



The
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12. Health: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights [89]

“In addition we are committed to ensuring sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”

Brussels G7 Summit Declaration

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	+1		

Background

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, the efforts of the G8 regarding health were largely focused on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and supporting the improvement of national health systems.⁷³⁸ While undertakings like the fight against HIV/AIDS contributed towards sexual health, the protection of reproductive health and rights was not a stated goal of the summits.

Between 2005 and 2007, however, the fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regarding the improvement of maternal health was enlarged to include the aim of achieving “universal access to reproductive health,” in addition to the reduction of the maternal mortality ratio.⁷³⁹

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, the G8 also expanded its health focus and took steps to address reproductive health care and rights in the context of attaining the MDGs. In addition to committing to “scale up efforts to reduce the gaps, in the area of maternal and child health care and voluntary family planning,”⁷⁴⁰ the G8 also agreed to encourage programs meant to inform girls about reproductive health.⁷⁴¹

But while the L’Aquila G8 Health Experts’ Report acknowledged achievements in the area of combatting infectious diseases, it argued that there was a need to “make more rapid progress towards the achievement of the MDGs concerned with maternal health” because, “the health-related MDGs are mutually linked and interdependent.”⁷⁴² At this time, they agreed to take steps to promote

⁷³⁸ G8 Commitments on Health, 1975-2009, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 December 2009. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/g8-commitments-health-to-2009.html>.

⁷³⁹ Universal Access to Reproductive Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2011/WHO_RHR_HRP_11.02_eng.pdf.

⁷⁴⁰ Growth and Responsibility in Africa, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/g8-2007-africa.html>.

⁷⁴¹ Growth and Responsibility in Africa, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/g8-2007-africa.html>.

⁷⁴² Promoting Global Health, L’Aquila G8 Health Experts’ Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/>.

maternal health “including through sexual and reproductive health care and services and voluntary family planning.”⁷⁴³

Nevertheless, in 2010 the United Nations Secretary General released a report stating that MDG five was in danger of not being met.⁷⁴⁴ At least partially in response to this, the G8 launched the Muskoka Initiative in 2010. Aimed at reducing both maternal and child mortality, the program’s goals include the provision of “sexual and reproductive health care and services, including voluntary family planning.”⁷⁴⁵

The G8 reiterated its support for the Muskoka Initiative at both the Deauville Summit,⁷⁴⁶ and at the Camp David Summit.⁷⁴⁷ The G8 also produced accountability reports tracking the implementation of this program in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Commitment Features

Full compliance with this commitment requires that countries take steps to both protect reproductive rights and to provide services and/or information that promote sexual and reproductive health.

While the commitment does not define the aforementioned terms, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development’s (ICPD) Programme of Action can provide guidance on this matter. Each state in the G7 participated in the ICPD, and adopted the final document. Furthermore, the European Commission stated in 2002 that, “All Member States of the Union endorsed the Programme of Action.”⁷⁴⁸

In this document, reproductive rights are defined as: (1) “the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so,” and; (2) “the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.”⁷⁴⁹

The report then went on to define reproductive health in the following manner:

Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that

⁷⁴³ G8 Leaders Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>.

⁷⁴⁴ Keeping the Promise: A Forward-Looking Review to Promote an Agreed Action Agenda to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 12 February 2010. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/665.

⁷⁴⁵ G8 Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 25-26 June 2010. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

⁷⁴⁶ G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>.

⁷⁴⁷ Camp David Declaration. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>.

⁷⁴⁸ Question No 86 by Dana Rosemary Scallon, Annex – Questions to the Commission, European Parliament (Strasbourg), 24 October 2002. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=CRE&reference=20021024&secondRef=ANN-01&language=EN&detail=H-2002-0670&query=QUESTION>.

⁷⁴⁹ Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.⁷⁵⁰

It also classifies having access to both family planning services and reproductive health care facilities as requirements for the maintenance of reproductive health.⁷⁵¹

Since this interpretation of reproductive health includes part one of the definition of reproductive rights, fulfillment of this commitment can be condensed to taking concrete steps to ensure reproductive and sexual health.

The ICPD defines sexual health as “the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.”⁷⁵² The World Health Organization (WHO) provides greater detail by noting that “sexual health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. It requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence.”⁷⁵³ This definition is important because it focuses on the link between sexual violence and a reduction in sexual health. Thus, efforts to prevent and combat sexual violence can be viewed as an effort to ensure sexual health.

Scoring Guidelines

- 1	Member has not taken concrete actions to ensure sexual health AND reproductive health and rights.
0	Member has taken concrete action to ensure either sexual health OR reproductive health and reproductive rights.
+1	Member has taken concrete action to ensure both sexual health AND reproductive health and rights.

Lead Analyst: Sarah Beard

Canada: +1

Canada has taken concrete action to ensure sexual health and reproductive health and rights.

On 12 June 2014, John Baird, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁷⁵⁴ This conference was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) and brought together representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations, amongst others, to discuss this issue.⁷⁵⁵ In particular, the Summit focused on both the need to ensure that

⁷⁵⁰ Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

⁷⁵¹ Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

⁷⁵² Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

⁷⁵³ Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/.

⁷⁵⁴ Baird Promotes Canada’s Stance Against Sexual Violence at Global Summit in London, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (Ottawa) 11 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communications/2014/06/11a.aspx?lang=eng>.

⁷⁵⁵ Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

sexual violence does not go unpunished in times of war, and the need to support victims of sexual violence.⁷⁵⁶ Following the conference, Baird declared, “We all agree that commitments must be turned into action to end sexual violence in conflict. It is time to act.”⁷⁵⁷

Thus, on 6 October 2014, Baird announced a contribution of CAD5 million to aid the victims of sexual violence in Iraq. He noted that Canada would also provide the funding needed for the UN Human Rights Council in Iraq to employ an expert on sexual violence.⁷⁵⁸ Moreover, Baird declared that Canada would donate another CAD5 million “to partners, including Justice Rapid Response, a Canadian-created initiative, to investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual violence in ISIL-held territory.”⁷⁵⁹ In his speech, Baird further committed Canada to keeping the issue of sexual violence at the top of the agendas at the UN and G7 conferences.⁷⁶⁰

Given that the World Health Organization’s definition of sexual health requires that individuals not be faced with sexual violence, the aforementioned initiatives illustrate Canada’s commitment to ensuring sexual health internationally.

Canada is also a strong supporter of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. On 2 December 2013, Canada declared that it would donate CAD650 million to the Global Fund between 2014 and 2016.⁷⁶¹ However, since this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, this contribution cannot be counted towards the scoring in this report.

However, Canada has also taken steps to combat HIV/AIDS nationally. On 1 December 2014, the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), in partnership with the Canadian Foundation for Aids Research (CANFAR), and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), announced three new research projects that have the objectives of investigating issues specific to men and boys with HIV/AIDS, and finding better treatments for the disease.⁷⁶²

Canada has also taken steps to ensure reproductive health and to protect reproductive rights.

In September 2014, the Government of Canada, along with Norway, the United States, and the World Bank, announced the creation of The Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Woman Every Child (GFF).⁷⁶³ This new funding mechanism is meant to increase support for reproductive,

⁷⁵⁶ Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

⁷⁵⁷ Baird Calls on International Community to Bring Perpetrators of Sexual Violence in Conflict to Justice, Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=856879>.

⁷⁵⁸ Address By John Baird on Military Contribution Against ISIL in the House of Commons, Openparliament.ca (Ottawa) 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2014/10/6/john-baird-1/only/>.

⁷⁵⁹ Address By John Baird on Military Contribution Against ISIL in the House of Commons, Openparliament.ca (Ottawa) 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2014/10/6/john-baird-1/only/>.

⁷⁶⁰ Address By John Baird on Military Contribution Against ISIL in the House of Commons, Openparliament.ca (Ottawa) 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2014/10/6/john-baird-1/only/>.

⁷⁶¹ Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (Ottawa) 20 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/partners-partenaires/key_partners-partenaires_cles/gfatm-fmstp.aspx?lang=eng.

⁷⁶² Government of Canada and Partners Support New Research on HIV and AIDS, Canadian Institute of Health Research (Toronto) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=910509>.

⁷⁶³ Development Partners Support the Creation of Global Financing Facility to Advance Women’s and Children’s Health, The World Bank (Washington DC) 25 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/25/development-partners-support-creation-global-financing-facility-women-children-health>.

maternal, newborn child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) between 2015 and 2030.⁷⁶⁴ According to an executive summary about the program, “the GFF has a particular focus on issues (e.g. family planning...) and target populations (e.g., adolescents) that have historically been under-funded.”⁷⁶⁵ Canada announced that it would contribute US200 million to the GFF.⁷⁶⁶

On 25 February 2015, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announced support for initiatives to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns, and children under the age of 5.⁷⁶⁷ In line with this goal, Stephen Harper announced a CAD20 million initiative to aid the WHO eradicate polio internationally.⁷⁶⁸ He also announced a CAD2.5 million plan to eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus.⁷⁶⁹ Finally, he announced a CAD20 million initiative to support research teams in sub-Saharan African countries resolve healthcare needs of mothers, newborns, and children.⁷⁷⁰

On 10 April 2015, Nova Scotia, a province of Canada, announced that it would begin providing free vaccinations to all boys to combat the human papillomavirus (HPV).⁷⁷¹ Their decision follows similar ones in Alberta and Prince Edward Island in 2013.⁷⁷² While all Canadian provinces already vaccinate girls to protect them against cervical cancer, this step aims to prevent boys from developing other types of cancers of the reproductive system.⁷⁷³

⁷⁶⁴ Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Women Every Child, The World Bank (Washington DC). Date of Access: 19 May 2015.

http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/GFF_Executive%20Summary.pdf.

⁷⁶⁵ Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Women Every Child, The World Bank (Washington DC). Date of Access: 19 May 2015.

http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/GFF_Executive%20Summary.pdf.

⁷⁶⁶ Development Partners Support the Creation of Global Financing Facility to Advance Women’s and Children’s Health, The World Bank (Washington DC) 25 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/25/development-partners-support-creation-global-financing-facility-women-children-health>.

⁷⁶⁷ PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

⁷⁶⁸ PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

⁷⁶⁹ PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

⁷⁷⁰ PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

⁷⁷¹ Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

⁷⁷² Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

⁷⁷³ Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

These efforts followed Canada's announcement of the renewal of support for maternal, newborn, and child health in order to continue the work of the 2010 Muskoka Initiative in May 2014. While hosting the Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit, Canada committed CAD3.5 billion to this goal for the 2015-2020 period.⁷⁷⁴ However, since this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, only the aforementioned efforts can count towards the maintenance of reproductive health and rights.

As of December 2014, only four per cent of Canada's assistance went to sexual and reproductive health programming.⁷⁷⁵ This is less than the ten per cent target set by donor countries.⁷⁷⁶ Moreover, Canada does not offer universal coverage for birth control, unlike Britain, and other states within the European Union.⁷⁷⁷

In conclusion, Canada receives a score of +1 for its contributions to ensure sexual health and reproductive health and rights. It has taken steps to ensure sexual health by combating sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. It has also moved to protect reproductive health and rights by supporting maternal health and expanding its efforts to protect against cancers of the reproductive system.

Analyst: Julia Martshenko

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to improve sexual health, as well as reproductive health and rights.

In June 2014, during the G7 Summit in Brussels, France issued a communiqué underlining its commitment towards sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the communiqué, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development stated that it welcomed the call for accelerating progress on this issue, made at the Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit in Toronto, Canada.⁷⁷⁸ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also reaffirmed its commitment to improving the health of women and children by promoting universal access to affordable, and high-quality health services that are necessary for general, sexual, and reproductive health.⁷⁷⁹ This includes strengthening health, education, and child protection systems, in addition to improving access to immunization through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) efforts.⁷⁸⁰

⁷⁷⁴ Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

⁷⁷⁵ Renewed Initiative Shines Spotlight on Canada's Deeply Divisive MNCH Approach, Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights (Ottawa) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.sexualhealthandrights.ca/renewed-initiative-shines-spotlight-on-canadas-deeply-divisive-mnch-approach/>.

⁷⁷⁶ Renewed Initiative Shines Spotlight on Canada's Deeply Divisive MNCH Approach, Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights (Ottawa) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.sexualhealthandrights.ca/renewed-initiative-shines-spotlight-on-canadas-deeply-divisive-mnch-approach/>.

⁷⁷⁷ It's Time to Give Canadian Women More Options When It Comes to Birth Control, Experts Say, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 12 April 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/canadians-feel-the-cost-of-health-policies-limiting-access-to-birth-control/article23883108/>.

⁷⁷⁸ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

⁷⁷⁹ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

⁷⁸⁰ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

Since that time, France has taken steps to protect sexual health. The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that sexual violence adversely affects an individuals' sexual health.⁷⁸¹ Thus, actions to prevent sexual violence can be viewed as actions to ensure sexual health.

On 13 June 2014, the French Minister of State for Development and the Francophonie, Annick Girardin, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁷⁸² The Global Summit was hosted by the United Kingdom with the objectives of increasing efforts to prevent sexual violence, and to respond to sexual violence with greater support for victims and greater accountability for perpetrators.⁷⁸³

On 8 October 2014, France presented a decision concerning the issue of school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).⁷⁸⁴ The summary of the Learning Without Fear initiative notes that "The draft decision invites UNESCO and its Member States to reaffirm their mobilization against SRGBV and all forms of violence in schools; to design and implement national policies and action plans; to promote, drawing on target 4.a of the final report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the creation of safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all boys and girls."⁷⁸⁵ According to UNESCO and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, SRGBV includes instances of sexual violence and harassment.⁷⁸⁶ On 16 April 2015, France, along with fifty-eight other states, adopted the text.⁷⁸⁷

France has also pledged to contribute to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria between 2014 and 2016.⁷⁸⁸ On 15 July 2013, President François Hollande announced that France would donate EUR1.08 billion over this time period.⁷⁸⁹ However, since this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, it cannot be counted towards the scoring of this report.

France has also supported initiatives to ensure reproductive health and rights.

⁷⁸¹ Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/.

⁷⁸² France Attends London Summit on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict, France in the United Kingdom (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/France-attends-London-summit-on>.

⁷⁸³ Chair's Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

⁷⁸⁴ Learning Without Fear: Preventing and Combating School-Related Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris) 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002323/232369e.pdf>.

⁷⁸⁵ Learning Without Fear: Preventing and Combating School-Related Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris) 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002323/232369e.pdf>.

⁷⁸⁶ School-Related Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative-United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Discussion Paper, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris) November 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/HIV-AIDS/pdf/UNGEI_UNESCO_SRGBV_DiscussionPaperFinal.pdf.

⁷⁸⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization – Adoption of a Resolution on Combating School-Related, Gender-Based Violence, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/human-rights/events-6494/article/unesco-adoption-of-a-resolution-on>.

⁷⁸⁸ Global Fund Welcomes Contribution by France, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 16 July 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-07-16_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Contribution_by_France/.

⁷⁸⁹ Global Fund Welcomes Contribution by France, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 16 July 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-07-16_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Contribution_by_France/.

France is one of the top 25 member state financial contributors to UN Women.⁷⁹⁰ This is an entity created by the United Nations (UN) that aims to empower women and eliminate issues acutely affecting women, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁷⁹¹ In 2014 overall, France donated over USD0.54 million in core donations, and USD2.14 million in non-core donations.⁷⁹² This was a significant increase from the country's donations in 2013.⁷⁹³

In July 2014, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, along with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, hosted an event about why a sexual and reproductive health and rights target matters in the health goal.⁷⁹⁴ The event was created to bring about a discussion to include sexual and reproductive health in the post-2015 development agenda.⁷⁹⁵ During this event, the Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of France, Fabienne Bartoli, emphasised France's commitment to making quality sexual and reproductive information, education, and services universally accessible.⁷⁹⁶

Between 18 December 2014 and 19 December 2014, France also hosted the annual meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership.⁷⁹⁷ The Ouagadougou Partnership was created in 2011 with the goal of providing one million women in West Africa with access to modern contraceptives by 2015.⁷⁹⁸

At the Summit on Family Planning in 2012, France pledged to contribute EUR100 million to the Ouagadougou Partnership between 2011 and 2015.⁷⁹⁹ One of the main objectives of the conference was to take stock of progress.⁸⁰⁰ However, the Ouagadougou Partnership meeting also focused on

⁷⁹⁰ Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York). Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

⁷⁹¹ Statement by United Nations Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri at the 2013 EuroNGOs Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Post-2105 Agenda, UN Women (New York) 24 October 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/10/lakshmi-puri-speech-on-sexual-and-reproductive-health-rights>.

⁷⁹² Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York). Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

⁷⁹³ Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York). Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

⁷⁹⁴ Why Does a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Target Matter in the Health Goal? World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Geneva) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2014/srhr/en/>.

⁷⁹⁵ Why Does a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Target Matter in the Health Goal? World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Geneva) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2014/srhr/en/>.

⁷⁹⁶ Why Does a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Target Matter in the Health Goal? World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Geneva) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2014/srhr/en/>.

⁷⁹⁷ Third Annual Ouagadougou Partnership Meeting, IntraHealth International (Dakar) March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://ec2-54-210-230-186.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Report_OPCU-Paris-Meeting_ENG_final.pdf.

⁷⁹⁸ Third Annual Ouagadougou Partnership Meeting, IntraHealth International (Dakar) March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://ec2-54-210-230-186.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Report_OPCU-Paris-Meeting_ENG_final.pdf.

⁷⁹⁹ Statement by Ambassador of France in the United Kingdom Bernard Ernie at the London Summit on Family Planning, France in the UK (London) 13 July 2012. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/Sommet-de-Londres-sur-la,21348>.

⁸⁰⁰ Family Planning – Annual Meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/development-assistance/events-7834/events-2014-7840/article/family-planning-annual-meeting-of>.

the creation of new goals.⁸⁰¹ France noted that it “would like universal access to contraception and, more broadly, sexual and reproductive healthcare to be a priority in the post-2015 agenda.”⁸⁰²

France has also called upon other member states at the UN to commit to the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development of Cairo and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.⁸⁰³ This included speeches made at special General Assembly sessions, and taking an active role in activities by the Commission on the Status of Women, an entity under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).⁸⁰⁴

Thus, France is awarded a score of +1 for being actively involved in initiatives surrounding advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights. It has taken steps to ensure sexual health by addressing the issue of sexual violence in conflict and in schools. It has also supported reproductive health and rights by hosting events calling for these topics to be included in the post-2015 framework, and by continuing its support for the Ouagadougou Partnership.

Analyst: Elizabeth Tudor-Beziés

Germany: +1

Germany has taken concrete action to ensure sexual health, along with reproductive health and rights.

On 31 July 2014, the German parliament announced its decision to increase Germany’s contribution to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria from EUR200 million to EUR245 million for the 2014 period.⁸⁰⁵

On 22 September 2014, German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller attended the Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at the United Nations (UN).⁸⁰⁶ While there, he declared, “Germany

⁸⁰¹ Family Planning – Annual Meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/development-assistance/events-7834/events-2014-7840/article/family-planning-annual-meeting-of>.

⁸⁰² Family Planning – Annual Meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/development-assistance/events-7834/events-2014-7840/article/family-planning-annual-meeting-of>.

⁸⁰³ France’s Actions for Women’s Rights and Equality, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) March 2015. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-and-women-s-rights>.

⁸⁰⁴ France’s Actions for Women’s Rights and Equality, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) March 2015. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-and-women-s-rights>.

⁸⁰⁵ Global Fund Welcomes Germany’s Increased Contribution, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 31 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Germany_s_Increased_Contribution/.

⁸⁰⁶ Statement by German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller at the United Nations, International Conference on Population and Development (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/other/4/country/germany.pdf>.

supports the Cairo Programme of Action.”⁸⁰⁷ This renewed the state’s support of a project that has the objective of providing “access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning.”⁸⁰⁸

Germany also hosted a side-event at the conference entitled “Education Matters: Empowering Young People to Make Healthier Choices.”⁸⁰⁹ Here, Minister Müller announced that Germany would make a contribution of EUR3 million to the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Initiative.⁸¹⁰ In 2013, twenty states in the ESA region committed to providing the youth of their states with greater access to sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services, amongst other things.⁸¹¹ The Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Heiko Thoms, recognized that “Comprehensive sexuality education is essential to enable young people to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections.”⁸¹²

On 15 April 2015, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Heiko Thoms, made a statement at the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development.⁸¹³ At this time, he announced that Germany had decided to take steps to extend its Initiative on Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health. This program was created in 2011 for the purposes of providing women with information and access to family planning and maternal health services.⁸¹⁴ Ambassador Thoms noted that maintaining this program illustrates that Germany is “committed to

⁸⁰⁷ Statement by German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller at the United Nations, International Conference on Population and Development (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/other/4/country/germany.pdf>.

⁸⁰⁸ Comprehensive Sexuality Education is Important for Young People to Lead Fulfilling and Healthy Lives and Make Informed Decisions, Healthy Developments () 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2014/Side_Event_at_the_Special_Session_of_the_UN_General_Assembly_ICPD_Beyond_2014/index.html.

⁸⁰⁹ Comprehensive Sexuality Education is Important for Young People to Lead Fulfilling and Healthy Lives and Make Informed Decisions, Healthy Developments () 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2014/Side_Event_at_the_Special_Session_of_the_UN_General_Assembly_ICPD_Beyond_2014/index.html.

⁸¹⁰ Comprehensive Sexuality Education is Important for Young People to Lead Fulfilling and Healthy Lives and Make Informed Decisions, Healthy Developments () 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2014/Side_Event_at_the_Special_Session_of_the_UN_General_Assembly_ICPD_Beyond_2014/index.html.

⁸¹¹ Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa, Young People Today (Paris) 7 December 2013. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://youngpeopletoday.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ESA-Commitment-FINAL-Affirmed-on-7th-December.pdf>.

⁸¹² Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany_Item4.pdf.

⁸¹³ Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany_Item4.pdf.

⁸¹⁴ BMZ Initiative on Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) May 2011. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. http://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/themen_und_schwerpunkte/gesundheit/bmz_initiative_familienplanung_en_1107.pdf.

ensuring that more women can exercise their human right to decide when, with whom and how many children they wish to have.”⁸¹⁵

Germany has also taken steps to ensure that women’s reproductive rights are upheld within the country. On 6 March 2015, the German Bundesrat approved legislation that allows women over the age of 14 to buy emergency contraceptives without the need for a prescription.⁸¹⁶

The German government has also hosted several conferences and made numerous statements in regards to the need to keep sexual and reproductive health and rights high on the global agenda following the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.

In November 2014, Germany held the 12th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development.⁸¹⁷ The theme of this year’s conference was the “ICPD and Beyond: Investing in Health and Rights,” and it resulted in the Berlin Call to Action. This document outlines the need for the post-2015 framework to include sexual and reproductive health and rights. In particular, the participants noted the need for a focus on attaining universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, providing youth with comprehensive sexuality education, and preventing gender-based violence.⁸¹⁸

In a speech on 13 April 2015 at the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Heiko Thoms, advocated for sexual and reproductive health and rights to be adequately reflected in the post-2015 Development Agenda.⁸¹⁹ He also called for “comprehensive sexuality education as well as linking of HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health strategies. Women and girls, like men and boys, must have full and affordable access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies, information and education and be able to freely and responsibly decide on matters related to their sexuality.”⁸²⁰

Furthermore, on 16 April 2015, the Government of Germany hosted the 2015 International G7/G20 Parliamentarians conference in preparation for the 2015 G7 Summit. Entitled, “She Matters, Empowering Women and Girls to Lead Self-Determined, Healthy and Productive Lives,” the conference had the objective of getting parliamentarians “to advocate for increased G7 commitment

⁸¹⁵ Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany_Item4.pdf.

⁸¹⁶ Bundesrat Stimmt Rezeptfreier "Pille Danach" Zu, Süddeutsche Zeitung (Munich) 6 March 2015. Date of Access 14 May 2015. <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/gesundheit/verhuetung-bundesrat-stimmt-rezeptfreier-pille-danach-zu-1.2381202>.

⁸¹⁷ Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany_Item3.pdf.

⁸¹⁸ Berlin Call to Action, Conference Magazine, International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development (Berlin) 5-6 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. http://12th.dialogue-population-development.info/topics/berlin_call_to_action/.

⁸¹⁹ Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany_Item3.pdf.

⁸²⁰ Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany_Item3.pdf.

to international development cooperation and global health, namely in the area of...sexual and reproductive health and rights.”⁸²¹ During the meeting, the Director of World Health Organization Department of Reproductive Health and Research, Marleen Temmerman, called “for parliamentarians to play an active role in the process of development of the renewed Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health.”⁸²² Parliamentarians responded by calling for the 2015 G7 Summit to take these topics into account.⁸²³

In conclusion, Germany receives a score of +1 for its actions to secure sexual health and reproductive health and rights during the compliance period. Germany has taken steps to ensure sexual health through its support for programs like the ESA Initiative, and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. It has also aided the achievement of reproductive health and rights by extending its Initiative on Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health, and by altering its national legislation surrounding contraceptives. Finally, Germany has organized events and made statements emphasizing the importance of keeping sexual and reproductive health and rights on the global agenda.

Analyst: Julia Martshenko

Italy: +1

Italy has made a concerted effort to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On 19 September 2014, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and the Council of Europe co-hosted the event “Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence,” both to applaud the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, and to call on other states to sign the treaty.⁸²⁴ This Istanbul Convention commits states to taking steps to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence.⁸²⁵ While many articles of the convention are not specific to sexual violence, article 36 notes that states must enact legislation to outlaw sexual violence if they have not already done so.⁸²⁶ Moreover, article 25 notes that “Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the setting up of appropriate, easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres for victims in sufficient numbers to provide for medical and forensic examination, trauma support and counseling for victims.”⁸²⁷ During the conference, Italy, along with other parties to the treaty, issued a joint declaration. They noted that they: (1) “Welcome

⁸²¹ “She Matters”- WHO Engages with G7/20 Parliamentarians to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, World Health Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/g7/en/.

⁸²² “She Matters”- WHO Engages with G7/20 Parliamentarians to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, World Health Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/g7/en/.

⁸²³ “She Matters”- WHO Engages with G7/20 Parliamentarians to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, World Health Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/g7/en/.

⁸²⁴ Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence: Celebrating the Entry into Force of the Istanbul Convention International Conference, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 19 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/default_en.asp.

⁸²⁵ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 7 April 2011. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>.

⁸²⁶ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 7 April 2011. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>.

⁸²⁷ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 7 April 2011. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>.

the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, the first legally binding treaty in Europe to offer a comprehensive framework to end violence against women and domestic violence;” (2) commit to the implementation of the treaty; (3) “Urge other Council of Europe member states, non-members states, as well as the European Union, to become Parties to the Convention.”⁸²⁸

The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that sexual health cannot exist where there is sexual violence.⁸²⁹ By taking action to support the Istanbul Convention, Italy has illustrated a commitment to ensuring sexual health. Italy has also taken steps to ensure sexual health by combating HIV/AIDS.

Between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2014, Italy held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). When laying out its goals for the presidency, Italy noted that it would “invite its European partners to consider the outcomes and perspective of the fight against HIV/AIDS.”⁸³⁰ Accordingly, Italy chaired a ministerial conference on “The Fight to End HIV/AIDS: Ten Years After the Dublin Conference” during 27 November 2014 and 28 November 2014.⁸³¹

On 4 December 2013, Italy pledged EUR100 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the 2014-2016 period.⁸³² However, this contribution cannot be counted towards the scoring of the report because it was pledged prior to the beginning of the commitment period.

Italy has also taken steps to ensure reproductive health and rights.

At the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) Pledging Conference in January 2015, Italy pledged an additional USD120 million for the 2016 to 2020 period.⁸³³ This brought the Italy’s total contribution for these years up to USD437 million.⁸³⁴ While GAVI supports many different types of vaccines, it has been providing the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine since 2013.⁸³⁵ The HPV vaccine helps strengthen reproductive health by preventing women from losing their fertility as a result of cervical cancer.⁸³⁶

Between 2 October 2014 and 3 October 2014, the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union held a conference on women’s health that sought “to discuss ... sexual health (sexually

⁸²⁸ Joint Declaration on the Occasion of the Conference Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence, Celebrating the Entry into Force of the Istanbul Convention By Its Contracting States, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 19 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/IC-Declaration-Rome-Final-EN.pdf>.

⁸²⁹ Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/.

⁸³⁰ Europe: A Fresh Start, Program of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2014 Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Brussels). Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://italia2014.eu/media/1349/programma_en1_def.pdf.

⁸³¹ Italian Presidency of the European Union, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome). Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_2_1_1.jsp?lingua=english&menu=eventi&p=daeventi&id=191.

⁸³² Italy Donates 100 Million Euros to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Farnesina (Rome) 4 December 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2013/12/20131204_global_fund.html.

⁸³³ Global Vaccine Alliance GAVI: Increasing Immunization Coverage, Strengthening Healthcare Systems, G7 German 2015 (Berlin) 27 January 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/g7/en/Gavi/>.

⁸³⁴ Global Vaccine Alliance GAVI: Increasing Immunization Coverage, Strengthening Healthcare Systems, G7 German 2015 (Berlin) 27 January 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/g7/en/Gavi/>.

⁸³⁵ Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Support, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/support/nvs/human-papillomavirus-vaccine-support/>.

⁸³⁶ Fertility and Cervical Cancer, Cancer Research UK (London) 10 June 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/type/cervical-cancer/living/fertility-and-cervical-cancer>.

transmitted disease, endometriosis), reproductive health (preconceptional health, pregnancy, delivery and puerperium), female cancers (screening and health promotion, prevention of infertility).⁸³⁷

Italy has also made a statement in support of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which “recognized the centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights to health and development.”⁸³⁸ On 22 September 2014, Italy participated in the special follow-up session to the Programme of Action of the ICPD. Director General for Development Cooperation at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Giampaolo Cantini made a speech at the conference.⁸³⁹ While mainly focused on population development challenges, Cantini noted Italy’s support for the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Review.⁸⁴⁰ He also declared, “Italy reaffirms the relevance of the principles of the 1994 Cairo Conference for the Development Agenda and its support for an acceleration of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014.” In particular, Cantini emphasized the need for mothers and youth to remain on the international agenda.⁸⁴¹

Thus, Italy receives a +1 for its support for sexual and reproductive health and rights. Italy has taken action to ensure sexual health by combating sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. It has helped ensure reproductive health and rights by supporting GAVI and hosting a conference on reproductive health.

Analyst: Kate Motluk

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to ensure sexual and reproductive health, and to protect reproductive rights.

Between 10 June 2014 and 13 June 2014, representatives from the Government of Japan attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁸⁴² During the ministerial working day of the Summit, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi, addressed the conference and

⁸³⁷ Public Health Priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, European Public Health Alliance (Brussels). Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.epha.org/spip.php?article6125>.

⁸³⁸ Population and Development: The Five Pillar Breakdown, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014. 2012. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/rights-development>.

⁸³⁹ Statement by Director General for Development Cooperation at the Itality Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Giampaolo Cantini at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,” International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy_statement_english.pdf.

⁸⁴⁰ Statement by Director General for Development Cooperation at the Itality Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Giampaolo Cantini at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,” International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy_statement_english.pdf.

⁸⁴¹ Statement by Director General for Development Cooperation at the Itality Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Giampaolo Cantini at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,” International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy_statement_english.pdf.

⁸⁴² Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi’s Visit to the Republic of Iran and the United Kingdom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_000292.html.

informed delegates about actions that the state had been taking to respond to sexual violence.⁸⁴³ Kishi noted that Japan was focusing on strengthening the judicial systems of states involved in conflict.⁸⁴⁴ He also made note of Japan's recent contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court (ICC).⁸⁴⁵ On 8 May 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that Japan would make a donation of EUR600,000 to this program.⁸⁴⁶ He also stated that EUR400,000 of this would be targeted at victims of sexual and gender-based violence.⁸⁴⁷ While this pledge cannot be counted towards Japan's compliance because it was made just prior to the beginning of the compliance period, Japan's participation in the summit illustrates that is committed to ensuring the sexual health of individuals living in conflict zones by responding to the problem of sexual violence.

On 10 April 2015, Japan contributed USD848,000 to implement a project to respond to gender-based and sexual violence against women in Palestine.⁸⁴⁸ Japan focused its aid in this area because incidents of sexual and gender-based violence tend to increase in areas that experience conflict.⁸⁴⁹ The project will therefore provide victims of gender-based violence with "legal aid, psychosocial services, and supporting shelters."⁸⁵⁰ This program provides another illustration of Japan's actions to maintain sexual health in conflict zones.

On 3 December 2013, Japan pledged USD800 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria for the 2014-2016 period.⁸⁵¹ While this contribution cannot be counted towards the scoring of this report because the pledge was made prior to the beginning of the compliance period, it is important to note that Japan maintains a strong commitment to combatting HIV/AIDS.

Japan has also taken steps to protect reproductive rights and health.

⁸⁴³ Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page18e_000089.html.

⁸⁴⁴ Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page18e_000089.html.

⁸⁴⁵ Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page18e_000089.html.

⁸⁴⁶ Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Announces First Contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims, The Trust Fund for Victims (The Hague) 8 May 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.trustfundforvictims.org/news/japan-prime-minister-shinzo-abe-announces-first-contribution-trust-fund-victims>.

⁸⁴⁷ Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Announces First Contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims, The Trust Fund for Victims (The Hague) 8 May 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.trustfundforvictims.org/news/japan-prime-minister-shinzo-abe-announces-first-contribution-trust-fund-victims>.

⁸⁴⁸ Japan and UN Women Partner to Assist Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April_Eng.pdf.

⁸⁴⁹ Japan and UN Women Partner to Assist Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April_Eng.pdf.

⁸⁵⁰ Japan and UN Women Partner to Assist Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April_Eng.pdf.

⁸⁵¹ Global Fund Welcomes Japan's Strong Contribution, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 3 December 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-12-03_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Japan_Strong_Contribution/.

On 1 April 2015, the Government of Japan contributed USD756,000 to support the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) efforts to provide women and children in Palestine with access to reproductive healthcare.⁸⁵² In particular, the UNFPA will use the money to “ensure access to family planning, safe births, antenatal and post-natal care for pregnant women and women in the reproductive age.”⁸⁵³

Moreover, Japan pledged USD3.22 million to the UNFPA to allow it to commence a project to provide women and children in South Sudan with access to reproductive healthcare and protection from gender-based violence.⁸⁵⁴ The ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, Takeshi Akamatsu, noted, “There are many unfortunate cases in which pregnant women do not have access to proper health treatment facilities and follow-up care following referral to tertiary health facilities. This is due to limited supply of equipment as well as lack of knowledge and skills of health workers.”⁸⁵⁵ This project will respond to these problems by providing training and equipment to health workers in the area.⁸⁵⁶

On 20 July 2014, the Government of Japan co-hosted a meeting with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) on the post-2015 framework for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁸⁵⁷ Japan supports IPPF's belief that universal health coverage (UHC) ought to include access to sexual and reproductive health, and has therefore been lobbying for UHC to be a central part of the post-2015 framework.⁸⁵⁸ Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne, Keiko Haneda, participated in the meeting and declared “We should accelerate our efforts towards UHC to attain SRHR (sexual and reproductive health and rights) through addressing health inequity, creating sustainable health systems, ensuring financial risk protection and realizing human security.”⁸⁵⁹

Japan again lobbied for UHC at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.⁸⁶⁰ The Deputy Permanent Representatives of Japan to the United Nations, Hiroshi

⁸⁵² Japan Grants USD756 Thousand to Reproductive Health Services in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n1April_Eng.pdf.

⁸⁵³ Japan Grants USD756 Thousand to Reproductive Health Services in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n1April_Eng.pdf.

⁸⁵⁴ Japan Donates \$3.2 million for South Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://esaro.unfpa.org/news/japan-donates-32-million-south-sudan>.

⁸⁵⁵ Japan Donates \$3.2 million for South Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://esaro.unfpa.org/news/japan-donates-32-million-south-sudan>.

⁸⁵⁶ Japan Donates \$3.2 million for South Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://esaro.unfpa.org/news/japan-donates-32-million-south-sudan>.

⁸⁵⁷ No One Can Be Left Behind If We Are to Achieve an AIDS Free Generation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (London) 20 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.ippf.org/east-and-south-east-asia-and-oceania/news/No-one-can-be-left-behind-if-we-are-achieve-AIDS-free-generation>.

⁸⁵⁸ No One Can Be Left Behind If We Are to Achieve an AIDS Free Generation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (London) 20 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.ippf.org/east-and-south-east-asia-and-oceania/news/No-one-can-be-left-behind-if-we-are-achieve-AIDS-free-generation>.

⁸⁵⁹ No One Can Be Left Behind If We Are to Achieve an AIDS Free Generation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (London) 20 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.ippf.org/east-and-south-east-asia-and-oceania/news/No-one-can-be-left-behind-if-we-are-achieve-AIDS-free-generation>.

⁸⁶⁰ Address by Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Hiroshi Minami at the 29th Special Session of the General Assembly, 22 September 2014.

http://icpbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/ambassador_minami_japan_statement.pdf.

Minami, recognized that “The tasks of ensuring maternal and child health ... [and] providing sexual and reproductive health services ... lay upon our shoulders.”⁸⁶¹

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1 for its full compliance with the commitment. It has ensured sexual health by taking steps to prevent sexual violence. It has also ensured reproductive health and rights by contributing to reproductive healthcare and family planning programs in Palestine and South Sudan.

Analysts: Tannishtha Pramanick and Sarah Beard

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully committed to the G7 initiative of improving sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On 13 June 2014, the UK hosted the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The event was held in London. It involved “government representatives from over 120 countries, over 1000 experts, faith leaders, youth organisations, and representatives of civil society and international organisations.”⁸⁶² The UK, along with other governments, committed to tackling the problem of sexual violence in conflict, and to transforming world attitudes towards this issue.⁸⁶³ The Summit also launched the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, which established standards on how to collect the strongest possible information and evidence in order to convict past perpetrators, while still protecting and better supporting the victims.⁸⁶⁴ By hosting this event, the UK illustrated a commitment to protecting sexual health, which the World Health Organization (WHO) defines as “a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality.”⁸⁶⁵ In order for this state to exist, the WHO notes that individuals must not face sexual violence.⁸⁶⁶

In addition, William Hague, the foreign secretary at the time, issued a statement to the British Parliament on 14 July 2014 that outlined the UK’s action plan to advocate for the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI).⁸⁶⁷ First, he noted that the UK would seek to implement globally the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in

⁸⁶¹ Address by Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Hiroshi Minami at the 29th Special Session of the General Assembly, 22 September 2014.

http://icpdbeeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/ambassador_minami_japan_statement.pdf.

⁸⁶² Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

⁸⁶³ Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

⁸⁶⁴ Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

⁸⁶⁵ Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/.

⁸⁶⁶ Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/.

⁸⁶⁷ Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

Conflict.⁸⁶⁸ He also stated that the UK would train national authorities around the world in order to improve investigations and mount successful prosecutions.⁸⁶⁹ Moreover, he committed the UK to ensuring that international multilateral institutions adopt measures to address sexual violence in conflict.⁸⁷⁰

While each of the aforementioned initiatives illustrate the UK's commitment to ensuring sexual health, it is also important to note that the UK committed USD1.6 billion to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria for the 2014-2016 period.⁸⁷¹ While this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, and therefore cannot count towards the scoring, this contribution does amount to USD533 million per year in 2014 and 2015.⁸⁷²

The UK has also taken steps to ensure reproductive rights and health.

On 6 March 2015, Justine Greening, the secretary of state for international development, announced that the UK had decided to invest GBP8 million in a project entitled AmplifyChange.⁸⁷³ This fund is meant to provide grants to aid grassroots activists who are focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁸⁷⁴ The themes of the organization include “access to comprehensive reproductive health services for socially and economically marginalized and vulnerable” and “addressing the causes of unsafe abortion including decriminalisation of abortion and supporting women's rights to safe and legal abortion.”⁸⁷⁵

Furthermore, the UK is a supporter of United Nations (UN) Women. In 2014, it contributed USD20.74 million to the organization.⁸⁷⁶

Moreover, the Government of the UK has been funding the Sahil Girls' club in Somalia to help young women learn about sexual reproductive health, gender-based violence, the risks of early

⁸⁶⁸ Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

⁸⁶⁹ Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

⁸⁷⁰ Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

⁸⁷¹ UK Commits 1 Billion to the Global Fund, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 23 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-09-23_UK_Commits_GBP_1_Billion_to_the_Global_Fund/.

⁸⁷² UK Commits 1 Billion to the Global Fund, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 23 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-09-23_UK_Commits_GBP_1_Billion_to_the_Global_Fund/.

⁸⁷³ Statement by International Development Secretary Justine Greening at the Women of the World Festival, Department for International Development (London) 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/justine-greening-international-activism-for-girls-and-women>.

⁸⁷⁴ Statement by International Development Secretary Justine Greening at the Women of the World Festival, Department for International Development (London) 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/justine-greening-international-activism-for-girls-and-women>.

⁸⁷⁵ What is AmplifyChange? AmplifyChange (Bath) 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://amplifychange.org/about-us/>.

⁸⁷⁶ Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

marriage, and the major issue of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).⁸⁷⁷ This club has educated young women on these topics, and provided a safe space in which young Somali women feel comfortable speaking about such issues.⁸⁷⁸ However, it is not clear when funding for this program began, and therefore it cannot be counted towards the scoring of the report.

The UK has also participated in conferences regarding the issue of reproductive health and rights.

On 22 September 2014, the UK participated in a special assembly at the United Nations on International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD) future.⁸⁷⁹ Entitled ICPD Beyond 2014, the meeting reviewed global progress on the implementation of the Cairo Consensus, which "was remarkable in its recognition that reproductive health and rights...are cornerstones of population and development programmes."⁸⁸⁰ The Director-General for Policy and Programmes in the Department for International Development, Nick Dyer, made a statement at the conference.⁸⁸¹ He noted that issues still remain, and that "Many millions of women and girls are still unable to decide whether or not they have children and how many they have, and are denied the experience of safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth."⁸⁸² He also announced that "the UK fully supports an approach for post-2015 which recognises that universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential...."⁸⁸³

In April 2015, Ambassador Martin Shearman of the UK Mission to the United Nations delivered a speech at the Commission on Population and Development 48th session concerning the role of women in society. Ambassador Shearman stated that promoting, investing in, and protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women is fundamental to their empowerment.⁸⁸⁴ He also mentioned the strong link between sexual and reproductive health and

⁸⁷⁷ Breaking the Silence: Somali women Speak Out on Issues Surrounding Female Genital Mutilation, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/breaking-the-silence-somali-women-speak-out-on-issues-surrounding-female-genital-mutilation>.

⁸⁷⁸ Breaking the Silence: Somali women Speak Out on Issues Surrounding Female Genital Mutilation, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/breaking-the-silence-somali-women-speak-out-on-issues-surrounding-female-genital-mutilation>.

⁸⁷⁹ Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.
http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf.

⁸⁸⁰ Framework of Actions for the Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD Beyond 2014, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) Date of Access: 19 May 2015.
<http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about/view/29-global-review-report>.

⁸⁸¹ Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.
http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf.

⁸⁸² Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.
http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf.

⁸⁸³ Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.
http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf.

⁸⁸⁴ Statement by Ambassador Martin Shearman of the UK Mission at the Commission on Population and Development 48th Session, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uks-vision-is-a-world-where-girls-and-women-participate-actively-in-their-societies-and-economies>.

rights and the economy, stating that universal access to these health and rights will create economic benefits.⁸⁸⁵

Thus, the United Kingdom is awarded with +1 for its efforts in improving sexual and reproductive health and rights. The UK has ensured sexual health through its strong efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence. It has also ensured reproductive health and rights through its contributions to AmplifyChange, and through its statements of support.

Analyst: Elizabeth Tudor-Beziés

United States: +1

The United States is in full compliance to the commitment of ensuring reproductive rights and reproductive and sexual health.

Between 10 and 13 June 2014, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Catherine M. Russell, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁸⁸⁶ US Secretary of State John Kerry joined her on 13 June 2014 to conclude the conference.⁸⁸⁷ At this time, he declared that the US would be undertaking new initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual violence. Kerry announced that the US would be "launching an accountability initiative to help survivors secure justice — to build the capacity of partner governments to prosecute the sexual violence crimes in countries that are ravaged by war and violence and insecurity."⁸⁸⁸

On 22 September 2014, Secretary of State John Kerry stated that the US would contribute USD12 million to the Safe from the Start initiative. This program was created in reaction to the 2013 Call to Action on Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies, which focuses on the issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies.⁸⁸⁹ When the project was launched in 2013, Shelly Pitterman, the United Nations Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) regional representative in the US, noted that the Safe from the Start Initiative would allow the UNHCR "to add expert staff in emergency operations, create innovative programs to help prevent and respond more effectively to sexual violence, and refocus attention on the prevalence of sexual violence against forcibly displaced women and girls."⁸⁹⁰ Since the World Health Organization (WHO) states that sexual violence undermines sexual health, the aforementioned actions illustrate that the US has taken strong steps to address the problem of sexual violence, and protect sexual health.

⁸⁸⁵ Statement by Ambassador Martin Shearman of the UK Mission at the Commission on Population and Development 48th Session, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uks-vision-is-a-world-where-girls-and-women-participate-actively-in-their-societies-and-economies>.

⁸⁸⁶ Address by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, US Department of State (Washington DC) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/06/227553.htm>.

⁸⁸⁷ Address by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, US Department of State (Washington DC) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/06/227553.htm>.

⁸⁸⁸ Address by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, US Department of State (Washington DC) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/06/227553.htm>.

⁸⁸⁹ US Funding for Safe from the Start Announced at the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, US Department of State (Washington DC) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/09/231948.htm>.

⁸⁹⁰ UN Refugee Agency Welcomes the United States' Safe from the Start Initiative Addressing Sexual Violence in Humanitarian Emergencies, United National Refugee Agency (Washington) 26 September 2013. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.unhcrwashington.org/media-news/press-releases/un-refugee-agency-welcomes-united-states%E2%80%99-safe-start-initiative-addressing>.

Moreover, on 31 July 2014, the US pledged a further USD30 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.⁸⁹¹ The US donated this amount in response to an additional commitment by the Government of Germany because it had “devised its pledge in a way that partially matches addition contributions by other donors.”⁸⁹²

The US has also taken action to protect reproductive rights and health. On 11 May 2015, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury jointly released a fact sheet warning insurance companies that women must have access to at least one of each of the eighteen distinct types of contraception as recognized by the Food and Drug Administration.⁸⁹³ This statement came in reaction to reports from the National Women’s Law Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation, which noted that insurance companies had often failed to provide women with a means of accessing free birth control despite the fact that this is required under the Affordable Care Act.⁸⁹⁴ The covered methods of contraception must be available to women with no insurer enforced cost-sharing measures beyond the original costs of the health insurance plans.⁸⁹⁵ Vice-President of the National Women’s Law Center, Gretchen Borchelt, noted that this statement “underscored that it [the government] will not tolerate these violations ... It is now absolutely clear that ... all unique birth control methods for women must be covered.”⁸⁹⁶

Thus, the United States has been awarded a score of +1 for its efforts to ensure reproductive and sexual health and reproductive rights. It has taken steps to prevent and respond to sexual violence through a number of initiatives, while also ensuring that American women are able to decide if, and when, to reproduce, by ensuring access to free contraceptives.

Analyst: Tannishtha Pramanick

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to ensure sexual and reproductive health, and to protect reproductive rights.

The EU has taken actions to ensure sexual health by combating sexual violence.

⁸⁹¹ Global Fund Welcomes Germany’s Increased Contribution, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Geneva) 31 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Germany_s_Increased_Contribution/.

⁸⁹² Global Fund Welcomes Germany’s Increased Contribution, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Geneva) 31 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Germany_s_Increased_Contribution/.

⁸⁹³ FAQs About Affordable Care Act Implementation (Part XXVI), United States Department of Labor (Washington DC) 11 May 2015. Access Date: 12 May 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-aca26.html>.

⁸⁹⁴ White House Warns Insurers About Surcharges and Gaps for Contraception, The New York Times (New York) 11 May 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?_r=0.

⁸⁹⁵ White House Warns Insurers About Surcharges and Gaps for Contraception, The New York Times (New York) 11 May 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?_r=0.

⁸⁹⁶ White House Warns Insurers About Surcharges and Gaps for Contraception, The New York Times (New York) 11 May 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?_r=0.

On 12 June 2014, Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security policy at the time, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁸⁹⁷ The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict was hosted by the United Kingdom for the purpose of bringing people to together to discuss methods of preventing and responding to sexual violence. Discussions centered on issues including ways to both improve support for victims of sexual violence, and to “improve accountability at the national and international level, including through better documentation, investigations and prosecutions at the national and international level, and better legislation implementing international obligations and standards.”⁸⁹⁸ In a statement, Baroness Ashton noted that the EU takes action against sexual violence by: (1) working to change attitudes; (2) strengthening legislation against sexual violence, as well as enacting justice sector reforms in countries where sexual violence currently goes unpunished; (3) empowering women to participate “in mediation, in conflict prevention, and in peace building.”⁸⁹⁹

On 15 April 2015, Thomas Mayr-Harting, the head of the delegation of the EU to the United States, attended the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁹⁰⁰ In a speech to the participants, Mayr-Harting announced that the EU had adopted a “Guide to Practical Actions at EU Level for Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict” in late 2014.⁹⁰¹ He noted that this guide “includes thirty-six concrete initiatives ranging from human rights to conflict prevention and humanitarian aid.”⁹⁰² Moreover, Mayr-Harting also publicized the EU’s decision to provide support to victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through a new initiative commencing in 2015.⁹⁰³

On 26 June 2014, the EU signed an agreement with the DRC to provide EUR620 million in aid.⁹⁰⁴ Marta Latek, a member of the European parliamentary research service, noted, “health system

⁸⁹⁷ Calendrier du 9 au 15 Juin 2014, European Commission (Brussels) 6 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_CLDR-14-20_en.htm.

⁸⁹⁸ Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

⁸⁹⁹ Remarks by European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015.

⁹⁰⁰ Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm.

⁹⁰¹ Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm.

⁹⁰² Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm.

⁹⁰³ Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm

⁹⁰⁴ Commissioner Piebalgs and Prime Minister Matata Ponyo Sign EUR620 Million New EU Programme for the Democratic Republic of Congo, European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/drc-web-release-20140626_en.pdf.

support (EUR150 million) and strengthening the rule of law (EUR160 million)...are of key importance in the fight against sexual violence and its consequences.”⁹⁰⁵

The European Parliament (EP) awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Dr. Denis Mukwege on 22 October 2014.⁹⁰⁶ Mukwege founded the Panzi hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has dedicated himself to protecting victims of sexual violence.⁹⁰⁷ The EP noted that “The Panzi hospital offers psychological and physical care and the women are then helped to develop new skills to live and the girls to go back to school. Legal aid is also offered to take their assailants to court.”⁹⁰⁸ The Sakharov Prize includes a financial donation of EUR50,000 to the prizewinner.⁹⁰⁹

In reply to the EU’s annual report on human rights and democracy 2013, the EP adopted a resolution that includes a call for further action by the EU on the issues of sexual violence against women and reproductive rights. The EP condemned sexual violence and requested that the EU and all parties to the Council of Europe sign and ratify the Istanbul Convention.⁹¹⁰ This treaty, which came into force on 1 August 2014, centres on preventing and responding to violence against women.⁹¹¹ Several clauses focus specifically on sexual violence. They include article 25, which calls for parties to provide support to victims of sexual violence through the creation of sexual violence referral centers.⁹¹² Article 36 requires that states create the legislation necessary to criminalize sexual violence, if they have not already done so.⁹¹³

In the same resolution, the EP reaffirmed its commitment to reproductive health and rights. Clause 136 states that the EP “calls for the EU and its Member States to recognise the inalienable rights of women and girls to bodily integrity and autonomous decision-making as regards, inter alia, the right to access voluntary family planning.”⁹¹⁴

⁹⁰⁵ Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, European Parliamentary Research Service (Brussels) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://epthinktank.eu/2014/11/20/sexual-violence-in-the-democratic-republic-of-congo/>.

⁹⁰⁶ Sakharov Prize 2014 Laureate is Dr Denis Mukwege of Democratic Republic of Congo Panzi Hospital, European Commission (Brussels) 22 October 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/sakharov-prize-2014-laureate-dr-denis-mukwege-drc-panzi-hospital_en.

⁹⁰⁷ Denis Mukwege, Sakharov Prize Network (Brussels). Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/laureates/mukwege_en.html.

⁹⁰⁸ Denis Mukwege, Sakharov Prize Network (Brussels). Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/laureates/mukwege_en.html.

⁹⁰⁹ Sakharov Prize, Sakharov Prize Network (Brussels). Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/prize_en.html.

⁹¹⁰ Report on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2013 and the European Union’s Policy on the Matter, European Parliament (Strasbourg/Brussels) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0023&language=EN>.

⁹¹¹ European Convention on Violence Against Women Enters into Force, Codifying Advances in the Protection of Women’s Human Rights, European Justice Resource Center (San Francisco) 7 August 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.ijrcenter.org/2014/08/07/european-convention-on-violence-against-women-enters-into-force-codifying-advances-in-the-protection-of-womens-human-rights/>.

⁹¹² Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 12 April 2011. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%20210%20English.pdf>.

⁹¹³ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 12 April 2011. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%20210%20English.pdf>.

⁹¹⁴ Report on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2013 and the European Union’s Policy on the Matter, European Parliament (Brussels) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0023&language=EN>.

The EU has taken other steps to protect reproductive rights and ensure reproductive health.

The EU pledged to donate an additional EUR25 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, during a replenishment conference on 26 January 2015 and 27 January 2015.⁹¹⁵ The EU had already committed to providing EUR175 million in support for the years 2016-2020 in May 2014.⁹¹⁶ Gavi currently operates a program to provide developing countries with access to the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for free or at low cost.⁹¹⁷ Since the definition of reproductive health requires that people have “the capability to reproduce,”⁹¹⁸ the EU’s contribution to Gavi constitutes a commitment to ensuring reproductive health and rights. The treatment for cervical cancer leads to infertility in many cases,⁹¹⁹ and HPV is the cause of 70 per cent of cervical cancer cases.⁹²⁰

On 8 January 2015, HRA Pharma announced that the European Commission had decided that all pharmacies across the EU must provide women with access to the emergency contraceptive ellaOne without the need for a prescription.⁹²¹ A representative from HRA Pharma noted that “This is the first ever decision of its type regarding any oral contraceptive product applicable to all EU member states ... This new ruling will empower over 120 million women across the whole EU to gain direct access to emergency contraception.”⁹²² This action contributes to ensuring reproductive health and rights by allowing women to decide if they will have children.

On 22 September 2014, the EU participated in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014. The conference was meant to review global progress towards the implementation of commitments made at the ICPD in 1994,⁹²³ which included sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁹²⁴ At the meeting, a representative from the EU declared, “universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health ... is one of the highest priorities for the global agenda beyond 2014 and is essential to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Moreover, promoting and ensuring universal, affordable, and gender-sensitive access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, as well as to comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, consistent with the needs and evolving capacities of the individual, is crucial to improving maternal, new-born and child health, to improving family planning and access to

⁹¹⁵ European Union, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/funding/donor-profiles/ec/>.

⁹¹⁶ European Union, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/funding/donor-profiles/ec/>.

⁹¹⁷ Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Support, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/support/nvs/human-papillomavirus-vaccine-support/>.

⁹¹⁸ Program of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

⁹¹⁹ Cervical Cancer and Pregnancy, Cancer Research United Kingdom (London) 2 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/type/cervical-cancer/treatment/cervical-cancer-and-pregnancy>.

⁹²⁰ Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Support, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/support/nvs/human-papillomavirus-vaccine-support/>.

⁹²¹ Historic Decision from the European Commission Grants 120 Million Women Direct Access to ellaOne Emergency Contraceptive Across the European Union, HRA Pharma (Paris) 8 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://www.hra-pharma.com/userfiles/file/CP/European_commission_release_08012015.pdf.

⁹²² Historic Decision from the European Commission Grants 120 Million Women Direct Access to ellaOne Emergency Contraceptive Across the European Union, HRA Pharma (Paris) 8 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://www.hra-pharma.com/userfiles/file/CP/European_commission_release_08012015.pdf.

⁹²³ About International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 2012. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about>.

⁹²⁴ Population and Development: The Five Pillar Breakdown, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 2012. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/rights-development>.

quality modern methods of contraception ... and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.”⁹²⁵

Finally, it should also be noted that the EU has also worked to ensure sexual health through its contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS. On 2 December 2013, the EU pledged to donate EUR370 million between 2014 and 2016 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.⁹²⁶ While this illustrates the EU’s previous commitment to ensuring sexual health, it cannot contribute towards the scoring of this report because the pledge was made prior to the beginning of the compliance period.

In conclusion, the EU receives a score of +1 for its full compliance with this commitment. The EU has taken steps to ensure sexual health by participating in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, and by contributing to programs combating sexual violence. It has also taken action to ensure reproductive health and rights through its legislation on the emergency contraceptive ellaOne, and through its contributions to Gavi.

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⁹²⁵ Statement by the European Union and Its Member States, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/european-union.pdf>.

⁹²⁶ EU Announced EUR370 Million of new Support to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2013. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1189_en.htm.