus, governments across the globe have implemented unprecedented restrictions on economic activity, which include: police-enforced lockdowns limiting public gatherings, and the closure of all non-essential shops and services. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that containment measures will cause an initial decline in the level of output 20-25 per cent in many economies, while the International Monetary Fund predicts “the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression.”<sup>860</sup>

As an organization born out of the 2008 global financial crisis, macroeconomic governance has remained a core commitment throughout the G20’s history. As a severe worldwide economic crisis, the global financial crisis created a global recession that saw global economic growth plummet, triggering enormous losses in employment, trade, development, manageable government deficit and

<sup>859</sup> Reported Cases and Deaths by Country, Territory or Conveyance of COVID-19 Coronavirus, Worldometer. 2 May 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<sup>860</sup> Breaking Down the G20 COVID-19 Fiscal Response, Centre for Strategic & International Studies (Washington) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/breaking-down-g20-covid-19-fiscal-response>

debt burdens. This unprecedented slump ushered in a new demand to “stop the drop,” solve the crisis and generate strong, sustainable and balanced growth. As the world’s 20 strongest economies, the G20 came together to immediately implement “fiscal measures to stimulate domestic demand to rapid effect ... while maintaining a policy framework conducive to fiscal sustainability.”<sup>861</sup>

At their second summit in London in April of 2009, G20 leaders promised to provide whatever future “fiscal and monetary stimulus” necessary to restore global growth.<sup>862</sup> To achieve this, G20 leaders pledged an unprecedented concerted fiscal expansion in the amount of USD 5 trillion to deliver the “scale of sustained fiscal effort necessary to restore growth.” In 2010, G20 leaders continued to recognize that sound fiscal finances are essential to “sustain recovery, provide flexibility to respond to new shocks.”<sup>863</sup> Here, leaders agreed on a set of principles to guide the consolidation of fiscal plans. Promising to sustain a strong fiscal policy response “until a durable recovery is secure,” they committed “to act to ensure that when growth returns, jobs do too,” and to “avoid any premature withdrawal of stimulus.”<sup>864</sup>

In 2011-2012, against the background of renewed market tensions, the G20 leaders came together to combat the volatility of the European debt crisis — welcoming actions to support growth, ensure financial stability and promote fiscal responsibility as a contribution to the G20 framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth.”<sup>865</sup> At their 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the leaders again agreed to “continue to develop comprehensive growth strategies to achieve stronger, more sustainable and balanced growth in the context of fiscal sustainability.” They also agreed to maintain a flexible (tailored to specific country circumstances) approach in implementing their fiscal strategies, while remaining committed to sustainable public finances. Facing increased financial volatility, emerging markets agreed to take the necessary actions to support growth and maintain stability, including efforts to improve fundamentals, increase resilience to external shocks and strengthen financial systems.<sup>866</sup>

In the spirit of exploring more policy options (tailored to specific country circumstances) that G20 countries could undertake to respond to potential unforeseen risks, the G20 leaders reaffirmed the need for well-designed and coordinated macroeconomic policy, using all available tools — individually and collectively — to achieve strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth. On this note, at the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, 2017 Hamburg Summit, 2018 Buenos Aires Summit as well as the most recent 2019 Osaka Summit, leaders emphasized that monetary policy alone would not lead to balanced growth and underscored the essential role of fiscal strategies (in the form of structural reform) would be equally as important to supporting common growth objectives. Flexible fiscal policy and making tax policy and public expenditure more growth friendly, it was decided, would be

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<sup>861</sup> Declaration of Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

<sup>862</sup> London Summit – Leaders’ Statement, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.pdf>

<sup>863</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

<sup>864</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 2 May 2020 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

<sup>865</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>866</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

achieved by including prioritizing high-quality investment, while enhancing resilience and ensuring debt as a share of gross domestic product was on a sustainable path.<sup>867,868</sup>

As the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic continues to put the global economy at significant risk, it is perhaps once again up to the G20 leaders to lead macroeconomic recovery. It is true that while the health aspects of the shock might be relatively short lived, its economic consequences are projected to last much longer, requiring the G20 monetary authorities to devise a “true medium-long term” anti-COVID strategy.<sup>869</sup> Widely credited with stopping the global financial crisis, continuing to prioritize growth throughout the 2010-2012 euro crisis G20 macroeconomic leadership can certainly help in devising an appropriate fiscal policy designed to mitigate the negative macroeconomic effects precipitated by COVID-19.

In response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, G20 leaders came together and held an Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit on 26 March 2020. During this emergency meeting, leaders called for solidarity in the form of “transparent, robust, large-scale and science-based” action, placing restoring the confidence, preserving financial stability, reviving growth and recover stronger as a top priority.<sup>870</sup> In linking global health to macroeconomic policy, leaders once again sought to use all available policy tools aiming at ensuring “adequate financing” in order to safeguarding the global economy, all the while containing the pandemic, and in outlining their goals, leaders sought to “minimize the economic and social damage from the pandemic, restore global growth, maintain market stability, and strengthen resilience.”<sup>871,872</sup>

In recent weeks, members of the G20 have undertaken “swift, wide-ranging and substantial action” to respond to the economic challenge stemming from COVID-19.<sup>873</sup> However, the containment measures applied across many G20 countries, which are crucial for protecting lives, are having a profound and disruptive impact on citizens, households and businesses across their economies. The macroeconomic policy challenge is therefore to provide bridges to households and businesses to ensure that COVID-19 related interventions do not cause long-term damage domestic economies, or the wider global economy.<sup>874</sup>

In order to protect vulnerable economies, governments have pledged large-scale massive support in the form of direct payments to individuals as well as “limitless loans” for struggling businesses. At their emergency meeting in March, G20 leaders promised over USD 5 trillion, equivalent to 7.4 per cent of their combined 2019 gross domestic product (GDP) to “counteract the social, economic and financial impacts of the pandemic.” As the economic fallout becomes clearer, the G20 leaders have

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<sup>867</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Date Access: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>868</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Date Access: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>869</sup> Monetary Policies Strategies and the COVID-19 Crisis, G20 Insights: International Financial Architecture. 19 April 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. [https://www.g20-insights.org/policy\\_briefs/monetary-policies-strategies-and-the-covid-19-crisis/#\\_ftn1](https://www.g20-insights.org/policy_briefs/monetary-policies-strategies-and-the-covid-19-crisis/#_ftn1)

<sup>870</sup> G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19, G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 (Toronto) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>871</sup> G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19, G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 (Riyadh) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>872</sup> Virtual Meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (Toronto) G20 Information Centre. April 15 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>

<sup>873</sup> Virtual Meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (Toronto) G20 Information Centre. April 15 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>

<sup>874</sup> Virtual Meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (Toronto) G20 Information Centre. April 15 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>

continued to add to this figure. The Center for Strategic and International Studies estimates that as of 29 April 2020, G20 countries had provided USD 6.4 trillion in fiscal support, representing a 9.3 percent of their combined 2019 GDP.<sup>875</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G20 commitment is to “continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support.”

### **Definitions**

“Continue”: to persist in an activity or process.<sup>876</sup>

“Conduct”: to organize and carry out.<sup>877</sup>

“Bold”: (of a person, action, or idea) showing a willingness to take risks; confident and courageous.<sup>878</sup>

“Large-scale”: involving large numbers or a large area; extensive.<sup>879</sup>

“Fiscal”: relating to government revenue, especially taxes.<sup>880</sup>

“Support”: the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.<sup>881</sup>

### **General Interpretive Guidelines:**

Boosting economic activity can be especially difficult in the face of supply and demand shocks triggered by the abrupt blockage of production, health and safety regulations shutting down “non-essential” sectors in the economy as well as tragic impacts of the illness itself. In order to mitigate these negative impacts, the G20 leaders have made it a core target supporting the most vulnerable through well-designed and coordinated fiscal measures in order to sustain economic growth. These “immediate and vigorous” measures are especially aimed at protecting workers so that they can stay afloat and get quickly back to work, businesses (with an emphasis on micro, small, and medium size enterprises) as well as the sectors of the economy most affected.<sup>882,883</sup>

As part of a targeted fiscal policy, the G20 as of 26 March 2020 agreed to injecting over USD 5 trillion into the global economy in order to counteract the negative social, economic and financial impacts of the pandemic. Continued collective G20 will amplify this impact and set a strong bases for the protection of jobs and recovery of growth. This commitment will continue to measure the

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<sup>875</sup> Breaking Down the G20 COVID-19 Fiscal Response, Centre for Strategic & International Studies (Washington) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020 <https://www.csis.org/analysis/breaking-down-g20-covid-19-fiscal-response>

<sup>876</sup> Continue, English Oxford Living Dictionaries, Lexico (Oxford) 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/definition/continue>

<sup>877</sup> Conduct, English Oxford Living Dictionaries, Lexico (Oxford) 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/definition/conduct>

<sup>878</sup> Bold, English Oxford Living Dictionaries, Lexico (Oxford) 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/definition/bold>

<sup>879</sup> Large-scale, English Oxford Living Dictionaries, Lexico (Oxford) 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/definition/large-scale>

<sup>880</sup> Fiscal, English Oxford Living Dictionaries, Lexico (Oxford) 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/definition/fiscal>

<sup>881</sup> Support, Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments (Toronto) 2016. Access Date: 1 May 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf)

<sup>882</sup> G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19, G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 (Toronto) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>883</sup> Remarks by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva During an Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-georgieva-0326.html>

compliance of G20 leaders to their commitment to “continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support.”

In order to differentiate between full and partial compliance, this report uses a depth and breadth analysis as per the Compliance Coding Manual. In order to achieve full compliance, fiscal support should be credible, based on prudent assumptions with respect to economic growth and G20 members’ respective fiscal positions. Therefore, the different capabilities of G20 members will be acknowledged, taking country-specific circumstances into account meaning that specific amounts allocated will not be compared against one another. For this report, strong action will refer to large-scale/extensive money allocation, in the form of assignment of budgetary resources, changing fiscal or monetary policy in favour of this commitment, the launch of a new program of support for the vulnerable and giving to international organization. Thus, in order to receive a score of +1, the G20 must take strong action in the aforementioned areas.

When a G20 member provides fiscal support that might be deemed as smaller-scale, non-extensive and/or provide fiscal support to particular sectors that may not be in as much need compared to small and medium-sized enterprises or affected hourly workers, this member will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance. While this member is still demonstrating their willingness to commit to providing fiscal support, they are not taking concrete actions that meet the “strong” component of this commitment for full compliance.

This report will acknowledge that actions in which a G20 member makes only a verbal mention of providing fiscal support, or actions taken against this commitment will be recognized as a lack of compliance, a score of -1. It is important to note that while decreasing monetary allocation can be taken as action taken against this commitment, if a member has made an error in calculation or the COVID-19 cases have reduced, then a reduction in budget may be allowed (and might instead be considered partial compliance).

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

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member took insufficient action to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support. In this regard, the G20 member has either only a made verbal affirmation to providing fiscal support or has taken action against this commitment by decreasing its amount of fiscal support.
0	The G20 member took partial action in continuing to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support. Here, the G20 member has provided smaller-scale, non-extensive support and/or has provided fiscal support to particular sectors of the economy that may not be in as much need compared to small and medium-sized enterprises or hourly wage workers.
+1	The G20 member took strong action in continuing to conduct bold fiscal support through continued large-scale money allocation in the form of allocating new budgetary resources, changing fiscal, launching a new program of support or giving financial aid to appropriate international organizations.

*Compliance Director: Jane Filipiuk*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 15 April 2020, an emergency assistance program was established by Argentina's National Social Security Administration (ANSES) to provide relief for employers "whose businesses have suffered" as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Benefits include; postponement and reduction of payments of employer contributions, as well as payments of a portion of employee wages covered by ANSES.<sup>884</sup>

As of 14 May 2020, the Government of Argentina has announced measures (totalling about 4 per cent of gross domestic product) focused on providing 1) increased health spending, including for improvements in virus diagnostics, purchases of hospital equipment and construction of clinics and hospitals; 2) support for workers and vulnerable groups, including through increased transfers to poor families, social security benefits (especially to low-income beneficiaries), unemployment insurance benefits, and payments to minimum-wage workers; 3) support for hard-hit sectors, including an exemption from social security contributions, grants to cover payroll costs; and subsidized loans for construction-related activities; 4) demand support, including spending on public works; 5) forbearance, including continued provision of utility services for households in arrears.<sup>885</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Argentine government expanded existing measures by announcing the implementation of a plan of ARS 350 billion (USD 5 billion) to provide relief to companies certified as small and medium-sized enterprises for which social security contributions will be reduced, and the State will absorb the cost of part of employee salaries.<sup>886</sup>

Argentina has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support. While the Australian government has reduced the allocated amount to cover wage subsidies, this was as a result of successful efforts to control the outbreak, and not because of a reluctance to provide support.

As of 14 May 2020, three economic stimulus packages have been put into place in Australia. The estimated total expenditure and revenue measures of the stimulus packages are AUD 194 billion (9.9 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]) through FY2023-24, of which the majority will be executed in FY2019-20 and FY2020-21. The measures that have been put in place include the provision of free childcare to around one million families and targeted support to the education system. Other measures include loan guarantees between the Australian government and participating banks to cover the immediate cash flow needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (up to AUD 20 billion), as well as the allocation of up to AUD 15 billion to invest in residential

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<sup>884</sup>Argentina – Covid-19: Fiscal Relief for Companies, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/flash-alert-2020-174.html>

<sup>885</sup> Argentina's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>886</sup> Argentina: Government and Institution Measures in Response to COVID-19, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/argentina-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

mortgage backed securities and asset backed securities to help funding for small banks and non-bank financial institutions.<sup>887</sup>

Moreover, Australia has committed to spend an additional amount of almost AUD 5 billion (0.3 per cent of GDP) to strengthen the health system and protect vulnerable people, including those in aged care, from the outbreak of COVID-19. The Commonwealth government has also agreed with the states and the territories to share the public health costs incurred by the states and territories in treating the COVID-19.<sup>888</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the Australian government halved the number of people expected to be covered by its coronavirus wage subsidy scheme. Although sizeable wage subsidies of about AUD 130 billion (6.7 per cent of GDP) were promised as part of the stimulus package, the Australian Treasury Department said successful efforts to control the outbreak combined with errors on wage subsidy applications meant the government would be able to revise this scheme, saving around AUD 60 billion.<sup>889</sup>

While Australia has reduced the allocated amount to cover wage subsidies, this was done as a result of the effective control of the COVID-19 outbreak, and not as a reluctance to continue supporting the commitment. It has still remained committed to supporting other parts of the stimulus package that demonstrate its strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 27 March 2020, Brazil's Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes announced a new economic stimulus package would be launched in order to "face the economic impacts" of COVID-19 in Brazil. This package would total USD 150 billion and includes but is not limited to; supporting the most "vulnerable population" through salary allowance, relaxing labour laws to maintain jobs, providing aid for informal and self-employed workers, supporting the airline industry, expanding liquidity in the markets by releasing "compulsory deposits" and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>890</sup>

As of 14 May 2020, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, Brazil has continued and reinforced the series of fiscal measures announced in March, which have totaled nearly 8 per cent of gross domestic

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<sup>887</sup> Australia's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>888</sup> Australia's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>889</sup> Australia Slashes Costs of COVID-19 Job Subsidy to \$46 billion, Reuters (Sydney) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://in.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-australia/australia-slashes-costs-of-covid-19-job-subsidy-to-46-billion-idINKBN22Y02M>

<sup>890</sup> Brazil: Government and Institution Measures in Response to COVID-19, KPMG (Brasilia) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

product. In order to accommodate these measures, the government has also invoked the escape clause of the constitutional expenditure ceiling to accommodate exceptional spending needs, included in a separate (so-called “war”) 2020 budget, not bound by the provisions of Brazil’s Fiscal Responsibility Law and the constitutional “golden rule.” So far, the measures initiated have been temporary income support to vulnerable households (bringing forward the 13th pension payment to retirees, expanding the Bolsa Familia program with the inclusion of over 1 million more beneficiaries, cash transfers to informal and unemployed workers, and advance payments of salary bonuses to low income workers), employment support (partial compensation to workers which are temporarily suspended or have a cut in working hours, as well as temporary tax breaks and credit lines for firms that preserve employment), lower taxes and import levies on essential medical supplies, and new transfers from the federal to state governments to support higher health spending and as cushion against the expected fall in revenues. Financial assistance states and municipalities – with a temporary stay of debt payments, debt renegotiation, and support for credit operations through government guarantees – was also announced. Public banks are expanding credit lines for businesses and households, with a focus on supporting working capital (credit lines add up to over 3 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]), and the government will back a credit line of 0.5 per cent of GDP to cover payroll costs.<sup>891</sup>

Brazil has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 24 April 2020, the Canadian federal government announced that it had expended more than CAD 145.6 billion on direct support for Canadians to “get through the COVID-19 crisis” by “protecting Canadians health and safety, provide business and tax liquidity support as well as the direct support for individuals, businesses and sectors.” The most significant expenditures include; CAD 73 billion for emergency wage subsidies, CAD 35 billion for emergency relief benefits, CAD 15.3 billion for Canada’s emergency business account, CAD 9 billion for financial aid to students and CAD 5.5 billion for an enhanced goods and services tax credit. These measures account for approximately one fifth of the overall tally of the measures the government has announced related to the pandemic. In total, Ottawa estimates the total will amount to more than CAD 817 billion.<sup>892</sup>

As of 14 May 2020, Canada’s fiscal expenditures have amounted to CAD 205 billion (9.8 per cent of gross domestic product). Up to this point, measures have included, but are not limited to a) CAD 4 billion to the health system to support increased testing, vaccine development, medical supplies, mitigation efforts, and greater support for Indigenous communities; b) CAD 116 billion in direct aid to households and firms, including wage subsidies, payments to workers without sick leave and access to employment insurance, an increase in existing GST tax credits and child care benefits, and a

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<sup>891</sup> Brazil’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>892</sup>By the Numbers: Federal Projected Spending on Direct Supports due to COVID-19 Hits \$145B, CBC (Ottawa) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-19-economic-programs-1.5543092>



new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund; and c) CAD 85 billion in liquidity support through tax deferrals.<sup>893</sup>

Canada has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **China: +1**

China fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

As of 14 May 2020, an estimated RMB 2.8 trillion (or 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]) of fiscal measures or financing plans have been announced in China, of which 1.2 per cent of GDP are already being implemented. Key measures include increasing spending on epidemic prevention and control, producing medical equipment, accelerating disbursement of unemployment insurance and extension to migrant workers and providing tax relief and waived social security contributions. The overall fiscal expansion is expected to be significantly higher, reflecting the effect of already announced additional measures which include increases in the ceiling for special local government bonds of 1.3 per cent of GDP, improvements of the national public health emergency management system, and automatic stabilizers.<sup>894</sup>

China has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **France: +1**

France fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 16 April 2020, France announced that it would increase the fiscal envelope devoted to addressing the crisis to EUR 110 billion (nearly 5 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]) from an initial EUR 45 billion included in an amending budget law introduced in March. This adds to an existing package of bank loan guarantees and credit reinsurance schemes of EUR 315 billion (close to 14 per cent of GDP). Some of the key immediate fiscal support measures include: streamlining and boosting health insurance for the sick or their caregivers, increasing spending on health supplies, liquidity support through postponements of social security and tax payments for companies and accelerated refund of tax credits (e.g. corporate income tax and value-added tax), support for wages of workers under the reduced-hour scheme, direct financial support for affected microenterprises, liberal

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<sup>893</sup> Canada's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 ( <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19> )

<sup>894</sup> People's Republic of China's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 ( <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19> )

professions, and independent workers, and postponement of rent and utility payments for affected microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), additional allocation for equity investments or nationalizations of companies in difficulty, facilitating granting of exceptional bonuses exempt from social security contributions, and extending expiring unemployment benefits until the end of the lockdown.<sup>895</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the French government announced the launch of a new plan to help support France's tourism industry — one of the most affected industries in the country. Targeted specifically to help the SMEs most affected by COVID-19, France has stated “le fonds de solidarité” would be open to businesses operating within the tourism, culture and sport sectors until the end of 2020. Moreover, the French government announced that the number of enterprises who would be able to access these funds would be increased to include those with up to 20 employers, and the aid that they would be able to access would be increased to up to EUR 10,000 (from an initial EUR 1,500).<sup>896</sup>

France has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

As of 14 May 2020, in addition to running down accumulated reserves, the federal government adopted a supplementary budget of EUR 156 billion (4.9 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]) which intends to increase spending on healthcare equipment, hospital capacity and research and development on vaccines, expand access to short-term work, provide subsidies to preserve jobs and workers' incomes, expand childcare benefits for low-income parents and provide easier access to basic income support for the self-employed, give EUR 50 billion in grants to small business owners and self-employed persons severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as temporarily expand the duration of unemployment insurance and parental leave benefits. At the same time, through the newly created economic stabilization fund (WSF) and the public development bank (KfW), Germany is expanding the volume and access to public guarantees for firms of different sizes, some eligible for up to 100 per cent guarantees, increasing the total volume by at least EUR 757 billion (23% of GDP).<sup>897</sup>

Germany has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

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<sup>895</sup> France's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>896</sup> Lancement du Plan de soutien au tourisme, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/lancement-plan-tourisme-evenementiel-sportif-culturel>

<sup>897</sup> Germany's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

### **India: +1**

India fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 27 March 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launching of a stimulus package valued at approximately 0.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). The key elements of the package are in kind (food, cooking gas) and cash transfers to lower-income households, insurance coverage for workers in the healthcare sector, and wage support to low-wage workers. These measures are in addition to a previous commitment by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that an additional 150 billion rupees (about 0.1 per cent of GDP) will be devoted to health infrastructure, including for testing facilities for COVID-19, personal protective equipment, isolation beds, intensive care unit beds and ventilators. The Indian government also announced several measures to ease the tax compliance burden across a range of sectors, including postponing some tax-filing and other compliance deadlines.<sup>898</sup>

On 13 and 14 May 2020, India's Finance Minister announced new measures targeting businesses (amounting to about 2.7 per cent of GDP) and expanding support for poor households, especially migrants and farmers (about 1.1 percent of GDP). Key elements of the business-support package are various financial sector measures for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and non-bank financial companies; liquidity injection for electricity distribution companies; and a reduction in up-front tax deductions for workers. Additional support to migrants and farmers will mainly be in the form of providing concessional credit to farmers, as well as a credit facility for street vendors and an expansion of food provision for non-ration card holders.<sup>899</sup>

India has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 31 March 2020, President Joko Widodo signed Government Regulation in Lieu of Law “State Finance Policy and Financial System Stability in the Handling of COVID-19 Pandemic” (Perppu 1/2020), announcing the largest economic stimulus package of IDR 405.1 trillion in helping mitigate the negative economic impact of the outbreak. This stimulus package includes: support to the health care sector to boost testing and treatment capability for COVID-19 cases; increased benefits and broader coverage of existing social assistance schemes to low-income households such as food aid, conditional cash transfers, and electricity subsidy; expanded unemployment benefits, including for workers in the informal sector, tax reliefs for the tourism sector and individuals; and permanent

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<sup>898</sup> India's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>899</sup> India's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

reductions of the corporate income tax rate from 25 per cent to 22 per cent in 2020–21 and 20 per cent starting in 2022. In addition to tax and spending measures, the stimulus package includes IDR 150 trillion (0.9 per cent of gross domestic product) additional financing for a national economic program, including to support credit guarantees for the private sector.<sup>900,901</sup>

Indonesia has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 6 April, as an addition to the “Cura Italia” emergency package adopted on 17 March 2020, the Italian government announced a Liquidity Decree allowing for additional state guarantees of up to EUR 400 billion (25 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]). The guarantee envelope from this, in addition to earlier schemes in aimed to unlock more than EUR 750 billion of liquidity for “businesses and households” that are most affected by COVID-19. As one of the measures, Italian employees are entitled to a monthly amount of 80 per cent of their salary (subject to caps). Where salary is at or below EUR 2,159 per month, employees will be entitled to EUR 939 and where salary is in excess of EUR 2,159, employees will receive EUR 1,199.<sup>902</sup>

On May 15, the Italian government agreed on a further EUR 55 billion (3.2 per cent of GDP) “Relaunch Package” of fiscal measures. Together, these provide a further EUR 14.5 billion in income support for families, EUR 3.3 billion for the healthcare system as well as EUR 16 billion in grants and tax deferrals for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>903</sup>

As of 20 May 2020, the National Institute for Promotion together with the Development Finance Institution have increased the funding limit for the banking system, from EUR 1 million, to EUR 3 million. These funds are intended to provide subsidized loans to SMEs and mid-caps to support cash flow and investment. Additionally, SMEs of all types are able to benefit from a moratorium on a total volume of loans (estimated at around EUR 220 million).<sup>904</sup>

Italy has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

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<sup>900</sup> Indonesia: Government and Institution Measures in Response to COVID-19, KPMG (Jakarta) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020 <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/indonesia-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>901</sup> Indonesia’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>902</sup> Italy’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 ( <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>903</sup> Italy’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 ( <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>904</sup> Italy : Government and Institution Measures in Response to COVID-19, KPMG (Rome) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/italy-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 7 April 2020, the Government of Japan adopted the “Emergency Economic Package Against COVID-19,” valued at JPY 117.1 trillion (21.1 per cent of Japan’s 2019 gross domestic product [GDP]). The April package aims at five objectives, which include: developing preventive measures against the spread of infection and strengthen treatment capacity (0.5 per cent of 2019 GDP), protecting employment and businesses (16 per cent of 2019 GDP), regaining economic activities after containment (1.5 per cent of 2019 GDP), rebuilding a resilient economic structure (2.8 percent of 2019 GDP), and enhancing readiness for the future (0.3 per cent of 2019 GDP). The key measures comprise cash handouts to every individual and affected firms, deferral of tax payments and social security contributions, and concessional loans from public and private financial institutions.

On April 16, Japan announced that it aims to double its contribution to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust from the current 3.6 billion of special drawing rights (SDR). To do this, Japan will make available the first SDR 1.8 billion immediately. The Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility is an arm of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which lends to the world’s poorest countries. Japan is currently the largest contributor to facility’s concessional lending facilities and in early April pledged an additional USD 100 million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust as immediately available resources to support the IMF’s capacity to provide grant-based debt service relief for the poorest and most vulnerable countries to combat COVID-19.<sup>905</sup>

Japan has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 27 March, Korea unveiled a KRW 100 trillion worth of fiscal stimulus package and monetary policy steps to help “stabilize volatile financial markets,” as well as “minimize the economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak.” The Moon government explained that the fiscal stimulus package would focus on financial aid for small and medium-sized enterprises and the self-employed as well as “competitive companies” that were seen as “economic subjects suffering the most from the virus spread.” Included within these companies are tourism-dependent businesses, telecommunications

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<sup>905</sup> Japan’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

businesses as well as film industries. The Bank of Korea (BOK) also added an “unlimited liquidity supply” to these emergency moves. According to the BOK, open bidding will be held once a week by the end of the June in order to provide liquidity with no limit to financial institutions.<sup>906</sup>

On 22 April, the Moon government announced an additional KRW 10.1 trillion spending on wage subsidies and assistance for the unemployed.<sup>907</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Korea’s National Assembly passed the second 2020 supplementary budget. This includes an increase in spending by KRW 8 trillion to fund an emergency relief payment program of KRW 14.3 trillion that is destined to provide direct transfers to households in need.<sup>908</sup>

Korea has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico partially complied in its commitment to continuing to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support. While Mexico has announced its intention to combat the economic effects of COVID-19, its fiscal stimulus can be considered small-scale, thereby lacking the “strong,” and has been directed to particular sectors of the economy that may not be in as much need.

On 5 April 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador outlined in a speech the government’s priority to combat the economic effects of COVID-19. Besides higher health spending and strengthening the social safety net, the plan includes measures such as: frontloading the social pension and disability payments by four months, increased lending to small and medium-sized enterprises and providing liquidity support through development banks.<sup>909</sup>

On 22 April 2020, President López Obrador launched his economic rescue plan to deal with the economic fallout caused by COVID-19. This decree includes a series of measures intended to protect 70 per cent of the Mexican population. In total, there are 11 austerity measures, including a 25 per cent reduction in the salaries of senior public officials, the cancellation of 10 undersecretary position, the creation of two million new jobs and the delivery of three million credits valued at around MXN 1,200.<sup>910</sup>

As of 22 May 2020, President López Obrador has expressed that Mexico is “considering” setting up a Health Emergency Fund to request additional resources from Congress, which could reach up to MXN 180 billion.<sup>911</sup>

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<sup>906</sup>South Korea Unveils 80 bln USD of Fiscal Stimulus, Unprecedented Monetary Steps Over COVID-19 Outbreak, Xinhua (Seoul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/26/c\\_138920113.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/26/c_138920113.htm)

<sup>907</sup> Korea’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>908</sup> Korea’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>909</sup> Mexico’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>910</sup>Mexico Launches Economic Relief Plan Amid COVID-19, Andalou Agency (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/mexico-launches-economic-relief-plan-amid-covid-19/1815370>

<sup>911</sup> Mexico’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

Mexico has taken partial action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.<sup>912</sup>

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

At the end of March, the Russian government announced a RUB 1.3 trillion (1.2 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]) economic support package to combat the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The fiscal stimulus package largely focuses on supporting households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as boost spending to the unemployed and low-income households.<sup>913</sup>

As of 13 May 2020, Russia has announced two fiscal stimulus packages in to help counteract the economic fallout triggered by COVID-19 – the combined cost of these fiscal packages is estimated at 2.8 per cent of GDP. Key measures include: increased compensation for frontline medical staff, providing sick leave pay equal to minimum wage to individuals under quarantine, providing unemployment benefits equal to minimum wage for up to three months, providing an additional lumpsum benefit for all children up to 15 years old, interest rate subsidies for SMEs, tax deferrals for affected companies “on most taxes,” deferrals on social contributions for SMEs in affected sectors for six months, a tax holiday on all taxes (excluding value-added tax) and social contributions for the second quarter for SMEs and non-governmental organizations providing social services, budget grants for SMEs in affected industries to cover salaries at the rate of one minimum salary per employee for two months as well as guaranteed loans to SMEs and affected industries.<sup>914</sup>

On 14 May, Russia announced a third fiscal stimulus package — worth RUB 800 billion — focusing on tax breaks for companies retaining workers as well as direct cash payments for the self-employed and those with young children.<sup>915</sup>

Russia has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

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<sup>912</sup> Sources checked include the Office of Economic Affairs and other respective government agencies/departments, research institutions’ and organizations’ trackers such as the IMF’s, as well as news sources found through Google News such as La Jornada, El Universal and Reforma.

<sup>913</sup> Russia: Government Favours Relatively Moderate Fiscal Stimulus Measures Despite Increasing COVID-19 Fallout. <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/russia/news/fiscal/government-favors-relatively-moderate-fiscal-stimulus-measures-despite>

<sup>914</sup> Russia’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>915</sup> COVID-19: A Reckoning for Russia’s Asian Energy Aims, The Diplomat (Moscow) 21 May 2020. Access Date 23 May 2020. <https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/covid-19-a-reckoning-for-russias-asian-energy-aims/>

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

Saudi Arabia fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 3 April 2020, the Saudi Arabian government authorized the use of the unemployment insurance fund to provide support for wage benefits (within certain limits) to private sector companies who retain their Saudi staff (estimated at SAR 9 billion or 0.4 per cent of gross domestic product).<sup>916</sup>

On 15 April 2020, King Salman approved an additional stimulus package aimed at mitigating the economic fallout from COVID-19. The package includes allocating SAR 50 billion to fast-track the payment dues owed to the private sector. Effectively, these measures are aimed at providing cash liquidity for the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors to use in “managing its economic activities.”<sup>917</sup>

On 10 May 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced new fiscal measures to raise more non-oil revenues, rationalize spending and maintain the budget envelop. These measures consist of additional cut and delay in capital spending, removal of cost-of-living allowances, effective 1 June, and increasing the value-added tax from 5 per cent to 15 per cent as of 1 July 2020, with an expected budget impact of SAR 100 billion.<sup>918</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

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

South Africa fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 14 April 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a series of measures intended to “jump-start businesses ... and help the nation’s poor” as part of a stimulus plan worth USD 26 billion (10 per cent of GDP).<sup>919</sup>

On 17 April 2020, at a meeting of the National Economic Development and Labour Council President Ramaphosa agreed in principle to a ZAR 1 trillion stimulus package, seeking to target those sectors “hardest-hit” by the lockdown by offering assistance to “financially distressed companies.” In

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<sup>916</sup> Saudi Arabia’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 ( <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>917</sup> COVID-19: Saudi Arabia Unveils 50 Billion Riyals Stimulus Package for Private Sector, Gulf News (Cairo) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/covid-19-saudi-arabia-unveils-50-billion-riyals-stimulus-package-for-private-sector-1.1587041977988>

<sup>918</sup> Saudi Arabia’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>919</sup> South African President Unveils Historic Coronavirus Economic Stimulus, VOA (Johannesburg) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/south-african-president-unveils-historic-coronavirus-economic-stimulus>



addition, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, announced that the National Treasury would look to revise the country's budget in order to take into account the effects of COVID-19. Up to this point, the government had failed to agree on a decisive plan, instead resolving to hold another meeting on 20 April 2020. The outcome of that meeting remains unclear.<sup>920</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the Minister of Employment and Labour issued two directives concerning an Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) program. Under these new directives, when an employer pays an employee a partial amount of wages or salary, the UIF is to compensate the employee for the shortfall (in accordance with the terms and conditions).<sup>921</sup>

As of 13 May 2020, as part of its fiscal response to the pandemic, the South African government has taken the following key measures: making sure that additional funds are available for the health response to COVID-19, giving workers with an income below a certain threshold a small tax subsidy for four months, providing the most vulnerable families a temporarily higher social grant amounts for 6 months, increasing funds available to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) under stress (mainly in the tourism and hospitality sectors), creating a new loan guarantee scheme helping companies with turnover below a certain threshold to get bank financing for the payment of operating expenses, as well as allowing SMEs to defer certain tax liabilities.<sup>922</sup>

South Africa has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipink*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

At the beginning of April, Turkey launched its 21-point Economic Stability Shield, a TRY 100 billion stimulus package consisting of TRY 75 billion (or 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product [GDP]) in fiscal measures, combined with TRY 25 billion (0.5 per cent of GDP) for doubling Turkey's credit guarantee fund. Key features of this package include: raising minimum pension and cash assistance to families in need, increased employment protection by loosening short-term work allowance rules, reduced or postponed taxes for affected industries (such as tourism), extending personal and corporate income tax filing deadlines, easing households' utility payments to local governments, banning layoffs (initially, for three months) with a state subsidy for affected staff, state payment of two-thirds of workers' salaries in affected firms, debt relief for local governments' earmarked

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<sup>920</sup>South Africa's Economic Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Part II) Covington Global Policy Watch (Johannesburg) 21 April 21, 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.globalpolicywatch.com/2020/04/south-africas-economic-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-part-ii/>

<sup>921</sup> South Africa's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>922</sup> South Africa's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

revenues, direct support to Turkish Airlines and other affected entities, and the creation of the Turkish Wealth Fund to give new rights to buy stakes in distressed firms.<sup>923</sup>

Turkey has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

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

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 27 March 2020, Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced the UK's fourth emergency package of measures – valued at GBP 9 billion (or 3 per cent of gross domestic product), bringing the total aid announced since 11 March 2020 to GBP 65.5 billion. With the help of this package, approximately 3.8 million workers will be eligible for the grants to the self-employed. Furthermore, the continuation of tax and spending measure include: additional funding for the National Health Service, public services and charities, measures to support businesses in the most-affected sectors, compensation for sick pay leave, strengthening the social safety net to support vulnerable people by increasing payments under the universal credit scheme as well as expanding other benefits.<sup>924,925</sup>

On 2 April, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme expanded to benefit more smaller businesses across the UK. With this expansion, more smaller businesses across the UK impacted by COVID-19 can access funding.<sup>926</sup>

On 3 April, the UK government opened its COVID-19 Stimulus Package Benefits to Licensed Sponsors and Overseas Entrepreneurs. As part of the existing stimulus package for those affected by COVID-19, the government confirmed provisions that would allow “Tier 2 and 5 workers” to be furloughed. Effectively, under this stimulus, an employer may claim up to 80 per cent of the sponsored worker's normal salary (up to a maximum of GBP 2500 per month) to cover ongoing salary costs. Within the same announcement, the government also confirmed that “Tier 1 entrepreneurs” can also make use of the stimulus plan to furlough their workers.<sup>927</sup>

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<sup>923</sup> Turkey's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>924</sup> U.K. Virus Aid Package Beats Financial Crisis Stimulus, Bloomberg (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-26/u-k-s-sunak-pledges-coronavirus-support-for-self-employed>

<sup>925</sup> United Kingdom's Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

<sup>926</sup> Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme Expanded to Benefit More Smaller Businesses Across the UK, British Business Bank (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-expanded-to-benefit-more-smaller-businesses-across-the-uk/>

<sup>927</sup> Government Opens COVID-19 Stimulus Package Benefits to Licensed Sponsors and Overseas Entrepreneurs, Fragomen (Delaware) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020 <https://www.fragomen.com/insights/alerts/government-opens-covid-19-stimulus-package-benefits-licensed-sponsors-and-overseas-entrepreneurs%E3%80%80>

On 4 May 2020, a new Bounce Back Loan Scheme was opened for the “smallest UK Businesses.” Under this scheme, lenders can provide loans of up to GBP 50,000 over six years, with the first 12 months of interest to be paid by the government.<sup>928</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Her Majesty’s Treasury announced an extension to the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme including that the maximum loan size available under the scheme would increase from GBP 50 million to GBP 200 million to ensure that larger firms (who do not qualify for the Bank of England’s Corporate Financing Facility) would be able to access enough finance to meet their cashflow needs.<sup>929</sup>

The UK has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipink*

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

The United States fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 27 March 2020, U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law a USD 483 billion Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Under this legislation, USD 349 billion will be available for Small Business Administration loans and guarantees to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that retain their workers. A further USD 62 billion will be available for the Small Business Administration to provide grants and loans to assist SMEs with USD 75 billion to be given to hospitals and USD 25 billion for expanding virus testing.<sup>930</sup>

On 27 March 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) into law. The USD 2.3 trillion (11 per cent of gross domestic product) CARES Act contains measures designed to bring economic and fiscal relief to companies, SMEs, as well as individuals facing financial difficulties as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis. Effectively, the CARES Act includes: USD 293 billion to provide one-time tax rebates to individuals; (USD 268 billion to expand unemployment benefits; USD 25 billion to provide a food safety net for the most vulnerable; USD 510 billion to prevent corporate bankruptcy by providing loans, guarantees, and backstopping Federal Reserve “13(3) program”; USD 150 billion in transfers to state and local governments and USD 49.9 billion for international assistance (including 28 billion in special drawing rights for the International Monetary Fund’s New Arrangement to Borrow).<sup>931,932</sup>

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<sup>928</sup> New Bounce Back Loan Scheme Opens for Smallest UK Business, British Business Bank (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020 <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/new-bounce-back-loans-scheme-opens-for-smallest-uk-businesses/>

<sup>929</sup> HM Treasury Announce Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme Extension from 26 May, British Business Bank (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/hm-treasury-announce-coronavirus-large-business-interruption-loan-scheme-extension-from-26-may/>

<sup>930</sup> United States – President Trump Signs CARES Act into Law, KPMG (New York) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/03/tnf-cares-act-mar27-2020.pdf>

<sup>931</sup> United States – President Trump Signs CARES Act into Law, KPMG (New York) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/03/tnf-cares-act-mar27-2020.pdf>

The US has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, the US receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipiuk*

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

The European Union fully complied with its commitment to continue to conduct bold and large-scale fiscal support in response to the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19. It has done so by taking strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

On 1 April 2020, the European Commission adopted the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII). The CRII ensures that member states can immediately address three key priorities in the fight against COVID-19 and its economic consequences: spending on healthcare, support to short time work schemes, and support to the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working capital. In order to make funding available, the European Commission has mobilized EUR 37 billion in quick cash reserves from EU funds.<sup>933</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission announced the extension of the EU's State Aid Temporary Framework to add additional measures to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. Some of the key additional measures include targeted support in the form of deferral of tax payments and/or suspensions of employers' social security contributions to help avoid lay-offs as well as targeted support in the form of wage subsidies.<sup>934</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the European Commission agreed to a EUR 540 billion package, which allows the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to provide Pandemic Crisis Support of up to 2 per cent of 2019 gross domestic product for each euro area country to finance health-related spending. Under the ESM, the European Commission also intends to provide EUR 25 billion in guarantees to the European Investment Bank to support up to EUR 200 billion to finance companies (with a focus on SMEs). The temporary loan-based instrument SURE also falls under the ESM. Also included within the ESM is the EUR 100 billion temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) to help workers maintain their incomes and help businesses stay afloat. SURE intends to "redirect every available euro in the EU budget" in order to address the COVID-19 crisis by "supporting member states combat the effects of COVID-19, help save lives and protect livelihoods" as well as help member states to "cover the costs ... directly related to the creation or extension of national short-time work schemes ... and measures put in place for the self-employed." More specifically, the European Commission will the total amount of EUR 100 billion would exist in the form of separate loans granted on favourable terms from the EU to member states.<sup>935,936</sup>

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<sup>932</sup> For more information on the development of CARES Act, please visit:

<https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/03/tnf-cares-act-mar27-2020.pdf>

<sup>933</sup> Cohesion Policy Action Against Coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/coronavirus-response](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/coronavirus-response)

<sup>934</sup> European Union: Government and Institution Measures in Response to COVID-19, KPMG (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/european-union-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>935</sup> The European Commission's SURE Initiative and Euro Area Unemployment Re-Insurance, VOX: CEPR Policy Portal (London) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://voxeu.org/article/european-commission-s-sure-initiative-and-euro-area-unemployment-re-insurance>

On 17 April, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) was adopted, ushering in new actions to mobilize essential investments and resources. Complementary to the CRII, the new package introduces “extraordinary flexibility” to allow that all non-utilized support from the European Structural and Investment Funds can be mobilized to the fullest.<sup>937</sup>

As of 20 May 2020, key measures from the EU Budget allowed for: increased support public investment for hospitals, SMEs, labour markets, and stressed regions; the extension to the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund to include a public health crisis, with a view of mobilizing it if needed for the hardest-hit EU member states (up to EUR 800 million is available in 2020); the redirection of EUR 1 billion from the EU Budget as a guarantee to the European Investment Fund to incentivize banks to provide liquidity to SMEs and midcaps; the announcement of credit holidays to crisis-affected debtors; and the adoption of a proposal for a EUR 3 billion macro-financial assistance package to 10 enlargement and neighborhood partners to help them limit the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. The European Commission also activated the general escape clause in the EU fiscal rules, which suspends the fiscal adjustment requirements for countries that are not at their medium-term objective and allows them to run deficits in excess of 3 per cent of gross domestic product. After announcing a flexible interpretation of EU State Aid rules to support national support measures for critical sectors, the European Commission has further directed Member States to apply Article 107(2)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which enables them to compensate companies for the damage directly caused by exceptional occurrences, such as COVID-19, including measures in sectors such as aviation and tourism. To date, national liquidity measures, including schemes approved by the European Commission under temporary flexible EU State Aid rules amounted to EUR 2.5 trillion.<sup>938</sup>

The EU has taken strong action in terms of providing large-scale monetary allocation in the form of budgetary resources, changing fiscal policy and launching new programs of support.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jane Filipink*

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<sup>936</sup> European Union – EUR 100 Billion Initiative to Support Employment and Business, KPMG (Amstelveen) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/flash-alert-2020-164.html>

<sup>937</sup> Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus: New Actions to Mobilize Essential Investments and Resources, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/04/04-02-2020-coronavirus-response-investment-initiative-plus-new-actions-to-mobilise-essential-investments-and-resources](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/04/04-02-2020-coronavirus-response-investment-initiative-plus-new-actions-to-mobilise-essential-investments-and-resources)

<sup>938</sup> European Union’s Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020 ( <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19> <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

## 7. Global Economy: Debt Vulnerabilities

“We will continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries due to the pandemic.”

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

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.50 (75%)		

### Background

This commitment is part of the G20’s collective and public pledge to address and combat the spread of the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of early April 2020, 207 countries, areas or territories had confirmed COVID-19 cases, with approximately 972,000 cases worldwide, and 50,000 deaths recorded.<sup>939</sup> With a specific focus on ameliorating the current conditions affecting the global economy as a result of the pandemic, this commitment seeks to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries.

After the 2015 Antalya Summit in Turkey, the G20 created the G20 and Low-Income Developing Countries Framework.<sup>940</sup> The aim of the framework was to promote growth and resilience in low income countries, with the work to be done in the following nine pillars: infrastructure, human

<sup>939</sup> COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.

<sup>940</sup> Fact Sheet on the G20 Antalya Summit Outcomes, G20 Turkey (Antalya) 2015. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<http://g20.org.tr/fact-sheet-g20-antalya-summit-outcomes/>.

resource development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, financial inclusion, domestic resource mobilization, and knowledge sharing.<sup>941</sup>

In March 2017, against the backdrop of rising debt vulnerabilities, G20 members under the German presidency endorsed the G20 Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing, with an aim to decrease the risks associated with borrowing and lending credit, especially for low-income countries.<sup>942</sup>

At the finance ministers' meeting in Buenos Aires on 20 March 2018, the finance ministers discussed the issue of debt vulnerability and called on greater G20 cooperation with regards to this pressing concern.<sup>943</sup>

On 1 December 2018, at the Buenos Aires Summit in Argentina, the G20 put forth a document called Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, with a focus on debt vulnerabilities in developing countries, thus reaffirming their commitment to address this issue.<sup>944</sup> At this summit, several commitments were made by the G20 members with regards to addressing debt vulnerabilities.<sup>945</sup>

This commitment made during the virtual summit in light of COVID-19 thus comes from a recognition of the importance of addressing the risks associated with debt vulnerabilities for low-income countries (LICs). LICs are disproportionately affected by the lasting effects and implications of this global pandemic. The first four months of 2020 saw developed, high/middle-income countries at the epicenter of the virus. LICs have comparatively fewer doctors per person and less critical medical supplies per doctor, which puts them at an increased risk of exponentially higher mortality rates and prolonged economic crisis.<sup>946</sup>

According to the Global Health Security Index, which measures the state of health security around the world, 73 per cent of the world's population lives in countries that scored below 50 on this index.<sup>947</sup> The index takes into account a given country's prevention strategies, detection and reporting capacities, rapid response systems, health system, compliance with global norms, and the overall risk environment. The report that used the index found that most countries lack foundational health systems capacities vital for epidemic, and especially pandemic, response.<sup>948</sup> One report showed that at the peak of the epidemic in Wuhan, China, there was a need for 2.6 beds in an intensive care unit for every 10,000 adults.<sup>949</sup> Italy has less than half of that capacity, and as the epicenter of the virus in

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<sup>941</sup> Fact Sheet on the G20 Antalya Summit Outcomes, G20 Turkey (Antalya) 2015. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://g20.org.tr/fact-sheet-g20-antalya-summit-outcomes/>.

<sup>942</sup> G20 Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing - Diagnostic Tool, The World Bank and IMF (Washington, DC) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/2019/111519.pdf>.

<sup>943</sup> Finance ministers and central bank governors Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) Access Date: 3 April 2020. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-03-30-g20\\_finance\\_communique-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-03-30-g20_finance_communique-en.html)

<sup>944</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2018. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html/>

<sup>945</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2018. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html/>

<sup>946</sup> Ranked: Global Pandemic Preparedness by Country, Visual Capitalist. 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/global-pandemic-preparedness-ranked/>.

<sup>947</sup> Ranked: Global Pandemic Preparedness by Country, Visual Capitalist. 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/global-pandemic-preparedness-ranked/>.

<sup>948</sup> As coronavirus spreads to poorer countries, here's how the world can help, Chema Vera for Oxfam International (Cologne-Geneva) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/coronavirus-developing-countries-inequality-debt-oxfam/>.

<sup>949</sup> Li, R., Rivers, C., Tan, Q., Murray, M. B. & Toner, E. preprint at medRxiv (2020). Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033241>.

Europe, is completely overwhelmed. Yet, some LICs have just one-hundredth of Italy's capacity;<sup>950</sup> without the intensive care required by this virus, many more will die in low-income countries as compared to the countries suffering the worst losses thus far.

Economically, the United Nations predicts spillover to low income countries of the adverse effects of prolonged economic restrictions currently in place in many high-income countries. A sharp decline in consumer spending in the United States and in the European Union and the European continent as a whole will reduce the imports of consumer goods from developing countries. Furthermore, LICs dependent on tourism and commodity exports are particularly at risk.<sup>951</sup>

Recognizing the comprehensive and sustained threat posed by the spread of the novel coronavirus, G20 leaders held an Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit over videoconference on 26 March 2020, where they pledged to confront the pandemic and its health, social, and economic consequences. This commitment recognizes the need to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.<sup>952</sup>

## **Commitment Features**

### **Definitions**

"Address": understood here as the direction of efforts and attention to something, to deal with and treat an issue.<sup>953</sup>

"Continue to": refers to commitments that are established and implemented. It should be interpreted to mean new actions will be added to the already existing ones.<sup>954</sup>

"Risks": refers to the possibility or chance of hazard or loss.<sup>955</sup>

### **Concepts**

"COVID-19": an infectious disease caused by the novel coronavirus, with no current vaccine or treatment as of early April 2020.<sup>956</sup>

"Debt vulnerabilities": refers to how exposed and susceptible a country's economy is to financial crisis as a result of debt.<sup>957</sup> Debt in this case refers to the money owed to creditors, particularly the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.<sup>958</sup>

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<sup>950</sup> How poorer countries are scrambling to prevent a coronavirus disaster, Amy Maxmen for nature research, 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00983-9#ref-CR1>.

<sup>951</sup> Low-skilled workers, developing countries at risk of steep economic decline as coronavirus advances, UN News (New York City) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1060832>.

<sup>952</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Leaders' Summit (by videoconference from Riyadh) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/Virtual\\_Leaders\\_Summit\\_King\\_Salman\\_Opening\\_Remarks\\_EN.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/Virtual_Leaders_Summit_King_Salman_Opening_Remarks_EN.pdf).

<sup>953</sup> Merriam Webster Online Dictionary. Entry: "Address." N.d. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/address>.

<sup>954</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

<sup>955</sup> Merriam Webster Online Dictionary. Entry: "Risk." N.d. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/risk>.

<sup>956</sup> COVID-19, World Health Organization. April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.

<sup>957</sup> "Vulnerability Indicators," International Monetary Fund, April 2008. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/vul.htm>.



“Low-income countries”: According to the World Bank, low-income countries are nations that have a per capita gross national income below a certain threshold (as of 1 July 2019, this threshold is USD 1,025 or less).<sup>959</sup>

“Pandemic”: In the context of this commitment, pandemic refers to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a pandemic describes an infectious disease with significant and ongoing person-to-person spread in multiple countries around the world at the same time. On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of the WHO officially declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, due to its incredible global spread.<sup>960</sup>

### **General Interpretive Guidelines**

Addressing the global economy in a cooperative manner against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic can be done by continuing to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries, especially as they are affected by this virus. The G20 recognizes that “the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is a powerful reminder of our interconnectedness and vulnerabilities,” and pledged to protect lives, safeguard people’s livelihoods, and to improve the economic situation.<sup>961</sup>

At the videoconference held on 26 March 2020, the G20 members under the presidency of Saudi Arabia agreed that combatting the COVID-19 pandemic would require enormous global cooperation, with a transparent, robust, large-scale and science-based response, with a spirit of solidarity.<sup>962</sup> These commitments include the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.

According to the IMF, it is still essential to maintain a moderate level of borrowing while addressing debt vulnerabilities in LICs, in order to lift incomes and living standards.<sup>963</sup> To this end, the IMF proposes to rebuild trust in sovereign debtor mechanisms, which often offer more sustainable interest and maturities.<sup>964</sup> IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde spoke at the 2018 Sovereign Debt Conference and insisted on three policy priorities for countries trying to address debt vulnerabilities: to make borrowing more sustainable, to ensure adherence to transparency in borrowing and lending practices, and to encourage stronger collaboration between borrower countries and lenders.<sup>965</sup>

A joint report by the IMF and World Bank suggested that the risks posed by debt vulnerabilities could be addressed through the following measures: buybacks, exchanges, switches, reverse auctions,

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<sup>958</sup> “Vulnerability Indicators,” International Monetary Fund, April 2008. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/vul.htm>.

<sup>959</sup> Classifying Countries by income, World Bank, 9 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/stories/the-classification-of-countries-by-income.html>.

<sup>960</sup> Coronavirus: What is a pandemic and why use the term now? BBC News (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51358459>.

<sup>961</sup> Selected Steps against a Comprehensive Threat: The G20 Leaders’ Statement on COVID-19, John Kirton and Brittaney Warren, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/200326-kirton-warren.html>.

<sup>962</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Leaders’ Summit (by videoconference from Riyadh) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/Virtual\\_Leaders\\_Summit\\_King\\_Salman\\_Opening\\_Remarks\\_EN.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/Virtual_Leaders_Summit_King_Salman_Opening_Remarks_EN.pdf).

<sup>963</sup> Managing Debt Vulnerabilities in Low-Income Countries, Christine Lagarde, IMF (Washington) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/09/13/managing-debt-vulnerabilities-in-lics>

<sup>964</sup> Managing Debt Vulnerabilities in Low-Income Countries, Christine Lagarde, IMF (Washington) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/09/13/managing-debt-vulnerabilities-in-lics>

<sup>965</sup> Managing Debt Vulnerabilities in Low-Income Countries, Christine Lagarde, IMF (Washington) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2018/09/13/managing-debt-vulnerabilities-in-lics>

a diversification of the investor base, and enhancing communications with investors.<sup>966</sup> The IMF and World Bank have also implemented a multi-pronged approach to address debt vulnerabilities, which would strengthen debt analytics and early warning systems, strengthen debt transparency, and strengthen low income countries' capacity on debt and fiscal risk management.<sup>967</sup> However, given the current context and the extreme risks due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the G20 must take decisive action to prevent debt crises in LICs and further economic strains.

Based on these recommendations, and taking into account the unique circumstances, actions towards compliance are three-pronged.

Firstly, in addressing debt vulnerabilities, it is necessary to provide a debt moratorium for LICs. Bilateral official creditors, such as G20 members, have been highly encouraged to suspend debt payments<sup>968</sup> for LICs in order to provide immediate relief to these countries so they do not become overburdened by excessive debt, especially against the background of the global health pandemic.<sup>969</sup> The suspension of debt service payments for LICs should be active for at least until the end of 2020.

Secondly, members can achieve compliance by directly providing grant or lending assistance to LICs or by creating favorable environments for their expansion. Actions that will bolster this includes creating favorable lending policies or strengthening existing ones and enhancing liability management operations.

Thirdly, in addressing debt vulnerabilities, taking action through and with international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank is critical. As major institutions that support the world's economic and financial order, they are crucial in mitigating the impacts of the crisis on debt vulnerabilities. Actions include increasing financial contributions to help support grant financing and lending to LICs. For example, members can provide funding to IMF relief funds such as the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, a fund that provides grants to LICs for debt relief, or loans to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.

The critical word in this commitment is the word "to address," which as indicated above, means to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem. The G20 agreed to take action with regards to the debt vulnerabilities in LICs, as a result of the coronavirus crisis. The verb "to address" here relates to the actions that the members' federal/national governments take through their executive, legislative, regulatory, and judicial institutions to take action with regards to the debt vulnerabilities in LICs.

In order to differentiate between full and partial compliance, this report uses a depth analysis, as per the Compliance Coding Manual. For full compliance, the G20 member must fully or strongly take action in at least two of the three aforementioned areas. They will therefore score a +1 for full compliance.

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<sup>966</sup> Public Debt Vulnerabilities in Low-Income Countries: The Evolving Landscape, IMF and World Bank (Washington) 2 November 2015. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2015/110215.pdf>.

<sup>967</sup> Debt Vulnerabilities in IDA Countries, International Development Association, 4 October 2018. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/896041540087366658/pdf/debt-vulnerabilities-in-ida-countries-10042018-636756697620872725.pdf>.

<sup>968</sup> As per an agreement where nations belonging to the G20 group have agreed to suspend the debt payments owed to them by some of the world's poorest countries. See: Coronavirus: G20 delays poor nations' debt payments, BBC News (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52292249>.

<sup>969</sup> Debt relief for pain relief: Public finances and COVID-19 in low-income countries, International Growth Centre (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.theigc.org/blog/debt-relief-for-pain-relief-public-finances-and-covid-19-in-low-income-countries/>.

For partial compliance, countries may take somewhat strong action to address debt vulnerability risk, thus scoring a 0. If they take strong action in only one area, or somewhat comply in all three areas, this also accounts for partial compliance

This report acknowledges that actions in which a G20 member only verbally declares their action will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance as they are not taking adequate action to fulfill the depth of the commitment. If the members have not taken any steps, or take insufficient actions, such as in only one action area, they will receive a –1 for non-compliance.

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

### Scoring Guidelines

–1	The G20 member took no or insufficient action in providing a debt moratorium, providing grants or lending assistance, or increasing financial contributions to the international financial institutions (IFIs) to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.
0	The G20 member took somewhat strong action to provide a debt moratorium, provide grants or lending assistance, or increase financial contributions to IFIs to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic, or took strong action in only one of those three areas.
+1	The G20 member took strong action in at least two of the three areas of providing a debt moratorium, providing grants or lending assistance or increased financial contributions to international financial institutions to support grant financing to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.

*Compliance Director: Kat Yampolsky*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers’ meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world’s low-income countries beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank’s International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>970</sup>

Although Argentina committed to suspend debt payments at the virtual summit of finance ministers, Argentina took insufficient action in providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to international financial institutions to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries.

Thus, Argentina scores a 0.<sup>971</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

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<sup>970</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>

<sup>971</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations’ economic policy trackers such as the IMF, The Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, and other news sources found through Google News.

### **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>972</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that Australia pledged new loan resources to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), which provides concessional funding to the most vulnerable countries.<sup>973</sup> Australia, along with Japan, the UK, France and Canada represented about 70 per cent of the USD 17 billion given to the PRGT.<sup>974</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Australia, as part of the Steering Body of the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, announced the allocation of USD 195.84 million to 64 of the world's poorest countries with reported cases of COVID-19.<sup>975</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison participated in the Coronavirus Global Response international pledging conference, helping to raise USD 8.2 billion for the global cooperation effort to respond to COVID-19.<sup>976</sup>

Australia took strong action to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic, by working with several multilateral international institutions to provide aid, and by insisting on a debt moratorium.

Thus, Australia receives a +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's

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<sup>972</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>

<sup>973</sup> A Global Crisis Like No Other Needs a Global Response Like No Other, IMF (Washington) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/20/a-global-crisis-like-no-other-needs-a-global-response-like-no-other/>

<sup>974</sup> IMF gets \$11.7 billion in pledges to aid poor countries, will review resources, Reuters (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank/imf-gets-11-7-billion-in-pledges-to-aid-poor-countries-will-review-resources-idUSKCN21Y2CB>

<sup>975</sup> PEF Allocates US 195 Million to More than 60 Low-Income Countries to Fight COVID-19, The World Bank (Washington, DC) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/27/pef-allocates-us195-million-to-more-than-60-low-income-countries-to-fight-covid-19>

<sup>976</sup> Donor Tracker, Germany. 4 May 2020. Access Date: 6 May 2020. [https://donortracker.org/news/policy-updates?field\\_countries\\_regions\\_topics\\_target\\_id\[1\]=1](https://donortracker.org/news/policy-updates?field_countries_regions_topics_target_id[1]=1)

International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>977</sup>

Aside from agreeing to a debt moratorium, Brazil did not take sufficient action in providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to international financial institutions to address addressing debt vulnerability risks for LICs affected by the health pandemic.

Thus, Brazil scores a 0.<sup>978</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

In March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced CAD 50 million in funding to help vulnerable countries prepare for and respond to the novel coronavirus pandemic.<sup>979</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>980</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that Canada had pledged new loan resources to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), which provides concessional funding to the most vulnerable countries.<sup>981</sup> Canada, along with Japan, the UK, France and Australia represented about 70 per cent of the USD 17 billion given to the PRGT.<sup>982</sup> Minister of Finance Bill Morneau announced a CAD 1 billion loan commitment.<sup>983</sup>

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<sup>977</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>978</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including Correio Braziliense and Estado de Minas.

<sup>979</sup> Canada's humanitarian assistance to help developing countries prepare and respond to COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>

<sup>980</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>981</sup> A Global Crisis Like No Other Needs a Global Response Like No Other, IMF (Washington, DC) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/20/a-global-crisis-like-no-other-needs-a-global-response-like-no-other/>

<sup>982</sup> IMF gets \$11.7 billion in pledges to aid poor countries, will review resources, Reuters (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank/imf-gets-11-7-billion-in-pledges-to-aid-poor-countries-will-review-resources-idUSKCN21Y2CB>.

<sup>983</sup> Minister Morneau Concludes Productive G7, G20, IMF, and World Bank Meetings, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

On 4 May 2020, Development Minister Karina Gould told the Canadian Press that the government is advocating for international actors through the G7, G20 and other international forums to provide debt relief to LICs, including in Africa.<sup>984</sup>

Canada took strong action to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries due to the pandemic, by working with and pledging funding to multiple international institutions for this purpose, and by supporting the debt moratorium.

As such, Canada scores +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **China: +1**

China fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 3 April 2020, President Xi Jinping announced that China will continue to step up assistance for Namibia and other African countries in combating the virus.<sup>985</sup>

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>986</sup> Finance Minister Liu Kun announced that China as a bilateral creditor would engage in consultations with borrowing countries to make appropriate arrangements.<sup>987</sup>

In a statement on 16 April 2020, Minister Liu said to the World Bank's Development Committee that all parties should take part in joint actions agreed by the G20 to address debt vulnerabilities, including commercial, multilateral and official bilateral creditors.<sup>988</sup>

In April 2020, the International Monetary Fund announced that it received a new pledge of undisclosed amounts by China to be put towards the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) to provide immediate debt relief to the 25 countries included in the trust programming.<sup>989</sup>

China took strong action to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to COVID-19, as seen through its debt moratorium and funding to the CCRT.

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<sup>984</sup> Coronavirus: Canada pushing for debt relief to Africa, minister says, Global News (Ottawa) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6922522/coronavirus-africa-debt-relief/>.

<sup>985</sup> Xi says China to increase assistance for Africa's COVID-19 battle, Xinhua Net (Beijing) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/04/c\\_138945281.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/04/c_138945281.htm)

<sup>986</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae87-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>987</sup> China urges World Bank to suspend debt payments for poorest countries, Reuters (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-china/china-urges-world-bank-to-suspend-debt-payments-for-poor-borrowers-idUSKBN21Y3KN>.

<sup>988</sup> 'Lead by example': China urges debt suspension for poor nations, Al Jazeera (Doha) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/china-urges-debt-suspension-poor-nations-200417014633980.html>.

<sup>989</sup> IMF to provide debt relief to help 25 countries deal with pandemic, Reuters (Washington) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-world-bank-debt/imf-to-provide-debt-relief-for-25-countries-to-help-them-address-pandemic-idUSKCN21V21G>

Thus, the China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **France: +1**

France fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 9 April 2020, President Emmanuel Macron launched, together with the Agence Française de Développement, the COVID-19 — Health in Common initiative, totalling EUR 1.2 billion of support to developing countries faced with the global health crisis. A specific priority is the African continent.<sup>990</sup>

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>991</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the International Monetary Fund announced that France had pledged new loan resources to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, which provides concessional funding to the most vulnerable countries.<sup>992</sup>

France took strong action to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic, by working with and pledging funding to international institutions for this purpose, and by supporting the debt moratorium.

As such, France scores a +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's low-income countries beginning on 1 May 2020 until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>993</sup>

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<sup>990</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The "Covid-19 – Health in Common" Initiative to Support African Countries, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>

<sup>991</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>992</sup> A Global Crisis Like No Other Needs a Global Response Like No Other, IMF (Washington, DC) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/20/a-global-crisis-like-no-other-needs-a-global-response-like-no-other/>

<sup>993</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

On 17 April 2020, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that the IMF received commitments to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust totalling USD 600 million from Germany, Britain, Japan and the Netherlands.<sup>994</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Germany, as part of the Steering Body of the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, announced the allocation of USD 195.84 million to 64 of the world's poorest countries with reported cases of COVID-19.<sup>995</sup>

Germany took strong action to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs, by working with and pledging funding to multiple international institutions for this purpose, and by supporting the debt moratorium.

Therefore, the Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **India: 0**

India partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>996</sup>

Although India supported the debt moratorium, it did not take sufficient steps through providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to international financial institutions to address the risk of debt vulnerabilities for LICs affected by the novel coronavirus.

India thus receives a 0.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>997</sup>

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<sup>994</sup> IMF, World Bank roll out all their lending tools, The Jakarta Post (New York) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/17/imf-world-bank-roll-out-all-their-lending-tools.html>.

<sup>995</sup> PEF Allocates US 195 Million to More than 60 Low-Income Countries to Fight COVID-19, The World Bank (Washington, DC) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/27/pef-allocates-us195-million-to-more-than-60-low-income-countries-to-fight-covid-19>

<sup>996</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>997</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.



Aside from supporting the debt moratorium, Indonesia did not take sufficient action by providing grants or lending assistance or by increasing financial contributions to international financial institutions to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.

Therefore, Indonesia scores a 0.<sup>998</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>999</sup>

Italy took strong action in supporting the debt moratorium but did not take further action by providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to the international financial institutions to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.

Thus, Italy scores a 0.<sup>1000</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1001</sup>

On 20 April 2020, International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that Japan had pledged new loan resources to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT), which provides concessional funding to the most vulnerable countries.<sup>1002</sup> Japan said that it would make the first 1.8 billion in

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<sup>998</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including The Jakarta Post.

<sup>999</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1000</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and other government agencies, research institutions and organizations that track major coronavirus international policy changes such as the IMF's, as well as news agencies such as La Repubblica, The Local, and La Stampa.

<sup>1001</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1002</sup> A Global Crisis Like No Other Needs a Global Response Like No Other, IMF (Washington, DC) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/04/20/a-global-crisis-like-no-other-needs-a-global-response-like-no-other/>

special drawing rights (SDR) available immediately, with a goal of doubling its contribution from the current SDR 3.6 billion.<sup>1003</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Japan, as part of the Steering Body of the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, announced the allocation of USD 195.84 million to 64 of the world's poorest countries with reported cases of COVID-19.<sup>1004</sup>

In April 2020, the IMF announced that it received a new pledge of USD 100 million from Japan to be put towards the CCRT to provide immediate debt relief to the 25 countries included in the trust programming.<sup>1005</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Islamic Development Bank agreed to provide support of USD 1 billion in budget to support Bangladesh and poverty concerns.<sup>1006</sup>

Japan took strong action to address the risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs affected by the pandemic, and therefore receives a +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1007</sup>

Korea took action in supporting the debt moratorium but did not take further action through providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to international financial institution to address debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.<sup>1008</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

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<sup>1003</sup> Japan Boosts its Contributions to IMF's Catastrophe Relief Fund and Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, IMF (Washington) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/04/30/pr20197-japan-boosts-contributions-imf-catastrophe-relief-fund-poverty-reduction-growth-trust>

<sup>1004</sup> PEF Allocates US 195 Million to More than 60 Low-Income Countries to Fight COVID-19, The World Bank (Washington, DC) 27 April 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/27/pef-allocates-us195-million-to-more-than-60-low-income-countries-to-fight-covid-19>

<sup>1005</sup> IMF to provide debt relief to help 25 countries deal with pandemic, Reuters (Washington, DC) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-world-bank-debt/imf-to-provide-debt-relief-for-25-countries-to-help-them-address-pandemic-idUSKCN21V21G>

<sup>1006</sup> Donor Tracker, Japan (Berlin) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 21 May 2020. [https://donortracker.org/news/policy-updates?field\\_countries\\_regions\\_topics\\_target\\_id\[1\]=1](https://donortracker.org/news/policy-updates?field_countries_regions_topics_target_id[1]=1)

<sup>1007</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>

<sup>1008</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including the Korea Times and the Korea Herald and other sources.

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1009</sup>

Although Mexico supported the debt moratorium, it did not take other strong actions through providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to international financial institutions to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to COVID-19.

Thus, Mexico scores a 0.<sup>1010</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia partially complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1011</sup>

Although Russia supported the debt moratorium, it did not take other strong actions through providing grants or lending assistance or increasing financial contributions to international financial institutions to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in LICs due to the pandemic.

Thus, Russia scores a 0.<sup>1012</sup>

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

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

Saudi Arabia fully complied with the commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until

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<sup>1009</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1010</sup> Sources checked include the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including La Jornada, El Universal and Reforma.

<sup>1011</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1012</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including Russia Today and The Moscow Times and TASS Russian News Agency.

the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1013</sup>

As of 4 May 2020, Saudi Arabia pledged USD 500 million to international organizations to fight the pandemic, including in LICs.<sup>1014</sup>

Saudi Arabia supported the debt moratorium and took action financially to support LICs.

Thus, Saudi Arabia scores a +1.

*Analyst: Kat Yampolsky*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa partially complied with its commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1015</sup>

Aside from supporting the debt moratorium, South Africa has not directly provided grant or lending assistance to LICs or created favourable environments for their expansion and has not taken action through and with international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. No other actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and international organizations.<sup>1016</sup>

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Harshul Bhanjana*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey partially complied with its commitment to continue to address risks of debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries (LICs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's

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<sup>1013</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1014</sup> Coronavirus: Saudi Arabia's statement at G20 Pledging Marathon, in full, Al Arabiya (Riyadh) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/coronavirus/2020/05/04/Coronavirus-Saudi-Arabia-s-statement-at-G20-Pledging-Marathon-in-full>.

<sup>1015</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1016</sup> Sources checked include the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including Cape Argus and IOL.

International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1017</sup>

Turkey has not directly provided grant or lending assistance to LICs or created favourable environments for their expansion and has not taken action through and with international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. No other actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and international organizations.<sup>1018</sup>

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Harshul Bhanjana*

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

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities due to the pandemic in low-income countries (LICs).

On 11 March 2020, the UK made available GBP 150 million to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT), in response to the economic challenges of COVID-19 to LICs. The contribution is granted in the form of a GBP 75 million directly to the trust, plus an additional GBP 75 million allocated in the budget and conditional on demand.<sup>1019</sup> International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that it received commitments to the CCRT totalling USD 600 million from Britain, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands.<sup>1020</sup>

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1021</sup>

The UK has strongly taken action in two areas addressing debt vulnerability risks. It agreed to suspend bilateral debt at the G20 minister's meeting. It also contributed to the CCRT in an effort to offset the economic fallout of COVID-19. However, the UK has not as of yet strengthened existing lending policies or enhanced liability management operations targeting low-income countries.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tariq Azeez*

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<sup>1017</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1018</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, research institutions and organizations' economic policy trackers such as the IMF, as well as news sources found through Google News including Hurriyet News.

<sup>1019</sup> United Kingdom Boosts IMF's Catastrophe Relief Fund with £150 million, International Monetary Fund (Washington, D.C) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/11/pr2084-united-kingdom-boosts-imfs-catastrophe-relief-fund-with-gbp150-million>.

<sup>1020</sup> IMF, World Bank roll out all their lending tools, The Jakarta Post (New York) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/17/imf-world-bank-roll-out-all-their-lending-tools.html>.

<sup>1021</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

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

The United States partially complied with its commitment to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities due to the pandemic in low-income countries (LICs).

On 27 March 2020, the US Congress provided expedited approval of the US commitment to strengthen the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), through a doubling of the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) lending facility.<sup>1022</sup>

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers' meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world's LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank's International Development Association as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1023</sup> Moreover, the ministers endorsed the contributions announced, and called for additional contributions to maintain the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust.<sup>1024</sup>

On 16 April 2020, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced that the US "opposes the creation of liquidity through issuance of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as part of the response" to the global pandemic.<sup>1025</sup> He also said that he believes 70 per cent of the funds created by the SDRs would go to G20 countries while only 3 per cent would go to LICs.<sup>1026</sup>

On 6 May 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced a USD 128 million in funding towards global health and humanitarian assistance. Until that day global assistance of the United States amounted to USD 900 million in global health, humanitarian, and economic assistance to more than 120 countries, many of which are LICs.<sup>1027</sup>

The US has taken action in two areas addressing debt vulnerability risks in supporting the debt moratorium and providing financial assistance to LICs.

Thus, the US receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tariq Azeez*

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<sup>1022</sup> Statement on The United States Congress Move to Strengthen the IMF's Resources, International Monetary Fund (Washington, D.C) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 23 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/26/pr20109-usa-statement-on-the-united-states-congress-move-to-strengthen-the-imfs-resources>.

<sup>1023</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

<sup>1024</sup> Virtual meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 15, 2020, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-0415.html>.

<sup>1025</sup> U.S. opposes massive liquidity IMF boost: Mnuchin, Reuters (Washington, DC) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-usa/u-s-opposes-massive-liquidity-imf-boost-mnuchin-idUSKCN21Y1QU>.

<sup>1026</sup> U.S. opposes massive liquidity IMF boost: Mnuchin, Reuters (Washington, DC) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-usa/u-s-opposes-massive-liquidity-imf-boost-mnuchin-idUSKCN21Y1QU>.

<sup>1027</sup> Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance Builds Upon U.S. Leadership in the Global COVID-19 Response, US Department of State (Washington, DC) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://www.state.gov/additional-u-s-foreign-assistance-builds-upon-u-s-leadership-in-the-global-covid-19-response/>.

## European Union: +1

The EU fully complied with its commitment to specifically address the risks of debt vulnerabilities due to the pandemic in low-income countries (LICs).

On 8 April 2020, the EU Foreign Affairs chief Joseph Borrell, released the EU Global Response to Covid-19 program. It combines budget support, loans and guarantees from the European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development valued at EUR 15.6 billion.<sup>1028</sup> The money will be disbursed through ongoing programs in 90 countries.<sup>1029</sup> Mr. Borrell stated “the bulk of the funding comes from the reorientation of existing funds and programmes.”<sup>1030</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the EU executive stated, “More time will be needed to better assess the crisis’ impact and financing needs for each International Development Association (IDA) country, and to determine what kind of debt relief or restructuring is needed.”<sup>1031</sup>

As of 8 April 2020, the European Commission that an overall package of EUR 15.6 billion was pledged to assist with the pandemic response. This includes EUR 3.25 billion to Africa, including EUR 2.06 billion for sub-Saharan Africa and EUR 1.19 billion for northern Africa. Furthermore, from the European Fund for Sustainable Development, the EU will support Asia and the Pacific with EUR 1.22 billion, EUR 291 million to Africa, Caribbean and Pacific region, EUR 918 million to Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>1032</sup> The funding will support short-term responses, research, and to address economic and social consequences of the pandemic.

On 15 April 2020, during the G20 finance ministers’ meeting, the G20 members agreed unanimously to suspend bilateral debt payments for the world’s LICs beginning on 1 May 2020 and lasting until the end of the year. It applies to 76 countries eligible to receive assistance from the World Bank’s IDA as well as least developed countries defined by the United Nations.<sup>1033</sup>

The EU took strong action in agreeing to suspend bilateral debt, until the end of 2020 and in pledging financial assistance to LICs.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tariq Azeez*

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<sup>1028</sup> EU unveils €15bn COVID rescue plan, but includes no new money, Euractiv (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/botswana/news/eu-unveils-e15bn-covid-rescue-plan-but-includes-no-new-money/>.

<sup>1029</sup> EU global response to Covid-19, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/eu-global-response-covid-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/eu-global-response-covid-19_en).

<sup>1030</sup> EU unveils €15bn COVID rescue plan, but includes no new money, Euractiv (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/botswana/news/eu-unveils-e15bn-covid-rescue-plan-but-includes-no-new-money/>.

<sup>1031</sup> EU unveils €15bn COVID rescue plan, but includes no new money, Euractiv (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: May 25, 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/botswana/news/eu-unveils-e15bn-covid-rescue-plan-but-includes-no-new-money/>.

<sup>1032</sup> Q&A: Global EU response to the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_606/](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_606/).

<sup>1033</sup> G20 agrees debt relief for low income nations, Financial Times (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/5f296d54-d29e-4e87-ae7d-95ca6c0598d5>.

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

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

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

### Assessment

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

### Background

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Commitment Features**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Scoring Guidelines

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

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: +1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Australia: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

### **Brazil: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Canada: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **China: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Germany: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

#### **India: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Alexander Ignator*

## **Indonesia: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepor*

### **Italy: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepor*

### **Japan: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **Mexico: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

#### **Russia: +1**

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

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<sup>1109</sup> En apoyo a la economía popular se adelanta pago de pensiones de adultos mayores y personas con discapacidad, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/en-apoyo-a-la-economia-popular-se-adelanta-pago-de-pensiones-de-adultos-mayores-y-personas-con-discapacidad?idiom=es>.

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

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

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

<sup>1113</sup> Lineamientos para la Operación del Programa de Apoyo Financiero a Microempresas Familiares, Diario Oficial de la Federación (Mexico City) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020. [https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5592265&fecha=24/04/2020](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5592265&fecha=24/04/2020).



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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: +1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

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

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

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<sup>1128</sup> Kanun No. 7244, Resmi Gazete (Ankara) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200417-2.htm>.

<sup>1129</sup> Global Monitoring of School Meals During COVID-19 School Closures, World Food Program (Rome) May 2020.

Access Date: 28 May 2020. <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>.

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

<sup>1131</sup> President Donald J. Trump Is Providing Economic Relief to American Workers, Families, and Businesses Impacted by the Coronavirus, The White House (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2020.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-providing-economic-relief-american-workers-families-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/>.

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

## 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.<sup>1136</sup> 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.<sup>1137</sup> At the WTO members concluded negotiations at the 2013 Bali Ministerial

<sup>1136</sup> 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>.

<sup>1137</sup> *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.<sup>1138</sup>

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.<sup>1139</sup> 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.”<sup>1140</sup>

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

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.”<sup>1142</sup>

### **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.”

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<sup>1138</sup> Trade facilitation, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/thewto\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm).

<sup>1139</sup> 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>.

<sup>1140</sup> 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>.

<sup>1141</sup> 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>.

<sup>1142</sup> 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.<sup>1143</sup>

“To ensure” is to make something certain to happen.<sup>1144</sup>

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

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

## 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.<sup>1147</sup>

“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),<sup>1148</sup> thermometers, ventilators, medication, testing kits, soap, disinfectants, oxygen masks, equipment for intensive care units, and medications.<sup>1149</sup>

“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.

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<sup>1143</sup> Citizen, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 8 May 2020.  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/citizen>.

<sup>1144</sup> 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>.

<sup>1145</sup> Goods and services, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 8 May 2020.  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/goods-and-services>.

<sup>1146</sup> 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>.

<sup>1147</sup> 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>.

<sup>1148</sup> Medical devices: Personal protective equipment, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 25 April 2020.  
[https://www.who.int/medical\\_devices/meddev\\_ppe/en/](https://www.who.int/medical_devices/meddev_ppe/en/).

<sup>1149</sup> 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.<sup>1150</sup>

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.<sup>1151</sup>

<sup>1150</sup> 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>.

<sup>1151</sup> 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](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.<sup>1152</sup>

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.<sup>1153</sup>

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.”<sup>1154</sup>

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.”<sup>1155</sup>

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.<sup>1156</sup>

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

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<sup>1152</sup> 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>.

<sup>1153</sup> 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>.

<sup>1154</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1155</sup> 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>.

<sup>1156</sup> 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.”<sup>1157</sup>

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.”<sup>1158</sup>

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.<sup>1159</sup>

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.<sup>1160</sup>

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.<sup>1161</sup>

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.<sup>1162</sup>

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.<sup>1163</sup>

*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.

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<sup>1157</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1158</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1159</sup> 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>.

<sup>1160</sup> 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](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1161</sup> 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>.

<sup>1162</sup> 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>.

<sup>1163</sup> 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.<sup>1164</sup>

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.<sup>1165</sup>

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.<sup>1166</sup>

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.<sup>1167</sup>

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.<sup>1168</sup>

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.

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<sup>1164</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1165</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1166</sup> 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>.

<sup>1167</sup> 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>.

<sup>1168</sup> 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=](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.”<sup>1169</sup>

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.<sup>1170</sup>

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.<sup>1171</sup>

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.”<sup>1172</sup>

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.”<sup>1173</sup>

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.”<sup>1174</sup>

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<sup>1169</sup> “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](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1170</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1171</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1172</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1173</sup> 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>.

<sup>1174</sup> 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.<sup>1175</sup>

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.”<sup>1176</sup>

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.”<sup>1177</sup>

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.<sup>1178</sup>

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.<sup>1179</sup>

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.<sup>1180</sup>

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,

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<sup>1175</sup> 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>.

<sup>1176</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1177</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1178</sup> 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>.

<sup>1179</sup> 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=](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=)

<sup>1180</sup> “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](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.<sup>1181</sup>

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.<sup>1182</sup>

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.<sup>1183</sup>

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.<sup>1184</sup>

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.<sup>1185</sup>

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.”<sup>1186</sup>

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

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<sup>1181</sup> 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=](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=)

<sup>1182</sup> 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>.

<sup>1183</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1184</sup> 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>.

<sup>1185</sup> 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>.

<sup>1186</sup> 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](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.<sup>1187</sup> 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.”<sup>1188</sup>

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.”<sup>1189</sup>

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.<sup>1190</sup>

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.”<sup>1191</sup>

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

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<sup>1187</sup> 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>.

<sup>1188</sup> 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>.

<sup>1189</sup> 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>.

<sup>1190</sup> 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>.

<sup>1191</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1192</sup>

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.”<sup>1193</sup>

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.<sup>1194</sup>

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.<sup>1195</sup>

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.<sup>1196</sup>

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.”<sup>1197</sup>

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.<sup>1198</sup>

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;

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<sup>1192</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1193</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1194</sup> 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>.

<sup>1195</sup> 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>.

<sup>1196</sup> 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>.

<sup>1197</sup> 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>.

<sup>1198</sup> 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.<sup>1199</sup>

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

*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.<sup>1201</sup>

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

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.<sup>1203</sup>

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.<sup>1204</sup>

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<sup>1199</sup> 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](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/standards_report_e.pdf).

<sup>1200</sup> 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.

<sup>1201</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1202</sup> World Trade Organization 31 March 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1203</sup> 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>.

<sup>1204</sup> 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.<sup>1205</sup>

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.”<sup>1206</sup>

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.<sup>1207</sup>

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).<sup>1208</sup>

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.”<sup>1209</sup>

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.”<sup>1210</sup>

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<sup>1205</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1206</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1207</sup> World Trade Organization 14 April 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1208</sup> World Trade Organization. 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1209</sup> 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>.

<sup>1210</sup> 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.<sup>1211</sup>

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.”<sup>1212</sup>

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.”<sup>1213</sup>

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.<sup>1214</sup>

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.”<sup>1215</sup>

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.<sup>1216</sup>

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.”<sup>1217</sup>

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<sup>1211</sup> 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>.

<sup>1212</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1213</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1214</sup> 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>.

<sup>1215</sup> 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>.

<sup>1216</sup> 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>.

<sup>1217</sup> 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.<sup>1218</sup>

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.<sup>1219</sup>

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.”<sup>1220</sup>

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.”<sup>1221</sup>

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

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<sup>1218</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1219</sup> 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>.

<sup>1220</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1221</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1222</sup>

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.<sup>1223</sup>

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.<sup>1224</sup>

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.”<sup>1225</sup>

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.”<sup>1226</sup>

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.”<sup>1227</sup>

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<sup>1222</sup> 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>.

<sup>1223</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1224</sup> 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>.

<sup>1225</sup> 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](https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/04/evento-gruppo-di-amici-per-food_0.html).

<sup>1226</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1227</sup> 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](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.<sup>1228</sup>

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.<sup>1229</sup>

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.”<sup>1230</sup>

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.<sup>1231</sup>

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.<sup>1232</sup>

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<sup>1228</sup> 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>.

<sup>1229</sup> World Trade Organization 30 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1230</sup> 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>.

<sup>1231</sup> 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>.

<sup>1232</sup> 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.<sup>1233</sup>

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.<sup>1234</sup>

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.<sup>1235</sup>

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

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<sup>1233</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1234</sup> 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-communiqués/article/communiqué-de-presse-plan-de-soutien-aux-entreprises-françaises-exportatrices>.

<sup>1235</sup> 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.<sup>1236</sup>

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.”<sup>1237</sup>

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.”<sup>1238</sup>

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.”<sup>1239</sup>

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.<sup>1240</sup>

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

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<sup>1236</sup> 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>

<sup>1237</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1238</sup> 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>.

<sup>1239</sup> 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>.

<sup>1240</sup> 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.”<sup>1241</sup>

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.”<sup>1242</sup>

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.<sup>1243</sup>

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.”<sup>1244</sup>

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.<sup>1245</sup>

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-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 (including health — pharmaceuticals, biotech etc.), while at the same time encouraging investments (re)located in the EU.”<sup>1246</sup>

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<sup>1241</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1242</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1243</sup> 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>.

<sup>1244</sup> 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>.

<sup>1245</sup> 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>.

<sup>1246</sup> 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.<sup>1247</sup>

*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.<sup>1248</sup>

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.<sup>1249</sup>

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.<sup>1250</sup>

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

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<sup>1247</sup> 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.

<sup>1248</sup> 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>.

<sup>1249</sup> 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>.

<sup>1250</sup> 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](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.<sup>1251</sup>

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.”<sup>1252</sup>

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.”<sup>1253</sup>

On 17 April 2020, as a member of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Germany made a joint Declaration with Brazil, Canada, South Africa, Australia, France, Korea, 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 pursue their indispensable work.”<sup>1254</sup>

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.<sup>1255</sup> 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

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<sup>1251</sup> 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>.

<sup>1252</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1253</sup> 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>.

<sup>1254</sup> 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>.

<sup>1255</sup> 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.<sup>1256</sup>

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.”<sup>1257</sup>

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.”<sup>1258</sup>

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.<sup>1259</sup>

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.”<sup>1260</sup>

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.<sup>1261</sup>

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.<sup>1262</sup> 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

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<sup>1256</sup> 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>.

<sup>1257</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1258</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1259</sup> 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>.

<sup>1260</sup> 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>.

<sup>1261</sup> 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>.

<sup>1262</sup> Franco-German Initiative: Emerging Strong from the Crisis 18 May 2020. Date of Access: 24 May 2020. <https://www.bundestkanzlerin.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.”<sup>1263</sup>

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.”<sup>1264</sup>

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.<sup>1265</sup>

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.<sup>1266</sup>

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.<sup>1267</sup>

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<sup>1263</sup> European Union – French-German initiative for the European recovery from the coronavirus crisis, Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires Étrangères 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>.

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

<sup>1265</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1266</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1267</sup> 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=](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.<sup>1268</sup> 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."<sup>1269</sup>

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.<sup>1270</sup>

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.<sup>1271</sup> India imports about 80 per cent of its medical device requirement.<sup>1272</sup>

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.<sup>1273</sup>

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."<sup>1274</sup>

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,

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<sup>1268</sup> 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>.

<sup>1269</sup> 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>.

<sup>1270</sup> 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>.

<sup>1271</sup> 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>.

<sup>1272</sup> 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>.

<sup>1273</sup> 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=](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=)

<sup>1274</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1275</sup>

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.<sup>1276</sup>

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.<sup>1277</sup>

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.”<sup>1278</sup>

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.”<sup>1279</sup>

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.<sup>1280</sup>

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

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<sup>1275</sup> 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>.

<sup>1276</sup> 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>.

<sup>1277</sup> 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>.

<sup>1278</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1279</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1280</sup> 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.<sup>1281</sup>

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.<sup>1282</sup>

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.<sup>1283</sup>

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.<sup>1284</sup>

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."<sup>1285</sup>

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.<sup>1286</sup>

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<sup>1281</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1282</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1283</sup> 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>.

<sup>1284</sup> 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>.

<sup>1285</sup> 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>.

<sup>1286</sup> 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.<sup>1287</sup>

*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.<sup>1288</sup>

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.<sup>1289</sup>

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.<sup>1290</sup>

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

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.<sup>1292</sup> 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

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<sup>1287</sup> 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.

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

<sup>1289</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1290</sup> World Trade Organization 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm)

<sup>1291</sup> 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>.

<sup>1292</sup> World Trade Organization 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](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.<sup>1293</sup>

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.”<sup>1294</sup>

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.”<sup>1295</sup>

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.”<sup>1296</sup>

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.<sup>1297</sup>

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.”<sup>1298</sup>

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

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<sup>1293</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1294</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1295</sup> 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>.

<sup>1296</sup> 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>.

<sup>1297</sup> 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>.

<sup>1298</sup> 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.<sup>1299</sup>

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.”<sup>1300</sup>

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.<sup>1301</sup>

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.<sup>1302</sup>

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.<sup>1303</sup>

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.<sup>1304</sup>

*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.

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<sup>1299</sup> World Trade Organization 22 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1300</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1301</sup> 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>.

<sup>1302</sup> World Trade Organization 30 April 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1303</sup> 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>.

<sup>1304</sup> 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.<sup>1305</sup>

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.<sup>1306</sup>

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.<sup>1307</sup>

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.<sup>1308</sup>

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.”<sup>1309</sup>

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]

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<sup>1305</sup> 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>

<sup>1306</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1307</sup> 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>.

<sup>1308</sup> 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](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).

<sup>1309</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1310</sup>

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.”<sup>1311</sup>

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 purpose their indispensable work.”<sup>1312</sup>

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.”<sup>1313</sup>

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.”<sup>1314</sup>

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<sup>1310</sup> 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>.

<sup>1311</sup> 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\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/covid-19-del-re-prevenire-crisi-alimentare-globale.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/covid-19-del-re-prevenire-crisi-alimentare-globale.html).

<sup>1312</sup> 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>.

<sup>1313</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1314</sup> 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](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.<sup>1315</sup>

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.”<sup>1316</sup>

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.<sup>1317</sup>

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...”<sup>1318</sup>

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

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<sup>1315</sup> 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>.

<sup>1316</sup> 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>.

<sup>1317</sup> 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](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html).

<sup>1318</sup> 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](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.<sup>1319</sup>

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.<sup>1320</sup>

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.<sup>1321</sup>

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.<sup>1322</sup>

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.<sup>1323</sup>

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.”<sup>1324</sup>

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

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<sup>1319</sup> 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=](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=).

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

<sup>1321</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1322</sup> 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>.

<sup>1323</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1324</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1325</sup>

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.”<sup>1326</sup>

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.”<sup>1327</sup>

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.<sup>1328</sup>

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.”<sup>1329</sup>

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<sup>1325</sup> 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>.

<sup>1326</sup> 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>.

<sup>1327</sup> “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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0422_001.html).

<sup>1328</sup> 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>.

<sup>1329</sup> 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.”<sup>1330</sup>

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.”<sup>1331</sup>

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.<sup>1332</sup>

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.<sup>1333</sup>

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.”<sup>1334</sup>

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.<sup>1335</sup>

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<sup>1330</sup> 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>.

<sup>1331</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1332</sup> 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>.

<sup>1333</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1334</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501_004.html).

<sup>1335</sup> 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=](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.”<sup>1336</sup>

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.<sup>1337</sup>

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.”<sup>1338</sup> Furthermore, Japan and the EU stressed the important of improving global supply chains to become more resilient.<sup>1339</sup>

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.<sup>1340</sup>

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<sup>1336</sup> 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>.

<sup>1337</sup> 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>.

<sup>1338</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942).

<sup>1339</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942).

<sup>1340</sup> 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=](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=).

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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.<sup>1342</sup>

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.<sup>1343</sup>

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.<sup>1344</sup>

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.<sup>1345</sup>

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

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<sup>1341</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1342</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>.

<sup>1343</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1344</sup> 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=).

<sup>1345</sup> Five MICTA 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=](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.<sup>1346</sup>

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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

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<sup>1346</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1347</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1348</sup> 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>.

<sup>1349</sup> 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.<sup>1350</sup>

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.”<sup>1351</sup>

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.<sup>1352</sup>

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.”<sup>1353</sup> Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Kim Heon-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.<sup>1354</sup>

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.”<sup>1355</sup>

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

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<sup>1350</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1351</sup> 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>.

<sup>1352</sup> 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>.

<sup>1353</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1354</sup> 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>.

<sup>1355</sup> 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.”<sup>1356</sup>

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.<sup>1357</sup>

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.<sup>1358</sup>

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.<sup>1359</sup>

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.<sup>1360</sup>

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.<sup>1361</sup>

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

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<sup>1356</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1357</sup> 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>.

<sup>1358</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1359</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1360</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1361</sup> 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=](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.<sup>1362</sup>

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.<sup>1363</sup>

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.<sup>1364</sup>

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.<sup>1365</sup>

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

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<sup>1362</sup> 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>.

<sup>1363</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1364</sup> 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>.

<sup>1365</sup> 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.<sup>1366</sup>

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.<sup>1367</sup>

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.<sup>1368</sup>

On 10 April 2020, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiya 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."<sup>1369</sup>

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.<sup>1370</sup>

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."<sup>1371</sup>

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<sup>1366</sup> 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>.

<sup>1367</sup> Five MICTA 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=](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=).

<sup>1368</sup> 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>.

<sup>1369</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1370</sup> 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>.

<sup>1371</sup> 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.<sup>1372</sup>

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.”<sup>1373</sup>

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.<sup>1374</sup>

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.<sup>1375</sup>

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.<sup>1376</sup>

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.”<sup>1377</sup> At this meeting, Secretary Arámbula emphasized the important

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<sup>1372</sup> 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>.

<sup>1373</sup> 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>.

<sup>1374</sup> 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>.

<sup>1375</sup> 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>.

<sup>1376</sup> 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>.

<sup>1377</sup> 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.”<sup>1378</sup>

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.”<sup>1379</sup>

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.”<sup>1380</sup>

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.<sup>1381</sup>

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.<sup>1382</sup>

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.<sup>1383</sup>

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<sup>1378</sup> 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>.

<sup>1379</sup> 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>.

<sup>1380</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1381</sup> 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>.

<sup>1382</sup> 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>.

<sup>1383</sup> 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.<sup>1384</sup>

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.<sup>1385</sup>

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.<sup>1386</sup>

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.”<sup>1387</sup>

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.<sup>1388</sup>

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<sup>1384</sup> 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>.

<sup>1385</sup> 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>.

<sup>1386</sup> 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>.

<sup>1387</sup> 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>.

<sup>1388</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](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.<sup>1389</sup>

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.<sup>1390</sup>

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.<sup>1391</sup>

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.”<sup>1392</sup>

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.<sup>1393</sup>

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.<sup>1394</sup>

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

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<sup>1389</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1390</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1391</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1392</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

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

<sup>1394</sup> 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.”<sup>1395</sup>

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.<sup>1396</sup>

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.”<sup>1397</sup>

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.”<sup>1398</sup>

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.<sup>1399</sup>

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.<sup>1400</sup>

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.<sup>1401</sup>

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

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<sup>1395</sup> 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>.

<sup>1396</sup> 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>.

<sup>1397</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1398</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1399</sup> 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>.

<sup>1400</sup> 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>.

<sup>1401</sup> 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.”<sup>1402</sup>

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.<sup>1403</sup>

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.<sup>1404</sup>

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.<sup>1405</sup>

*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.<sup>1406</sup>

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

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<sup>1402</sup> 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>.

<sup>1403</sup> 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>.

<sup>1404</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1405</sup> 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.

<sup>1406</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1407</sup>

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.”<sup>1408</sup>

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.<sup>1409</sup>

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.<sup>1410</sup>

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.”<sup>1411</sup>

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.”<sup>1412</sup>

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

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<sup>1407</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1408</sup> 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>.

<sup>1409</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_PR_Calls%20for%208bn_EN.pdf).

<sup>1410</sup> 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>.

<sup>1411</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1412</sup> 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](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.<sup>1413</sup>

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.”<sup>1414</sup>

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.<sup>1415</sup>

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.<sup>1416</sup>

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.<sup>1417</sup>

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

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<sup>1413</sup> 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>.

<sup>1414</sup> 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>.

<sup>1415</sup> 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>.

<sup>1416</sup> 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](https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/south-africa-announces-vat-exemption-and-customs-duty-rebate-on-importation-of-essential-goods).

<sup>1417</sup> 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.internationaltradeupdate.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.<sup>1418</sup>

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.<sup>1419</sup> 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.”<sup>1420</sup> 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.<sup>1421</sup>

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.”<sup>1422</sup>

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.”<sup>1423</sup>

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

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<sup>1418</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1419</sup> 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>.

<sup>1420</sup> 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>.

<sup>1421</sup> 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>.

<sup>1422</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1423</sup> 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 purpose their indispensable work.”<sup>1424</sup>

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.<sup>1425</sup>

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.”<sup>1426</sup>

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.”<sup>1427</sup>

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.<sup>1428</sup>

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.<sup>1429</sup>

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

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<sup>1424</sup> 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>.

<sup>1425</sup> 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>.

<sup>1426</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1427</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1428</sup> 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>.

<sup>1429</sup> 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.<sup>1430</sup>

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.”<sup>1431</sup>

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.<sup>1432</sup>

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.<sup>1433</sup>

*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.<sup>1434</sup>

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

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<sup>1430</sup> 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>.

<sup>1431</sup> 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>.

<sup>1432</sup> 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>.

<sup>1433</sup> 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.

<sup>1434</sup> 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](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.<sup>1435</sup>

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.<sup>1436</sup>

On 10 April, G20 Energy Ministers held an Extraordinary Meeting via video conference. Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiya 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.”<sup>1437</sup>

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.”<sup>1438</sup>

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.”<sup>1439</sup>

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.<sup>1440</sup>

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<sup>1435</sup> 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>.

<sup>1436</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1437</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1438</sup> 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>.

<sup>1439</sup> 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>.

<sup>1440</sup> 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.”<sup>1441</sup>

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.”<sup>1442</sup>

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.<sup>1443</sup>

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.<sup>1444</sup>

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.<sup>1445</sup>

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.<sup>1446</sup>

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.<sup>1447</sup>

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

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<sup>1441</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1442</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1443</sup> 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-iit-toplantisi-hk.en.mfa](http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_88_-covid-19-konusunda-iit-toplantisi-hk.en.mfa).

<sup>1444</sup> 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>.

<sup>1445</sup> 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>.

<sup>1446</sup> 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>.

<sup>1447</sup> 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.<sup>1448</sup>

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.<sup>1449</sup>

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.”<sup>1450</sup>

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.<sup>1451</sup>

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.”<sup>1452</sup>

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<sup>1448</sup> 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>.

<sup>1449</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1450</sup> 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>.

<sup>1451</sup> 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>.

<sup>1452</sup> 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](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.”<sup>1453</sup>

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.”<sup>1454</sup>

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.<sup>1455</sup>

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.”<sup>1456</sup>

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.”<sup>1457</sup>

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

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<sup>1453</sup> 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>.

<sup>1454</sup> 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>.

<sup>1455</sup> 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>.

<sup>1456</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1457</sup> 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.”<sup>1458</sup>

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.<sup>1459</sup>

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

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.<sup>1461</sup>

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.<sup>1462</sup>

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.”<sup>1463</sup>

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.<sup>1464</sup>

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<sup>1458</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1459</sup> 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>.

<sup>1460</sup> 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>.

<sup>1461</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1462</sup> 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>.

<sup>1463</sup> 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>.

<sup>1464</sup> 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.<sup>1465</sup>

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."<sup>1466</sup>

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.<sup>1467</sup>

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."<sup>1468</sup>

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.<sup>1469</sup>

*Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

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<sup>1465</sup> 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>.

<sup>1466</sup> 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>.

<sup>1467</sup> UK Statemen 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>.

<sup>1468</sup> 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>.

<sup>1469</sup> 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.<sup>1470</sup>

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.<sup>1471</sup>

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.<sup>1472</sup>

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.<sup>1473</sup>

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.”<sup>1474</sup>

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

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<sup>1470</sup> 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&amp;itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=6&titleNm=](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&amp;itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=)

<sup>1471</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1472</sup> 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>.

<sup>1473</sup> 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>.

<sup>1474</sup> 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.<sup>1475</sup>

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.”<sup>1476</sup> Participants also pledged to strengthen cooperation on facilitating trade and ensuring the flow of supplies.<sup>1477</sup>

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.<sup>1478</sup>

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.<sup>1479</sup>

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.<sup>1480</sup>

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

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<sup>1475</sup> 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=](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=)

<sup>1476</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1477</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1478</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1479</sup> 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>.

<sup>1480</sup> 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=](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.”<sup>1481</sup>

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.<sup>1482</sup>

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.”<sup>1483</sup>

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.<sup>1484</sup>

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.”<sup>1485</sup>

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.<sup>1486</sup>

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<sup>1481</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1482</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1483</sup> 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>.

<sup>1484</sup> 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>.

<sup>1485</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1486</sup> 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.<sup>1487</sup>

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.”<sup>1488</sup>

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.”<sup>1489</sup>

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.<sup>1490</sup>

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.<sup>1491</sup>

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.<sup>1492</sup>

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<sup>1487</sup> 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>.

<sup>1488</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1489</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1490</sup> 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>.

<sup>1491</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1492</sup> 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.<sup>1493</sup>

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.<sup>1494</sup>

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,<sup>1495</sup> their collaboration with Transatlantic allies,<sup>1496</sup> and with Indo-Pacific partners.<sup>1497</sup> 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.<sup>1498,1499,1500</sup>

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.<sup>1501</sup>

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.

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<sup>1493</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1494</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1495</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1496</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1497</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1498</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1499</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1500</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1501</sup> 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.<sup>1502</sup>

*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.<sup>1503</sup>

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.<sup>1504</sup>

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.”<sup>1505</sup> These eased regulations will apply for 6 months, with a possibility of extension.<sup>1506</sup>

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.<sup>1507</sup>

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-

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<sup>1502</sup> 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.

<sup>1503</sup> METI Minister Kajiya 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_001.html).

<sup>1504</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_545).

<sup>1505</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575).

<sup>1506</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575).

<sup>1507</sup> 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](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.<sup>1508</sup>

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.”<sup>1509</sup>

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.”<sup>1510</sup>

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.”<sup>1511</sup>

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.”<sup>1512</sup>

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.<sup>1513</sup>

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.”<sup>1514</sup>

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<sup>1508</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_613).

<sup>1509</sup> 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>.

<sup>1510</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_604).

<sup>1511</sup> 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](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0411_001.html).

<sup>1512</sup> 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>.

<sup>1513</sup> 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>.

<sup>1514</sup> 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.”<sup>1515</sup>

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.”<sup>1516</sup>

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.<sup>1517</sup>

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.<sup>1518</sup>

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.<sup>1519</sup>

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.”<sup>1520</sup>

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

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<sup>1515</sup> 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-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

<sup>1516</sup> 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](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN1.pdf).

<sup>1517</sup> 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>.

<sup>1518</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819).

<sup>1519</sup> 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/>.

<sup>1520</sup> 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.<sup>1521</sup>

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.<sup>1522</sup>

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."<sup>1523</sup> Furthermore, Japan and the EU stressed the important of improving global supply chains to become more resilient.<sup>1524</sup>

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.<sup>1525</sup>

*Analyst: Sonja Dobson*

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<sup>1521</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819).

<sup>1522</sup> 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>.

<sup>1523</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942).

<sup>1524</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_942).

<sup>1525</sup> 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.

## 10. Trade: Avoiding Unnecessary Interference

“We commit to continue working together to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade”

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

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France	n/a		
Germany	n/a		
India	–1		
Indonesia		0	
Italy	n/a		
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	–1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey	–1		
United Kingdom	–1		
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average	0 (50%)		

### Background

Addressing disruptions to international trade amidst the COVID-19 crisis remains critical in order to ensure the continued flow of medical supplies, food, agricultural products and other goods and services, vital in the fight against the pandemic. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO) world merchandise trade is expected to fall by between 13 per cent and 32 per cent in 2020. Trade will likely fall steeper in sectors with complex value chains, particularly electronics and automotive products. Services trade may be most directly affected by COVID-19 through transport and travel restrictions.<sup>1526</sup>

The G20 leaders attempted to address this issue at their Extraordinary Virtual Summit by committing to continue working together to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

On 24 March 2020, the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo called on the WTO members to share information on trade measures related to COVID-19 with the Secretariat.

<sup>1526</sup> Trade set to plunge as COVID-19 pandemic upends global economy, WTO (Geneva) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr855\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr855_e.htm).

On 30 March 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement was published. The Ministers pledged to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, critical agricultural products, and other essential goods and services across borders, for supporting the health of the citizens. The G20 officials stated, that the emergency measures, designed to tackle COVID-19, must be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, so as not to create unnecessary barriers to trade or disrupt global supply chains. In accordance with the call by the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo, the G20 countries pledged to notify the WTO Secretariat of all of any trade related measures taken, and reiterated their commitment to a free, fair, nondiscriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.<sup>1527</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The commitment has two parts:

1. Facilitating international trade. This part of the commitment requires the G20 members to take active steps to ease the transboundary flow of goods and services, especially those vital in the fight against COVID-19, while abstaining from introducing new protectionist measures in international trade.
2. Coordinating responses. In light of the G20 leaders' and trade ministers' commitments, for the purposes of the analysis "coordinating responses" is implied to mean "notifying the WTO of the trade measures related to COVID-19," as a first step to potential collective response measures in the future.

Thus, to achieve full compliance the G20 members need to take trade liberalizing measures, avoid protectionist measures and provide provides notifications to the WTO on its trade policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

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

### **Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member takes trade restrictive measures and/or does not provide notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
0	G20 member takes trade restrictive measures and provides notifications to the WTO.
+1	G20 member takes trade liberalizing measures, does not take trade restrictive measures and provides notifications to the WTO.

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### **Argentina: 0**

Argentina partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 28 March 2020, the Argentinian government issued the Decree 317/2020 approving the establishment of export licensing requirements on 29 categories of medical goods, including disinfectants, ethyl alcohol, paracetamol, surgical rubber and other rubber gloves, protective garments, face masks and ventilators, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1528</sup>

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<sup>1527</sup> G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement, Group of 20 web-site (Riyadh) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. [https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20\\_Trade%20&%20Investment\\_Ministerial\\_Statement\\_EN.pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_Trade%20&%20Investment_Ministerial_Statement_EN.pdf).

<sup>1528</sup> Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur Decreto 317/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227235/20200328>.

On 2 April 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development of Argentina adopted Resolution 107/2020 temporarily suspending the application of the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition to the imports of certain types of personal protective equipment.<sup>1529</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Argentinian government issued the Decree 333/2020 temporarily lifting import duties on 52 categories of medical products.<sup>1530</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Argentina notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the measures taken to facilitate the trade in certain medical supplies. The measures provided for easing the requirements to the provision of phytosanitary certificates. The requirement to submit an original paper-based certificates was temporarily waived, provided that a digital version of the certificates with a mechanism for verifying its validity was submitted.<sup>1531</sup>

Argentina introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.<sup>1532</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the Minister of Treasury of Australia announced a temporary amendment to the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975, which would make all foreign investments into Australia subject to government approval.<sup>1533</sup>

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

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<sup>1529</sup> Ministerio de Desarrollo Production. Secretaría de Comercio Interior Resolución 107/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227415/20200403>.

<sup>1530</sup> Derechos de Importación Extrazona Decreto 333/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227367/20200402>.

<sup>1531</sup> Measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at the facilitation of trade in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO (Geneva) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN1772.pdf>.

<sup>1532</sup> 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=](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=).

<sup>1533</sup> Changes to foreign investment framework, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/changes-foreign-investment-framework/>



Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.<sup>1534</sup>

On 9 April 2020 Australia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its decision to introduce temporary quantitative restrictions on non-commercial exports of personal protective equipment and sanitizers essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the communication the “measure seeks to prevent individuals and criminal syndicates from hoarding, pricegouging and profiteering on noncommercial exports from Australia” and will not cover legitimate commercial and humanitarian exports.<sup>1535</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Australia notified the WTO of the temporary changes it made to the certification requirements for imported fresh produce, cut flowers, plants and other plant-based commodities. The measure provides for temporarily lifting the requirement to provide the original paper phytosanitary certificate, while submitting an electronic copy instead. This temporary arrangement was to be maintained until 1 July 2020.<sup>1536</sup>

On 1 May 2020, Australia notified the WTO of its unilateral trade measure introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The country introduced a temporary tariff concession measure, with custom duty refunds available, to facilitate the importation of supplies critical in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak, including medical and hygiene products.<sup>1537</sup>

Australia introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

## **Brazil: 0**

Brazil partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 1 April 2020, the Brazilian government issued the Decree 10.302 temporarily suspending the levy of the tax on industrialized products to the imports of certain pharmaceutical articles, gloves and medical thermometers.<sup>1538</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber issued Resolution No. 28 lifting the import tariffs on 22 types of medical goods.<sup>1539</sup>

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<sup>1534</sup> 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=](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=)

<sup>1535</sup> Notification pursuant to the Decision on notification procedures for quantitative restrictions (G/L/59/REV.1), World Trade Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1536</sup> NOTIFICATION, WTO (Geneva) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/NAUS497.pdf>.

<sup>1537</sup> 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: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1538</sup> Decreto Nº 10.302, Presidency of the Republic (Brasilia) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2019-2022/2020/decreto/D10302.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2020/decreto/D10302.htm).

On 13 April 2020, the Subsecretary of Foreign Trade Operations of Brazil issued the Importation Notice n° 23/2020 lifting the import licensing requirements on certain goods, including polyurethane sheets, vulcanized rubber threads and two-component fibres of different merging points.<sup>1540</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the Ministry of Health of Brazil issued the Resolution N° 370, which provided for the inclusion of 12 types of drugs, namely, hloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, fentanyl, midazolam, ethosuximide, propofol, pancuronium, pancuronium, rocuronium, succinylcholine and ivermectin, to the list of medical products subject to export licensing requirements.<sup>1541</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Brazilian Government adopted the Law N° 13993, introducing an export ban on rubber and nitrile gloves, waterproof medical aprons, protective goggles, surgical face masks, medical hats, face shields, lung ventilators and circuits, multiparameter monitors, hospital beds.<sup>1542</sup>

During the monitoring period Brazil provided 13 notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1543</sup>

Brazil introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 April 2020, Canada notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the interim measure to ease phytosanitary requirements to hand sanitizers, disinfectants, personal protective equipment and swabs in order to meet the demand in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1544</sup>

On 11 May 2020 Canada notified the WTO of its additional unilateral trade measures, taken in response to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada waived custom duties on medical supplies identified in the list of goods critical for combating COVID-19 by World Health Organization and World Customs Organization.<sup>1545</sup>

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<sup>1539</sup> Resolução N° 28, Official Gazette (Brasília) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-n-28-de-1-de-abril-de-2020-251062799>.

<sup>1540</sup> Importação n° 023/2020, Siscomex (Brasília) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<http://www.siscomex.gov.br/importacao/importacao-n-023-2020/>.

<sup>1541</sup> Resolução - RDC N° 370, Ministry of Health (Brasília) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

[http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL\\_03/Portaria/RES/Resolucao-370-MS-ANVISA.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL_03/Portaria/RES/Resolucao-370-MS-ANVISA.htm).

<sup>1542</sup> Lei N° 13.993, Official Gazette (Brasília) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/lei-n-13.993-de-23-de-abril-de-2020-253759430>.

<sup>1543</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1544</sup> Notification, WTO (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/TBTN20/CAN609.pdf>.

<sup>1545</sup> Unilateral Measures Relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Measures to Facilitate the Importation of Medical Supplies, Including Personal Protective Equipment, World Trade Organization (Geneva) : 25 May 2020.. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

Canada introduced liberalizing measures during the monitoring period and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **China: 0**

China partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 31 March 2020, the Chinese government issued the Announcement 2020/5 introducing new certification and inspection requirements on the exports of test kits, ventilators, protective equipment, and infrared thermometers. The firms exporting these goods were required to receive accreditation from the Chinese National Medical Products Association.<sup>1546</sup>

On 25 April 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce issued the Announcement 2020/12 reverted the changes introduced by the Announcement 2020/5 of 31 March 2020. The new regulation obligated the exporters of test kits, ventilators, protective equipment, and infrared thermometers to receive quality certification in either China or at the export destination.<sup>1547</sup>

On 30 April 2020, China provided a Notification under article 1.4 and 10.6.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) containing the list of temporary arrangements the country had adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1548</sup>

China introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **France: n/a**

Trade is an issue where the European Commission has long had exclusive formal legal competence. Thus, because France is a member of the European Union, its compliance with this commitment has not been assessed.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **Germany: n/a**

Trade is an issue where the European Commission has long had exclusive formal legal competence. Thus, because Germany is a member of the European Union, its compliance with this commitment has not been assessed.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>1546</sup> Announcement 2020/5, Chinese Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/e/202003/20200302950371.shtml>.

<sup>1547</sup> Announcement 2020/12, Chinese Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/e/202004/20200402958960.shtml>.

<sup>1548</sup> Notification under article 1.4 and 10.6.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, WTO (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/TFA/NCHN2R3.pdf>.

**India: -1**

India failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 4 April 2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued the Notification 01/2015-2020 reinforcing the restrictions on exports of hydroxychloroquine and its formulations.<sup>1549</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued the Notification 59/2015-2020 introducing the licensing requirement for the exports of medical diagnostic kits.<sup>1550</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued the Notification 02/2015-2020 changing the export policy of certain active pharmaceutical ingredients and their formulations. The measure lifted the licensing requirement for the exports of such products. The new notification overruled the previous restriction, introduced on 3 March 2020.<sup>1551</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Ministry of Finance issued the Notification 20/2020, exempting 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 customs duties.<sup>1552</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India issued the Press Note No. 3(2020 series) introducing government approval requirement for any foreign direct investment from “a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country.” The measure was described as aiming to “curb opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>1553</sup>

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. The new regulation lifts the ban on all but the alcohol-based hand sanitizers.<sup>1554</sup>

India did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1555</sup>

India introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and did not provide notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>1549</sup> Notification No. 01/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%201%20Final%20Eng\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%201%20Final%20Eng_0.pdf).

<sup>1550</sup> Notification No. 59/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2059%20Final%20Eng\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2059%20Final%20Eng_0.pdf)

<sup>1551</sup> Notification No. 2/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final_0.pdf).

<sup>1552</sup> Notification No. 20/2020— Customs, Indian Ministry of Finance (Delhi) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs20-2020.pdf>.

<sup>1553</sup> Press Note No. 3(2020 Series), Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Delhi) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn3\\_2020.pdf](https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn3_2020.pdf).

<sup>1554</sup> Notification No. 4/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final_0.pdf).

<sup>1555</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 26 March 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade issued the Regulation 31/2020 banning the export of ethyl alcohol.<sup>1556</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade issued the Regulation 37/ 2020 lifting the import licensing requirement for used ventilators. This measure was to remain in effect until 30 June 2020.<sup>1557</sup>

During the monitoring period Indonesia provided six notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1558</sup>

Indonesia introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Italy: n/a**

Trade is an issue where the European Commission has long had exclusive formal legal competence. Thus, because Italy is a member of the European Union, its compliance with this commitment has not been assessed.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 April 2020, Japan issued a notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the “procedure for temporary measures to accept scanned or hard copies of export certificates.” According to the notification the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries “accepts scanned or hard copies of export certificates for animals, plants and their products to be exported to Japan in order to facilitate trade in face of COVID-19 outbreak.”<sup>1559</sup>

Japan introduced measures to facilitate trade during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>1556</sup> Ministry of Trade Regulation 31/2020, Indonesian Ministry of Trade (Jakarta) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1982/2>.

<sup>1557</sup> Ministry of Trade Regulation 37/2020, Indonesian Ministry of Trade (Jakarta) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1987/2>.

<sup>1558</sup> Notification under article 1.4 and 10.6.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, WTO (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/TFA/NCHN2R3.pdf>.

<sup>1559</sup> Notification, WTO (Geneva) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/NJPN755.pdf>.

### **Korea: +1**

Korea fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 April 2020, Korea issued two notifications to the WTO on its trade policy measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1560</sup> The first informed the WTO of the unilateral measures to waive tariffs on the import of surgical and sanitary and melt-blown filters, as well as expedite approval and customs clearance for these masks until 30 June 2020.<sup>1561</sup> The second notification provided the information on the prohibition of export of surgical and sanitary masks, introduced on March 2020 (before the start of the monitoring period).<sup>1562</sup>

Korea introduced measures to facilitate trade during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 30 April 2020, Mexico issued a notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at the facilitation of trade in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the communication, starting from 27 March 2020, Mexico would not require the original phytosanitary certificate for any shipments of products and by-products of plant origin. The importers were, however, obligated to send the original certificate 15 days after the end of COVID-19 emergency in the country of origin.<sup>1563</sup>

Mexico introduced measures to facilitate trade during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1560</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1561</sup> Unilateral measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic: measures to facilitate the importation of surgical and sanitary masks supplies to importers, WTO (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/MA/W147.pdf>.

<sup>1562</sup> Temporary export prohibition necessary to protect human health and prevent critical shortage of essential products in response to COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/MAQRN/KOR2A1.pdf>.

<sup>1563</sup> Measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at the facilitation of trade in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO (Geneva) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN1773.pdf>.

On 31 March 2020, the Russian Government introduced export quotas on wheat and meslin, rye, barley, and maize, valid between 1 April and 1 July 2020.<sup>1564</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission announced an export ban on onions and garlic, turnip, rye, rice, buckwheat, millet, groats, cereal granules and wholemeal flour, crushed buckwheat grains, soybeans, sunflower seeds, foods prepared from buckwheat in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. The ban was to remain in force between 14 April 2020 and 1 July 2020.<sup>1565</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Eurasian Economic Union announced a waiver of import duties on certain agricultural and medical goods, in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. The waiver was to remain in force between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020.<sup>1566</sup>

During the monitoring period Russia provided four notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1567</sup>

Russia introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **Saudi Arabia: –1**

Saudi Arabia failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saudi Arabia did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1568</sup>

No information on Saudi Arabia's trade policy actions taken in response to the COVID-19 outbreak during the monitoring period was registered, while the country did not provide any notifications to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of –1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1564</sup> On the Introduction of Temporary Quantitative Export Restriction on Grains, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020.

<http://static.government.ru/media/files/0kk3yjAkAmmPZxBeCo3G98KNnc2uDDNA.pdf>.

<sup>1565</sup> On Amending the Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission N30 dated 21 April 2015, Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/en-us/01425280/err\\_02042020\\_43](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/en-us/01425280/err_02042020_43).

<sup>1566</sup> On the draft resolution of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council "On measures taken within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union aimed at ensuring economic stability in the context of the development of the COVID-19 coronavirus infection pandemic," Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01425315/err\\_06042020\\_31](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01425315/err_06042020_31).

<sup>1567</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1568</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

On 27 March 2020, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) announced the elimination of value-added tax from imports of goods considered essential to confront the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1569</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa adopted Notice R. 424 imposing export licensing requirements on alcohol-based hand sanitizers, certain types of facemasks, gas masks, other breathing appliances, hydroxychloroquine, antisera and other blood fractions, certain vaccines for human and some medicaments.<sup>1570</sup>

On 29 March 2020, SARS approved a full rebate on imports of goods considered essential to confront the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1571</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the government of South Africa banned the export of wine during the COVID-19 lockdown period.<sup>1572</sup>

During the monitoring period South Africa provided two notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1573</sup>

South Africa introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **Turkey: -1**

Turkey failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 26 March 2020, the government of Turkey imposed a permit requirement on the exports of certain medical equipment and devices that are used to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic.<sup>1574</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Turkish Ministry of Trade introduced a permission requirement on the imports of medical test kits that are used in COVID-19 tests.<sup>1575</sup>

On 18 April 2020, the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued the Amendment Decree to the Import Regime Decree temporarily increasing the import duties on iron and steel products by 5%.<sup>1576</sup>

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<sup>1569</sup> Rebate Application (Rebate 412 - Remedy for Critical Medical Supplies re COVID-19), International Trade Administration Commission (Pretoria) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20\(COVID-19\).pdf](http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20(COVID-19).pdf).

<sup>1570</sup> COVID-19 Export Control Regulation, Government Gazette of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Covid-19%20Export%20Control%20Reg%2027%20March%202020.pdf>.

<sup>1571</sup> Rebate Application (Rebate 412 - Remedy for Critical Medical Supplies re COVID-19), International Trade Administration Commission (Pretoria) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20\(COVID-19\).pdf](http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20(COVID-19).pdf).

<sup>1572</sup> Minister Fikile Mbalula: Review of transport measures during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-fikile-mbalula-review-transport-measures-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-16>.

<sup>1573</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1574</sup> Communiqué amending the Communiqué on Prohibited and Pre-Permitted Goods, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/03/20200326-13.htm>.

<sup>1575</sup> Communiqué on the import of medical test kits, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200402-18.htm>.



On 2 May 2020, the Government of Turkey issued Communiqué no. 2020/9 eliminating the export licensing requirement on ethyl alcohol, cologne, hydrogen peroxide, melt-blown nonwoven fabric, and certain disinfectants.<sup>1577</sup>

On 2 May 2020, the government of Turkey announced eliminating the export permission requirement on ventilators, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machines, oxygen concentrators, ventilation equipment namely flow sensors, expiration valves, oxygen sensors, and ventilator circuits, anesthesia/ventilator circuits, intravenous cannulas, intubation tubes, intensive care monitors.<sup>1578</sup>

Turkey did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1579</sup>

Turkey introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and did not provide notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **United Kingdom: -1**

The United Kingdom failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 31 March 2020, the United Kingdom announced the temporary elimination of the import duty on certain medical supplies, equipment and protective garments from non-EU countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, value-added tax was also eliminated as so far as it relates to the subject goods imported.<sup>1580</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom added 52 item categories to the list of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK.<sup>1581</sup>

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

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<sup>1576</sup> Amendment Decree to the Import Regime Decree, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200418-7.pdf>.

<sup>1577</sup> Communiqué amending the Communiqué on goods subject to export licensing requirement, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/05/20200502-5.htm>.

<sup>1578</sup> Communiqué amending the Communiqué on Prohibited and Pre-Permitted Goods, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/05/20200502-4.htm>.

<sup>1579</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1580</sup> Pay no import duty and VAT on medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (COVID-19), The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19>.

<sup>1581</sup> List of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk>.

restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”<sup>1582</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom further amended the to the list of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK adding 33 new items.<sup>1583</sup>

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.”<sup>1584</sup>

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.<sup>1585</sup>

The United Kingdom did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1586</sup>

The United Kingdom introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and did not provide notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakebarov*

### **United States: 0**

The United States partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the monitoring period the United States provided four notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1587</sup>

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<sup>1582</sup> 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>.

<sup>1583</sup> List of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/880831/Medicines\\_that\\_cannot\\_be\\_parallel\\_exported\\_from\\_the\\_UK\\_23.csv/preview](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880831/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK_23.csv/preview).

<sup>1584</sup> 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>.

<sup>1585</sup> UK Statemen 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>.

<sup>1586</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1587</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

On 3 April 2020, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, signed the Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, stating that “it is the policy of the United States to prevent domestic brokers, distributors, and other intermediaries from diverting [personal protective equipment] material overseas.”<sup>1588</sup>

On April 10, 2020 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published a temporary rule banning exports of five types of personal protective equipment, including filtering facepiece respirators, surgical masks and protective gloves, from the United States without explicit approval by FEMA.<sup>1589</sup>

The United States introduced trade restrictive measures during the monitoring period, but provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **European Union: 0**

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 1 April 2020, the European Commission notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its Regulation (EU) 2020/466 of 31 March on temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal and plant health and animal welfare during certain serious disruptions of Member States’ control systems due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Regulation provides temporary flexibility option for member-states’ control authorities to use inter alia remote communication and electronically submitted documents for checks, in view of the situation linked to COVID-19.<sup>1590</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission approved the decision to waive customs duties and value-added tax on the import of medical devices, and protective equipment, from third countries in order to help in the fight he COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1591</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the European Commission approved the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568, making the exportation of protective spectacles and visors, mouth-nose protection equipment, and protective garments subject to the production of an export authorization.<sup>1592</sup>

During the monitoring period the European Union provided four notifications to the WTO on its measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1593</sup>

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<sup>1588</sup> Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, President of the United States (Washington) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-allocating-certain-scarce-threatened-health-medical-resources-domestic-use/>.

<sup>1589</sup> Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use, Department of Homeland Security 10 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-07659.pdf>.

<sup>1590</sup> Temporary flexibility option for control authorities to use inter alia remote communication and electronically submitted documents for checks, in view of the situation linked to COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/NEU380.pdf>.

<sup>1591</sup> 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: 27 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_575](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575).

<sup>1592</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568, European Commission (Brussels) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0568&from=EN>.

The European Union introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>1593</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

## 11. Finance: Global Cooperation

“We will work swiftly and decisively with the front-line international organizations, notably the WHO [World Health Organization], IMF [International Monetary Fund], WBG [World Bnk Group], and multilateral and regional development banks to deploy a robust, coherent, coordinated and rapid finance package and to address any gaps in their toolkit.”

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

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea	-1		
Mexico		0	
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Overall Score	+0.20 (60%)		

### Background

Trade is one of the core missions of the G20, as it directly contributes to economic recovery and growth. A key motivation for the establishment of the G20 was the rapid expansion of international trade with the transition from closed and centrally planned economies to open-market economies.<sup>1594</sup> Since its inception, the G20 has continuously committed to lowering trade barriers and emphasized the importance of open markets.

The G20 affirmed its commitment against protectionism in response to the 2008 financial crisis. At the 2008 Washington Summit, the G20 members committed to “rejecting protectionism and not turning inward in times of financial uncertainty.”<sup>1595</sup>

<sup>1594</sup> The Group of Twenty: A History, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2008. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/docs/g20history.pdf>

<sup>1595</sup> Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the G20 committed to “global standards consistently in a way that ensures a level playing field and avoids fragmentation of markets, protectionism, and regulatory arbitrage.”<sup>1596</sup>

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the G20 committed “to renew for a further three years, until the end of 2013, our commitment to refrain from raising barriers or imposing new barriers to investment or trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions or implementing World Trade Organization (WTO)-inconsistent measures to stimulate exports, and commit to rectify such measures as they arise.”<sup>1597</sup>

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the G20 committed to “reaffirm our standstill commitment until the end of 2014 with regard to measures affecting trade and investment.”<sup>1598</sup>

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the G20 agreed to “reaffirm [its] commitment to roll back new protectionist measures.”<sup>1599</sup>

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the G20 reaffirmed its commitment to roll back new protectionist measures.<sup>1600</sup>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 recommitted to “resist all forms of protectionism.”<sup>1601</sup>

At the 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 members committed to “build an open world economy, reject protectionism, promote global trade and investment, including through further strengthening the multilateral trading system, and ensure broad-based opportunities through and public support for expanded growth in a globalized economy.”<sup>1602</sup> At the 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 adopted the G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth “as an integral part of G20’s efforts to achieve our ambition of 2 per cent additional growth by 2018 set by G20 leaders in Brisbane in 2014, and as part of its broader efforts to strengthen global growth and to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”<sup>1603</sup> This strategy aims to lower trade costs, harness trade and investment policy coherence, boost trade in services, enhance trade finance and promote e-commerce development.<sup>1604</sup> The G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth includes the G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking.<sup>1605</sup> These non-binding principles aim to foster an open, transparent and conducive global policy environment for investment, promote coherence in

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<sup>1596</sup> G20 Leaders’ Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 24 – 25 September 2009. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

<sup>1597</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

<sup>1598</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>1599</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

<sup>1600</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

<sup>1601</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>1602</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>1603</sup> Annex II: G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 July 2016. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160710-trade-annex2.html>

<sup>1604</sup> Annex II: G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 July 2016. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160710-trade-annex2.html>

<sup>1605</sup> Annex III: G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 July 2016. Access Date: 29 October 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160710-trade-annex3.html>

national and international investment policymaking, and promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.<sup>1606</sup>

On 30 June 2017, the WTO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published the *Report on G20 Trade and Investment Measures*.<sup>1607</sup> The report found that between October 2016 and May 2017, G20 members approved 42 new trade-restrictive measures. The reports also found that 42 new measures aimed at facilitating trade were applied. This continues a “declining trend in the application of trade facilitating measures observed in 2016.”<sup>1608</sup> The report furthermore asserts that the trade coverage of import-facilitating measures exceeded that of import-restrictive measures.<sup>1609</sup> The report concludes that the G20 must “show leadership in reiterating their commitment to open and mutually beneficial trade as a key driver of economic growth and a major engine for prosperity.”<sup>1610</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the G20 leaders made more ambitious commitments regarding the importance of inclusive growth stating that “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth ...remains our highest priority.” In particular, the *Leader’s Declaration*<sup>1611</sup> included a commitment to use “all policy tools, “including “monetary, fiscal and structure “in pursuit of inclusive growth.<sup>1612</sup> The importance of international investment and digitalization in achieving inclusive growth was also highlighted, as well as the necessity of empowering women and fostering equal access to the financial system and the formal economy. In the area of international cooperation, the G20 Africa Partnership, one of the principal new initiatives of the Hamburg Summit, was framed as an opportunity to promote inclusive economic growth in emerging African economies.

The G20 continued to address the importance of inclusive growth at the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit. Leaders committed to “use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth” in the leaders’ declaration. Inclusive growth was also tied to the Argentinian Presidency’s priority area of infrastructure, which was acknowledged as a “key driver” of inclusive growth. Leaders additionally recognized the importance of making growth inclusive and distributing the benefits of growth widely in the Buenos Aires Action Plan.<sup>1613</sup> The action plan recognized the need to better understand the drivers of inclusive growth and inequality, and also listed a variety of

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<sup>1606</sup> Annex III: G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 10 July 2016. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160710-trade-annex3.html>

<sup>1607</sup> Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, World Trade Organization, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Committee on Trade and Development 30 June 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/17th-Report-on-G20-Trade-and-Investment-Measures.pdf>

<sup>1608</sup> Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, World Trade Organization, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Committee on Trade and Development 30 June 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/17th-Report-on-G20-Trade-and-Investment-Measures.pdf>

<sup>1609</sup> Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, World Trade Organization, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Committee on Trade and Development 30 June 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/17th-Report-on-G20-Trade-and-Investment-Measures.pdf>

<sup>1610</sup> Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, World Trade Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Committee on Trade and Development 30 June 2017. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/17th-Report-on-G20-Trade-and-Investment-Measures.pdf>

<sup>1611</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1612</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1613</sup> Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenos-aires-action-plan.html>

examples of successful and relevant measures by G20 members to promote inclusive growth, including in tax, education, social security reform, financial regulation, and labour.<sup>1614</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G20 has stated: “we will work swiftly and decisively with the front-line international organizations, notably WHO, IMF, WBG, and multilateral and regional development banks to deploy a robust, coherent, coordinated and rapid finance package and to address any gaps in their toolkit.”

### **Definitions**

“Swiftly” is defined as “quickly,” while “decisively” is understood as “in a manner that produces a definite result.” “Finance package” is defined as money, credit, loan or funding.”<sup>1615</sup>

“Robust” is defined as having or exhibiting strength.<sup>1616</sup>

“Coherent” is defined as logically or aesthetically ordered or integrated.<sup>1617</sup>

“Coordinated” is defined as organized and working together properly and well.<sup>1618</sup>

“Rapid” is defined as the fast rate of motion, activity, or occurrence.<sup>1619</sup>

### **Concepts**

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.<sup>1620</sup>

International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.<sup>1621</sup>

World Bank Group (WBG) is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects. It comprises two institutions: The International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, and the International Development Association.<sup>1622</sup>

Multilateral banks are institutions, created by a group of countries that provides financing and professional advising for the purpose of development. MDBs include European Investment Bank,

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<sup>1614</sup> Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 May 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenos-aires-action-plan.html>.

<sup>1615</sup> Swiftly, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/swiftly>.

<sup>1616</sup> Robust, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/robust>.

<sup>1617</sup> Coherent, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coherent>.

<sup>1618</sup> Coordinated, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coordinated>.

<sup>1619</sup> Rapid, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/rapid>.

<sup>1620</sup> World Health Organization, Wikipedia (San Francisco) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 13 June 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Health\\_Organization#cite\\_note-Jan\\_24-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Organization#cite_note-Jan_24-1).

<sup>1621</sup> About the IMF, IMF (Washington, DC) 2020. Access Date: 13, June 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/About>.

<sup>1622</sup> World Bank, Wikipedia (Washington, DC) June 5, 2016. Access Date: 13 June 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank).



Islamic Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Development Bank of Latin America, Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank, New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Bank.<sup>1623</sup>

Regional developmental banks consist of multilateral financial institutions that provide financial and technical assistance for development in low and middle-income countries within their regions. Finance is allocated through low-interest loans and grants for a range of developmental sectors such as health and education, infrastructure, public administration, financial and private sector development, agriculture and environmental and natural resource management.<sup>1624</sup>

Regional Development Banks usually refer to the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and Inter-American Development Bank.<sup>1625</sup>

Depth is understood as the degree of intensity.<sup>1626</sup>

Address is understood as to deliver on.<sup>1627</sup>

Toolkit is understood as resources, abilities or skills.<sup>1628</sup>

There are two primary goals of this commitment:

1. To deploy a financial package with the WHO, IMF, WBG, multilateral banks and regional development banks. This means a joint package between some or all these institutions; and
2. To address gaps in the WHO, IMG, WBG, multilateral banks and regional development banks toolkits.

Financial packages can include robust fiscal stimulus packages by G20 nations. Commitments will be judged based on breadth and depth.

#### **Aspect 1:**

Regarding breadth, the packages must be robust, coherent, coordinated, and rapid. This means swiftly and decisively deploying a strong financial package with most of the five specified actors. Working with fewer than most of these actors is a 0 for partial compliance. Working with most of these actors but not doing so robustly, coherently, rapidly or in a coordinate manner is 0.

#### **Aspect 2:**

Regarding depth, the finance package must be deployed swiftly and decisively addressing gaps in most of the five actors' toolkits. Not working swiftly or decisively is a 0, addressing gaps in fewer than most (two or fewer) of the five actors is also a 0.

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<sup>1623</sup> International Financial Institutions, Wikipedia (San Francisco) 11 November 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_financial\\_institutions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_financial_institutions).

<sup>1624</sup> Regional Development Banks, Center for Global Development (Washington, DC) 23 September 2011. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/regional-development-banks-abcs-ifis-brief>.

<sup>1625</sup> Regional Development Banks, Center for Global Development (Washington, DC) 23 September 2011. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/regional-development-banks-abcs-ifis-brief>.

<sup>1626</sup> Depth, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/depth>.

<sup>1627</sup> Address, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/address>.

<sup>1628</sup> Toolkit, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/toolkit>.

To achieve full compliance, a G20 member must comply with at least 75 per cent of each aspect of this commitment for a +1 score. G20 members must comply with at least 50 per cent of each aspect for a 0 or all of one aspect and none or less than 50 per cent of the other aspect.

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

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not deploy a financial package and/or does not addresses gaps with any of the five specified actors
0	G20 member deploys a financial package and/or does not swiftly addresses gaps with two or fewer of the five specified actors
+1	G20 member deploys a strong financial package and swiftly addresses gaps with most of the five specified actors

*Compliance Director: Tasnia Khan*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 3 April 2020, the World Bank approved a loan worth USD 35 million to help Argentina contain COVID-19. The loan is to be paid back over 32 years, with a seven-year grace period.<sup>1629</sup>

On 7 May 2020, Argentina accepted a USD 1.8 billion loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to help the country create jobs and provide medical care to victims of the pandemic. The package is the largest amount of assistance from the multilateral lender to Argentina in the last 10 years.<sup>1630</sup>

Argentina has complied with its commitment by failing to deploy a financial package in coordination with two of the five specified actors.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.<sup>1631</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

### Australia: +1

Australia fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 5 May 2020, the Government of Australia contributed USD 3 million to finance the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's work to protect vulnerable children and women in Jordan during the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>1632</sup>

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<sup>1629</sup> World Bank approved 35-mln-USD loan to fight COVID-19 outbreak in Argentina, Xinhua (Beijing) 2 April 2020. Access Date: June 13, 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/03/c\\_138943095.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-04/03/c_138943095.htm).

<sup>1630</sup> Argentina to get \$1.8 bln from IDB this year to combat effects of pandemic, Reuters (London) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-argentina-idb/argentina-to-get-18-bln-from-idb-this-year-to-combat-effects-of-pandemic-idUSL1N2CP1LL>.

<sup>1631</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, Buenos Aires Times, Clarín, and other news sources found through Google News.

As of 11 May 2020, the Government of Australia has contributed to the United Nations Refugee Agency to deliver to refugees' personal protection equipment, and medical supplies.<sup>1633</sup>

As of 26 May 2020, Australia has donated USD 1.677 million to the World Health Organization.<sup>1634</sup>

Australia has coordinated strong fiscal policies, and steps to swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors including the United Nations, United Nations Refugee Agency and the World Health Organization.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Gabrielle Carelli Yamamoto*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

As of 26 March 2020, Brazil worked with BNDES (Brazilian Development Bank) to open a working capital loan line for small and medium sized firms of tourism and service sectors.<sup>1635</sup> However, because this was already ongoing at the time of the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 29 March 2020, BNDES announced two support measures for the airlines and healthcare industry, including financial support for airlines: through a system that involves convertible debentures and can contribute capital to these companies through the purchase of shares to sustain their operations through the pandemic. In addition, a new credit line for the healthcare & life science manufactures to produce 15 thousand ventilators, 5 thousand health monitors, 80 million medical masks and 3 thousand new ICU units.<sup>1636</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the Minister of Tourism, Marcelo Álvaro Antônio, announced lines of credit to serve businesspeople in the tourism sector, which is strongly impacted by the new coronavirus pandemic. Credit lines will be offered by public banks such as BNDES and Caixa Econômica Federal. The project awaits new regulatory frameworks.<sup>1637</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the External Financing Commission (COFIEIX), coordinated by the Special Secretariat for Foreign Trade and International Affairs of the Ministry of Economy, streamlined procedures for the evaluation and authorization of public sector projects and programs. The

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<sup>1632</sup> Australia support to UNICEF keeps children in Jordan safe and learning, UNICEF (New York). 05 May 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/press-releases/australia-support-unicef-keeps-children-jordan-safe-and-learning>

<sup>1633</sup> UNHCR urges sustained support to protect world's forcibly displaced from "devastating" impact of coronavirus, UNHCR (Geneva) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/5/5eb98df24/unhcr-urges-sustained-support-protect-worlds-forcibly-displaced-devastating.html>

<sup>1634</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>1635</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>1636</sup> <sup>1636</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

<sup>1637</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>

objective is to accelerate the release of resources from international organizations such as the World Bank, New Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Latin American Development Bank (CAF) and others. This measure supports actions by municipalities, states and the Federal District aimed at preventing and combating the new coronavirus and its economic effects.<sup>1638</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Brazilian federal government is working together with private banks, investment funds and the BNDES a relief plan of at least BRL 48 billion to large companies affected by the coronavirus crisis as Airlines, energy companies and large retailers. Under this plan, debt-convertible instruments will be offered to companies that are publicly traded on the stock exchange.<sup>1639</sup>

On 28 April 2020, BRICS countries ministers agreed to allocated USD 15 billion to NDB so that it could set up a special loan instrument to support the revival of economies and help meet the emergency expenses incurred for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1640</sup>

On 7 May 2020, BNDES will allocate USD 800 million (BRL 4 billion) to fund managers focused on financing micro, small and medium-sized companies. The funds will be selected through a public call, which will receive proposals until the 3rd of June.

Brazil has coordinated strong fiscal policies, and steps to swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors including BNDES, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Latin American Development Bank and others.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 5 March 2020, Canada coordinated small business loans of up to CAD 100,000 with Business Development Canada.<sup>1641</sup>

On 13 March 2020, Canada announced on 13 March, a new Business Credit Availability Program will provide more than CAD 10 billion of additional support to businesses experiencing cash flow challenges through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada. The government is ready to provide more capital through these financial Crown corporations. This CAD 10B was further increased to CAD 40B, and it was noted that both organizations will partner with banks in providing loans of up to CAD 6.25M to help SMEs continue to function. The Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than CAD 40 billion of additional

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<sup>1638</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>1639</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>1640</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>1641</sup> Canada, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/canada-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

support, largely targeted for oil and gas, air transport, and tourism to small and medium-sized businesses.<sup>1642</sup>

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

On 4 May 2020, Canada and international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response to support 20 partnered countries, vaccine and diagnostic development alongside the World Health Organization Solidarity Trial. Canada announced that they will contribute over CAD 850 million to support the response.<sup>1643</sup> As of 26 May 2020, Canada has donated USD 12.889 million to the World Health Organization and USD 729,903 to the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies.<sup>1644</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the BCAP program has been expanded to support medium-sized companies with larger financing needs including loans up to CAD 60 million and guarantees of up to CAD 80 million.<sup>1645</sup>

Canada has coordinated strong fiscal policies, and steps to swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors including BDC, EDC and the World Bank.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Tasnia Khan and Gabrielle Carelli Yamamoto*

## **China: 0**

China partially complied with its commitment to deploy strong financial packages and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 20 March 2020, the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) approved an emergency assistance loan of RMB 7 billion to China to help the country fight COVID-19. The loan will contribute to China's continuous efforts to mitigate the impact of the epidemic on people's health and economic lives.<sup>1646</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 28 April 2020, BRICS ministers agreed to allocated USD 15 billion to NDB so that it could set up a special loan instrument to support the revival of economies and help meet the emergency expenses incurred for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1647</sup>

China has taken on all economic stimulus packages, including loans, moratorium on debt repayments internally by leveraging the People's Bank of China.<sup>1648</sup>

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<sup>1642</sup> Canada, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/canada-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>1643</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 04 May 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>1644</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>

<sup>1645</sup> Canada, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/canada-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>1646</sup> NDB approves 7-bln-yuan loan to China to help fight COVID-19, Xinhua (Beijing) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/20/c\\_138900096.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/20/c_138900096.htm).

<sup>1647</sup> NDB approves 7-bln-yuan loan to China to help fight COVID-19, Xinhua (Beijing) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/20/c\\_138900096.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/20/c_138900096.htm).

China has coordinated strong fiscal policies, and steps to swiftly address gaps with one of the five specified actors, this being the BRICS New Development Bank.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.<sup>1649</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

### **France: +1**

France fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 7 April 2020, the Governing Council of the European Central Bank released a package of temporal collateral easing measures, and increased risk tolerance to ensure countries can participate in liquidity providing operations.<sup>1650</sup> On 22 April 2020, there were additional collateral easing measures so that banks have enough assets to provide liquidity and funding for the economy.<sup>1651</sup> On 30 April 2020, the European Central Bank released seven additional long-term financing operations, the Pandemic Emergency Longer-Term Refinancing Operations, and reduced the interest rate for the Targeted Longer-Term Refinancing Operations by 50 basis points.<sup>1652,1653</sup>

On 9 April 2020, France mobilized EUR 1.2 billion to support the COVID-19 - Health in Common initiative through the French Development Agency.<sup>1654</sup> The project aims to support Africa's healthcare, research, humanitarian, and economic sector.<sup>1655</sup>

On 15 April 2020, France increased its COVID-19 emergency fund to EUR 110 billion.<sup>1656</sup> Of the fund, EUR 24 billion are for laid-off workers and EUR 7 billion is for the second component of the Solidarity Fund that supports small businesses and entrepreneurs.<sup>1657,1658</sup> On 20 April 2020, France

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<sup>1648</sup> NDB approves 7-bln-yuan loan to China to help fight COVID-19, Xinhua (Beijing) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/20/c\\_138900096.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-03/20/c_138900096.htm).

<sup>1649</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, such as the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including China Daily.

<sup>1650</sup> ECB announces package of temporary collateral easing measures, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 07 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200407~2472a8ccda.en.html>

<sup>1651</sup> ECB takes steps to mitigate impact of possible rating downgrades on collateral availability, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

[https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200422\\_1~95e0f62a2b.en.html](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200422_1~95e0f62a2b.en.html).

<sup>1652</sup> Monetary policy decisions, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.mp200430~1eaa128265.en.html>.

<sup>1653</sup> ECB announces new pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

[https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200430\\_1~477f400e39.en.html](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200430_1~477f400e39.en.html).

<sup>1654</sup> France Launches, via AFD, the "Covid-19 - Health in Common" Initiative to Support African Countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 09 April 2020. Access Date 12 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>.

<sup>1655</sup> COVID-19: assistance for Africa, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 05 May 2020. Access date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/news/article/covid-19-assistance-for-africa>.

<sup>1656</sup> Edouard Philippe, Twitter (Paris). 15 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

<https://twitter.com/EPhilippePM/status/1250405629417709568>.

<sup>1657</sup> Edouard Philippe, Twitter (Paris). 15 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

<https://twitter.com/EPhilippePM/status/1250405629417709568>.

<sup>1658</sup> How to benefit from the 2nd component of the Solidarity Fund?, Government of France (Paris) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/comment-beneficier-2d-volet-du-fonds-de-solidarite>.

allocated EUR 390 million to the transport industry to ensure the movement of goods during the crisis.<sup>1659</sup> On 24 April 2020, France also took additional measures to protect the tourism and leisure sectors of the economy. These include exemption from social security contributions, deferral of business taxes, and rent suspensions.<sup>1660</sup> On 29 April 2020, the Government extended until June 1 the partial unemployment payment that aids small businesses to pay their employees.<sup>1661</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France pledged to donate EUR 500 million to the Global Cooperation Platform (ACT) that aims to support the World Health Organization, healthcare systems and speed up the design of an universal vaccine and diagnostic.<sup>1662</sup> As of 7 May 2020, the European Union, World Food Programme, and France supported the most vulnerable groups of the Republic of Congo with a combined donation of XAF3 billion.<sup>1663</sup> As of 26 May 2020, France has donated USD 1.098 million to the World Health Organization.<sup>1664</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the Government announced EUR 1.3 billion in direct public investment to help the tourism sector.<sup>1665</sup>

France will provide through the French Development Agency EUR 200 million of financial support to India's most vulnerable communities.<sup>1666</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment by implementing strong fiscal policies and taking steps to swiftly address gaps including the French Development Agency, ECB, and World Health Organization.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Gabrielle Carelli Yamamoto*

## **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

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<sup>1659</sup> 390 million euros in cash measures in favor of road transport, Government of France (Paris) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/390-millions-euros-mesures-tresorerie-transport-routier>.

<sup>1660</sup> Support measures for the catering, tourism, events, sport and culture sectors, Government of France (Paris) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/mesures-soutien-secteurs-restauration-tourisme-culture-sport>.

<sup>1661</sup> Extension of partial unemployment until June 1 for homeworkers, Government of France (Paris) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/reconduction-juin-chomage-partiel-salaries-domicile>.

<sup>1662</sup> France pledges €500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 06 May 2020. Access date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1663</sup> Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#C>.

<sup>1664</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>.

<sup>1665</sup> French PM Philippe confirms massive investment plan to aid tourism industry, France 24 (Paris). 14 May 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200514-french-pm-%C3%A9douard-philippe-confirms-%E2%82%AC1-3-billion-investment-plan-to-aid-tourism-industry>.

<sup>1666</sup> In Covid-19 crisis, France to aid India's most vulnerable with 200 million euros, Hindustan Times (New Delhi). 07 May 2020. Access Date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/in-covid-19-crisis-france-aids-india-s-most-vulnerable-with-200-million-euros/story-3zs1eBTdM50bYGBjTrenbL.html>.

On 27 March 2020, Germany approved a EUR 122.5 billion budget to cover the crisis.<sup>1667</sup> It created an Economic Stabilization Fund which will grant businesses liquidity and equity.<sup>1668</sup>

On 7 April 2020, the Governing Council of the European Central Bank released a package of temporal collateral easing measures, and increased risk tolerance to ensure countries can participate in liquidity providing operations.<sup>1669</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Government of Germany announced a EUR 300 million donation in humanitarian aid to different bodies and non-governmental agencies.<sup>1670</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the European Central Bank released seven additional long-term financing operations, the Pandemic Emergency Longer-Term Refinancing Operations, and reduced the interest rate for the Targeted Longer-Term Refinancing Operations by 50 basis points.<sup>1671,1672</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Angela Merkel pledged to donate EUR 525 million to the Global Response Initiative, and EUR 1.3 billion to the Vaccine Alliance and improvement to health systems in countries of the Global South.<sup>1673</sup> The government is also providing EUR 140 million to support the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation.<sup>1674</sup>

As of 11 May 2020, the Government of Germany has contributed to the United Nations Refugee Agency to deliver to personal protection equipment, and medical supplies to refugees.<sup>1675</sup>

As of 26 May 2020, Germany has donated USD 30.833 million to the World Health Organization and USD 3.307 million to the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies.<sup>1676</sup>

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<sup>1667</sup> Overview of fed-er-al bud-getary and fi-nan-cial da-ta up to and in-clud-ing March 2020, The Federal Ministry of Finance of Germany (Berlin) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020.

[https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press\\_Room/Publications/Monthly\\_Report/Key\\_Figures/2020-04-federal-budget.html](https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Monthly_Report/Key_Figures/2020-04-federal-budget.html).

<sup>1668</sup> German Upper House approves \$1.7 trillion virus rescue package, The Straits Times (Toa Payoh) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/german-upper-house-approves-17-trillion-virus-rescue-package>.

<sup>1669</sup> ECB announces package of temporary collateral easing measures, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 07 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200407~2472a8ccda.en.html>.

<sup>1670</sup> Humanitarian aid in the fight against COVID-19, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/humanitaere-hilfe-gegen-corona-1747800>.

<sup>1671</sup> Monetary policy decisions, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.mp200430~1eaa128265.en.html>.

<sup>1672</sup> ECB announces new pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200430\\_1~477f400e39.en.html](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200430_1~477f400e39.en.html).

<sup>1673</sup> Billions pledged for the fight against the coronavirus, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 04 May 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/geberkonferenz-covid-19-1750332>.

<sup>1674</sup> Measures by the Federal Government to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and address its impacts, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/973812/1753872/4a0014f469023200f7cf7ba3e8ed3203/2020-05-18-zwischenbilanz-eng-data.pdf?download=1>.

<sup>1675</sup> UNHCR urges sustained support to protect world's forcibly displaced from "devastating" impact of coronavirus, UNHCR (Geneva) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2020. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/5/5eb98df24/unhcr-urges-sustained-support-protect-worlds-forcibly-displaced-devastating.html>.

<sup>1676</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you!, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>.



Germany fully complied with its commitment by implementing strong fiscal policies, and taking steps to swiftly address gaps, including the ECB, World Health Organization, United Nations and the Global Response Initiative.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Gabrielle Carelli Yamamoto*

#### **India: -1**

India failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 28 April 2020, BRICS countries ministers agreed to allocated USD 15 billion to New Development Bank (NDB) so that it could set up a special loan instrument to support the revival of economies and help meet the emergency expenses incurred for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1677</sup>

On 13 May 2020, India reported that the NDB has fully disbursed USD 1 billion emergency assistance loan to India to help it contain the spread of COVID-19 and reduce human, social and economic losses caused by COVID-19.<sup>1678</sup>

India has failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with minimal collaboration with specified actors.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.<sup>1679</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

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

Indonesia fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 21 March 2020, the Asian Development Bank announced approval for a \$3 million grant to support Indonesia's fight against COVID-19, primarily for the immediate purchase of key medical equipment such as ventilators and personal protective gear, including gloves, coveralls and masks for health workers.<sup>1680</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

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<sup>1677</sup> BRICS' New Development Bank provides USD 1 billion loan to India to fight COVID-19, Economic Times (New Delhi) 22 March 2020. Access Date: June 13, 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/brics-new-development-bank-provides-usd-1-billion-loan-to-india-to-fight-covid-19/articleshow/75710148.cms>.

<sup>1678</sup> BRICS' New Development Bank provides USD 1 billion loan to India to fight COVID-19, Economic Times (New Delhi) 22 March 2020. Access Date: June 13, 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/brics-new-development-bank-provides-usd-1-billion-loan-to-india-to-fight-covid-19/articleshow/75710148.cms>.

<sup>1679</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs, and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including The Times of India and The Economic Times.

<sup>1680</sup> World Bank approves \$300m loan to improve Indonesia's financial sector, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/03/23/world-bank-approves-300m-loan-to-improve-indonesias-financial-sector.html>.

On 23 April 2020, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced USD 1.5 billion in financing to support the Indonesian government's efforts to handle impacts from COVID-19.<sup>1681</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the AIIB reported a total of US\$1 billion in loans to help Indonesia in its COVID-19 response. The first disbursement of the loan will amount to USD 250 million as part of the co-financing program with the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank to provide a total of USD 750 million in loans.<sup>1682</sup>

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, including collaborating with AIIB, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 21 March 2020, the European Commission approved a EUR 9 billion Italian umbrella scheme to support the Italian economy during COVID-19. Under the scheme, the Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces, other territorial bodies as well as Chambers of Commerce, will be able to provide support to companies of all sizes.<sup>1683</sup> However, because this was approved before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 28 March 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte disbursed EUR 4.3 billion from the Municipal Solidarity Fund.<sup>1684</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Bank of Italy announced that it would be supplementing existing funds of EUR 20.9 million with an additional EUR 34 million to respond to COVID-19.<sup>1685</sup>

As of 26 May 2020, the Italian Federal Government has donated USD 454,545 to the World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>1686</sup>

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<sup>1681</sup> Asian Development Bank approves \$1.5 bln loan for Indonesia's virus response, Reuters (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-adb-indonesia/asian-development-bank-approves-15-bln-loan-for-indonesias-virus-response-idUSL3N2CB2DD>.

<sup>1682</sup> AIIB to provide \$1b loan for Indonesia COVID-19 response, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/08/aiib-to-provide-1b-loan-for-indonesia-covid-19-response.html>.

<sup>1683</sup> State aid: Commission approves 9 billion Italian "umbrella" scheme to support economy in coronavirus outbreak, Europa (Brussels) 21 May 2020. Access Date: June 13, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_925](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_925).

<sup>1684</sup> Coronavirus, the measures taken by the government, Government of Rome (Rome) updated 03 April 2020. Access Date: 01 May 2020. <http://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/coronavirus/13968>.

<sup>1685</sup> The bank of Italy allocates 55 million to the coronavirus emergency, Bank of Italia (Rome) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 01 May 2020. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/the-bank-of-italy-allocates-55-million-to-the-coronavirus-emergency/>.

<sup>1686</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you, WHO (Geneva) updated 21 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, including collaboration with the World Health Organization and European Commission.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.<sup>1687</sup>

*Analysts: Nicolas Lovrics and Tasnia Khan*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

In early April 2020, Japan contributed an additional USD 100 million to the International Monetary Fund's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust. At this time, Japan became the global leader in donation toward the IMF's COVID-19 general response plan.<sup>1688</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Japanese government announced that it was planning to extend IMF funding to include an added SDR3.6 billion – doubled from a previously pledged SDR3.6 billion – specifically targeting the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust in relation to COVID-19.<sup>1689</sup>

As of 26 May 2020, the Japanese government had donated USD 47,500,000 to the World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>1690</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Japan announced its support to developing country members of the Asian Development Bank in responding to COVID-19 challenges, including the contribution of USD 150 billion through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund.<sup>1691</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, including the World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Gabrielle Carelli Yamamoto and Tasnia Khan*

### **Korea: -1**

Korea failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

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<sup>1687</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Economy and Finance and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including La Stampa and The Local.

<sup>1688</sup> Policy Response: Japan, IMF (Washington) updated 22 May 2020. Access date: 06 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#C>.

<sup>1689</sup> Policy Response: Japan, IMF (Washington) updated 22 May 2020. Access date: 06 May 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#C>.

<sup>1690</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you, WHO (Geneva) updated 21 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>.

<sup>1691</sup> Japan to support ADB Developing Member Countries' Response to COVID-19 Challenges, Asian Development Bank (Mandaluyong) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.adb.org/news/japan-support-adb-developing-member-countries-response-covid-19-challenges>.

As of 26 May 2020, Korea had donated USD 3.3 million to the World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>1692</sup>

Korea has failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with minimal collaboration with specified actors.

Thus, Korea receives a score of -1.<sup>1693</sup>

*Analyst: Nicholas Lovrics*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 19 March 2020, the European Central Bank opened a “swap” mechanism with its counterparty from Mexico for USD 60,000 million to provide liquidity in dollars for at least six months.<sup>1694</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

On 27 April 2020, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Mexican Business Council announced a loan scheme that will provide up to USD 12 billion a year to small and medium-sized businesses to help them through COVID-19.<sup>1695</sup>

On 26 May 2020, the Inter-American Development Bank's board of directors approved of a USD 200 million temporary financing program to support economic recovery projects along the United States and Mexico border.<sup>1696</sup>

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with collaboration with the EU Central Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the North American Development Bank.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.<sup>1697</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

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<sup>1692</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you, WHO (Geneva) updated 21 May 2020. Access date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>.

<sup>1693</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including the Korea Times and the Korea Herald.

<sup>1694</sup> Development bank announces US \$12bln to support business, Mexico News Daily (Mexico City) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/coronavirus/bank-steps-in-with-us-12bn-to-support-small-business/>.

<sup>1695</sup> Development bank announces US \$12bln to support business, Mexico News Daily (Mexico City) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/coronavirus/bank-steps-in-with-us-12bn-to-support-small-business/>.

<sup>1696</sup> \$200M pandemic pay, San Antonio Business Journal (San Antonio) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2020/05/26/nad-bank-approves-200m-covid-recovery-program.html>.

<sup>1697</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Finance, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including La Jornada, El Universal and Reforma.

### **Russia: -1**

Russia failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 28 April 2020, ministers from the BRICS agreed to allocated USD 15 billion to NDB so that it could set up a special loan instrument to support the revival of economies and help meet the emergency expenses incurred for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1698</sup>

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with minimal collaboration with specified actors.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.<sup>1699</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 2 May 2020, Saudi Arabia launched new initiatives to support small businesses in the country as well as self-employed entrepreneurs in collaboration with the Social Development Bank. The bank said the aid, which amounted to over USD 2.39 billion, will benefit 6,000 businesses through a special financing scheme.<sup>1700</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Saudi Arabia announced USD 10 million to the World Health Organization's COVID-19 emergency response and research fund.<sup>1701</sup>

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Social Development Bank.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.<sup>1702</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

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

South Africa fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

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<sup>1698</sup> Brazil, KPMG (Amstelveen, Netherlands). 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/brazil-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>1699</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including Russia Today, Moscow Times and TASS Russian News Agency.

<sup>1700</sup> Saudi Arabia's social development bank allocated \$2.39 bn aid for small businesses, Arab News (Dubai) 02 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1668391/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>1701</sup> Saudi Arabia pledges \$10m to COVID-19 emergency response and research, Healthcare IT News (Boston) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/saudi-arabia-pledges-10m-covid-19-emergency-response-and-research>.

<sup>1702</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including Arab News and Saudi Gazette.

On 24 April 2020, South Africa's finance minister said USD 4 billion was available from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank for the country to help it fight COVID-19.<sup>1703</sup>

On 24 April 2020, South African announced it is talking to the African Development Bank and BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) to try to source funding.<sup>1704</sup>

On 28 April 2020, BRICS ministers agreed to allocate USD 15 billion to NDB so that it could set up a special loan instrument to support the revival of economies and help meet the emergency expenses incurred for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1705</sup>

On 18 April 2020 it was reported that NDB is in discussion with South African for loans of USD 1 billion.<sup>1706</sup>

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, including collaboration with BRICS, World Bank and IMF.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

### **Turkey: -1**

Turkey failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 12 May 2020, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) provided Turkey a new financing package of USD 125 million under the EBRD's new Vital Infrastructure Support program. The loan will support the country's supply of energy during COVID-19.<sup>1707</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the EBRD announced a USD 55 million loan to Turkey in an attempt to boost Turkey's banking sector amid COVID-19. The loan was coupled by a USD 50 million loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group.<sup>1708</sup>

Turkey has failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with minimal collaboration with specified actors.

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<sup>1703</sup> South Africa says over \$4 billion available from IMF, World Bank to fight COVID-19, Reuters (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-safrica/south-africa-says-over-4-billion-available-from-imf-world-bank-to-fight-covid-19-idUSKCN2261ZE>.

<sup>1704</sup> South Africa says over \$4 billion available from IMF, World Bank to fight COVID-19, Reuters (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-safrica/south-africa-says-over-4-billion-available-from-imf-world-bank-to-fight-covid-19-idUSKCN2261ZE>.

<sup>1705</sup> South Africa latest to apply for COVID-19 aid from NDB, The Cairo Review (Cairo) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.thecaireview.com/essays/south-africa-latest-to-apply-for-covid-19-aid-from-new-development-bank/>.

<sup>1706</sup> South Africa latest to apply for COVID-19 aid from NDB, The Cairo Review (Cairo) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.thecaireview.com/essays/south-africa-latest-to-apply-for-covid-19-aid-from-new-development-bank/>.

<sup>1707</sup> EBRD provides \$125 million in new funds to Turkey's Enerjisa, Daily Sabah (Ankara) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/ebrd-provides-125-million-in-new-funds-to-turkeys-enerjisa>.

<sup>1708</sup> EBRD makes \$55M loan to Turkey's Garanti BBVA, Daily News (Ankara) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ebrd-makes-55m-loan-to-turkeys-garanti-bbva-154946>.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of -1.<sup>1709</sup>

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 13 March 2020, the United Kingdom contributed GBP 150 million to the International Monetary Fund's Catastrophe and Containment Relief Trust.<sup>1710</sup> However, because this was announced before the Extraordinary Virtual Summit it does not count toward compliance.

As of 26 May 2020, the United Kingdom government had donated USD 107.3 million to the World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>1711</sup>

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, with collaboration with the IMF and the UN.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.<sup>1712</sup>

*Analysts: Nicholas Lovrics and Tasnia Khan*

### **United States: -1**

United States failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

On 15 April 2020, President Donald Trump announced the cancellation of all-American funds to the World Health Organization (WHO). President Trump blamed the WHO for being "too pro-China." Typically, the United States commits USD 500million to the WHO. At this time, the federal government of the United States had donated USD 30,289,300 to the World Health Organization's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>1713</sup>

The United States has failed to comply with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, including announcing the cancellation of funds to the WHO.

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<sup>1709</sup> Sources checked include the Ministry of Treasury and Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including Hurriyet News.

<sup>1710</sup> UK contributes \$150 million to IMF Catastrophe Relief Fund for COVID-19, Caribbean Business Report (Kingston) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://caribbeanbusinessreport.com/world/uk-contributes-150-million-to-imf-catastrophe-relief-fund-for-covid-19/>.

<sup>1711</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) donors & partners: WHO says thank you, WHO (Geneva) updated 21 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donors-and-partners/funding>.

<sup>1712</sup> Sources checked include the UK Treasury, Foreign & Commonwealth and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including BBC and The Guardian.

<sup>1713</sup> Tackling Coronavirus (COVID-19): United States (Paris) updated 8 May 2020. Access date: 01 May 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/#country-tracker>

Thus, the United States receives a score of  $-1$ .<sup>1714</sup>

*Analyst: Nicholas Lovrics*

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

The European Union fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps with most of the five specified actors.

As of 4 June 2020, the European Commission's latest package of about EUR 540 billion (4 per cent of EU27 GDP) includes (i) allowing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to provide Pandemic Crisis Support (based on existing precautionary credit lines) up to 2 per cent of 2019 GDP for each euro area country (up to EUR 240 billion in total) to finance health related spending; (ii) providing EUR 25 billion in government guarantees to the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support up to EUR 200 billion to finance to companies, with a focus on SMEs (which augments previously agreed guarantees of EUR 40 billion for the EIB's on-lending activities); and (iii) creating a temporary loan-based instrument (SURE) of up to EUR 100 billion to protect workers and jobs, supported by guarantees from EU member states. The Pandemic Crisis Support from the ESM has become operational and the European Council has adopted the SURE.<sup>1715</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the EU announced a EUR 500 billion relief deal for countries hit hardest by COVID-19.<sup>1716</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the EU approved EUR 3 billion in loans to help EU neighbours and partner countries deal with the fallout of COVID-19. The loans which will be given on highly favourable terms and disbursed over a year, will help the following ten countries whose economies have been pushed into recession by the pandemic: the Republic of Albania (EUR 180 million), Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUR 250 million), Georgia (EUR 150 million), the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (EUR 200 million), Kosovo (EUR 100 million), the Republic of Moldova (EUR 100 million), Montenegro (EUR 60 million), the Republic of North Macedonia (EUR 160 million), the Republic of Tunisia (EUR 600 million) and Ukraine (EUR 1.2 billion).<sup>1717</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to deploy a strong financial package and swiftly address gaps, including collaboration with its members and regional development banks.

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

*Analyst: Tasnia Khan*

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<sup>1714</sup> Sources checked include the Department of State and other respective government websites, financial policy trackers, the IMF, World Bank and WHO websites, as well as news sources found through Google News including CNN and the New York Times.

<sup>1715</sup> European Union, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#T>.

<sup>1716</sup> EU strikes \$500bn relief deal for countries hit hardest by pandemic, The Guardian (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/apr/09/eu-risks-break-up-over-coronabonds-row-warns-italian-pm>.

<sup>1717</sup> Partner countries get \$3bn in loans to prop up economies affected by pandemic, The European Sting (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 13 June 2020. <https://europeansting.com/2020/05/18/partner-countries-get-e3bn-in-loans-to-prop-up-economies-affected-by-pandemic/>.