



2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report

14 June 2021 to 11 June 2022

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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18. Human Rights: Forced Labour

“We commit to continue to work together including through our own available domestic means and multilateral institutions to protect individuals from forced labour.”

Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué

Assessment

| | No Compliance | Partial Compliance | Full Compliance |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Canada | | | +1 |
| France | | 0 | |
| Germany | | | +1 |
| Italy | | | +1 |
| Japan | | | +1 |
| United Kingdom | | | +1 |
| United States | | | +1 |
| European Union | | | +1 |
| Average | | +0.88 (94%) | |

Background

While the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work enshrines a respect for human rights in global supply chains, Article 2(a) of the Declaration specifically calls for “the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour.”³⁵⁵⁷ Since then, the Group of Seven (G7) has supported the ILO in promoting fair labour standards across economies by working with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The G7 has also adopted the ILO’s principles and instruments to advance Sustainable Development Goal Eight which oversees the “promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment for all.”³⁵⁵⁸ To achieve the goal of protecting individuals from forced labour in global supply chains, the G7 encourages the identification and protection of vulnerable members of society like refugees, migrants, women, and children.

The 1990 Houston Summit was the first time that G7 members explicitly highlighted “the respect for human rights” in their agenda for sustainable economic prosperity.³⁵⁵⁹ In the Houston Economic Declaration, members stated that economic prosperity would depend upon “a skilled and motivated labour force whose fundamental rights are protected.” Repeated calls to “the freedom of choice” at this summit would later set the stage for identifying the role of consent in labour rights.

At the 1994 Naples Summit, G7 members pledged “support for the newly created office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights” in pursuing the promotion and protection of human rights everywhere.³⁵⁶⁰ This move served to stimulate discussions on human rights at G7 summits in forthcoming years.

The 1999 Köln Summit was monumental for the G8’s recognition of international labour rights.³⁵⁶¹ G8 members agreed to encourage the implementation of international instruments like “the ILO Declaration On

³⁵⁵⁷ The Text of the Declaration and its Follow-up, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 18 June 1998. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.ilo.org/declaration/thedeclaration/textdeclaration/lang--en/index.htm>

³⁵⁵⁸ Women and Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Women (New York) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-8-decent-work-economic-growth>

³⁵⁵⁹ Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html>

³⁵⁶⁰ Chairman’s Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 July 1994. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1994naples/chairman.html>

Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up,” which codified the concept of forced labour and “the ILO Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,” which set out clear actions to protect the most vulnerable and underrepresented groups. The summit also highlighted the need to increase international cooperation in implementing labour standards, specifically with the support of developing countries, the ILO and IFIs like the WTO.

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 members emphasised the role of education in enabling the implementation of international labour standards.³⁵⁶² Members agreed to work with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the ILO to promote school enrolment in efforts to eliminate child labour.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members recognised the vulnerability of refugees and migrants to “modern slavery” and promoted their protection through the principles of “the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol.”³⁵⁶³ Such international protection frameworks fall under the G7’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, members detailed the role of the ILO in delivering women the protection of their labour rights in the “G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment.”³⁵⁶⁴ This Roadmap included specific actions like strengthening women’s access to “decent and quality jobs,” valuing “unpaid care and domestic work,” enabling their participation in the “formal labour market” and ending “violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres.”

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members underscored the respect for human rights and the rule of law in efforts to “eradicate trafficking in persons, forced labour, child labour and all forms of slavery, including modern slavery.”³⁵⁶⁵ This summit marks the first time that the G7 explicitly used the term “forced labour” in its official documents.

On 28 May 2021 in a Virtual Meeting, the G7 Trade Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to existing international instruments like those from the ILO and the “UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.”³⁵⁶⁶ To advance the objective of eradicating forced labour from global supply chains, the G7 Trade Ministers also called upon similar commitments made by G7 Leaders at the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G20 Labour and Employment Ministers at a meeting in Mendoza in 2018 and G7 Employment and Labour Ministers at a meeting in Paris on 7 June 2019.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders promised to continue their cooperation in ensuring that “global supply chains are free from the use of forced labour.”³⁵⁶⁷ At past G7 summits “forced labour” was an issue addressed only in developing countries, however, the language of the commitments made in the Carbis Bay

³⁵⁶¹ G8 Communiqué Köln 1999 Final, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 June 1999. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1999kohn/finalcom.htm>

³⁵⁶² Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

³⁵⁶³ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

³⁵⁶⁴ G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

³⁵⁶⁵ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqué.html>

³⁵⁶⁶ G7 Trade Ministers’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/trade/210528-communiqué.html>

³⁵⁶⁷ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communiqué.html>

G7 Summit Communiqué recognised “forced labour” as a global issue that must be tackled on domestic and international scales.

Commitment Features

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders made the following commitment: “We commit to continue to work together including through our own available domestic means and multilateral institutions to protect individuals from forced labour.”³⁵⁶⁸

To define the key terms in this commitment, “continue to work together” refers to those “commitments that are established and implemented” and “it should be interpreted to mean new actions will be added to the already existing ones. It should not be interpreted to mean no new allocations.”³⁵⁶⁹ This means that compliance for this commitment can be fulfilled by either expanding on old initiatives or creating new ones with the purpose of protecting people from forced labour. In this context, “work together” refers to the different ways G7 members are expected to work with one another i.e., establishing partnerships, joint initiatives etc.

“Forced labour” is understood as “all work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.”³⁵⁷⁰ In the context of this commitment, leaders committed to mobilizing their domestic and multilateral means to prevent forced labour for all individuals.

G7 members committed to continue to protect individuals from forced labour through two pillars of cooperation: their own available domestic means, and multilateral institutions. “Available” is defined as “present or ready for immediate use.”³⁵⁷¹ In the context of domestic means, “available” can refer to existing capacities. Examples of this include money, research and personnel that can be mobilized to meet this objective, both in the expansion of old initiatives and the creation of new ones. “Multilateral institutions” refer to organizations “involving or participated in by more than two nations or parties.”³⁵⁷² Examples of mobilizing means in the context of multilateral institutions include providing funding to international initiatives and programs that work to eradicate forced labor and by providing personnel to staff these institutions.

“To protect” is defined as “to keep someone or something from being harmed.”³⁵⁷³ In the context of this commitment, an action must work to keep individuals from being harmed or impacted by forced labor. It is also important to note that the commitment calls on the protection of all “individuals from forced labor” and thus actions can work to protect all people internationally regardless of state or region.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, is awarded to G7 members who demonstrate strong action in both pillars of the commitment by employing both domestic means and multilateral institutions to protect individuals from forced labour. As stated previously, examples of strong domestic means include, but are not limited to: providing funding, creating initiatives or programs, passing legislation and providing research with the goal of protecting individuals from forced labor. Examples of strong actions regarding multilateral institutions include, but are not limited to, providing funding for programs and initiatives and aiding in the creation of

³⁵⁶⁸ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communication.html>

³⁵⁶⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁵⁷⁰ CO29 - Forced Labour Convention, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 June 1930. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:CO29

³⁵⁷¹ Available, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/available>

³⁵⁷² Multilateral, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/multilateral>

³⁵⁷³ Protect, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 4 October 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/protect>

new initiatives. Weaker action for both aspects of the commitment include verbal reaffirmations in support of protecting individuals from forced labor without taking any concrete action. However, in order to achieve full compliance, a member must take strong actions in both components of the commitment.

Partial compliance, or a score of -1, is awarded to members who either take weak action in both components of the commitment or take strong action in only one component of the commitment. Again, weak actions include actions that are less substantial, like verbal reaffirmations of existing commitments, attendance at international conferences, etc. If a member demonstrates strong action in only one pillar of the commitment - domestic means or multilateral institutions - they still receive partial compliance.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, is awarded to those members who do not demonstrate any action to protect individuals from forced labour.

Scoring Guidelines

| | |
|----|---|
| -1 | The G7 member did NOT continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour NEITHER through its own available domestic means NOR through multilateral institutions. |
| 0 | The G7 member took weak action to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through BOTH its own available domestic means AND multilateral institutions; OR a member took strong action EITHER through its own available domestic means OR through multilateral institutions. |
| +1 | The G7 member took strong action to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through BOTH its own available domestic means AND multilateral institutions. |

*Compliance Director: Saarah Khan
Lead Analyst: Sabar Fatima*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 22 June 2021, Canada led a bloc of more than 40 countries to publish a statement urging China to allow the United Nations Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet immediate access to the region of Xinjiang to investigate reports that more than a million Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities have been forcibly detained in camps.³⁵⁷⁴ Released at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, this statement aims to empower international authorities to investigate reports of torture, forced sterilisation, forced separation of families and forced labour in Xinjiang.

On 22 October 2021, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development Mary Ng endorsed the Group of Seven's joint statements on trade, investment and forced labour at the third G7 Trade and Investment Ministers' Meeting in London.³⁵⁷⁵ The goal of this meeting was to emphasise Canada's willingness to work with G7 members to ensure that trade and supply chains are free of goods produced by forced labour.

On 27 October 2021, Canada modified its Acts and Regulations Labour Program to better protect workers.³⁵⁷⁶ The goal of modernising federal labour standards is to improve employee eligibility for

³⁵⁷⁴ Open Xinjiang to "Independent Observers", Canada tells China, Al-Jazeera (Doha) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/22/canada-allies-to-china-open-xinjiang-to-independent-observers>

³⁵⁷⁵ Canada Endorses G7 Joint Statements On Trade And Investment, Forced Labour And Digital Trade, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 26 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/10/canada-endorses-g7-joint-statements-on-trade-and-investment-forced-labour-and-digital-trade.html>

³⁵⁷⁶ Labour Program: Changes to the Canada Labour Code and Other Acts to Better Protect Workplaces, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 27 October 2021. Access Date: 27 November 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/laws-regulations/labour/current-future-legislative.html>

entitlements, improve work-life balance, ensure fair treatment and compensation for employees in precarious work and ensure sufficient notice and compensation when jobs are terminated.

On 3 November 2021, Canada Border Services Agency reported that they had recently seized a shipment of women's and children's clothing imported into Quebec from China.³⁵⁷⁷ Since the ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Implementation Act on 1 July 2020 to prohibit imports of goods and services made with forced labour, this seizure marks the first such reported enforcement action in Canada.

On 16 November 2021, Canada and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to proceed with free trade agreement negotiations.³⁵⁷⁸ The goal of this agreement is to support a more transparent and safe environment for Canadian goods and services.

On 24 November 2021, Senator Julie Miville-Dechéne introduced Bill S-211 which is “An Act to Enact the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act and to Amend the Customs Tariff” to the Senate.³⁵⁷⁹ If passed, this act imposes an obligation on certain government institutions and private-sector entities to report on the measures taken to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour in their supply chains. The goal of this legislation is to make governmental and private-sector entities more accountable and transparent in their operations.

On 24 November 2021, Senator Leo Housakos introduced Bill S-204 which is “An Act to Amend the Customs Tariff (Goods from Xinjiang)” to the Senate.³⁵⁸⁰ If passed, this act proposes the total prohibition of importing all goods manufactured, wholly or in part, in Xinjiang, China. As the House of Commons has already recognised the ongoing human rights abuses committed against Uyghur and Turkic Muslims in the region as genocide, the goal of this legislation is to sanction the Government of China for their involvement in the genocidal and unethical activity there such as forced labour camps.

On 8 December 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing over concerns of human rights abuses in Xinjiang.³⁵⁸¹ Canada will not send a federal government delegation but its athletes will still be allowed to compete at the event. The goal of this action is to condemn China's genocide of Uyghur, Turkic and other minorities in Xinjiang where they have been incarcerated in camps, forcibly sterilised and forced into labour.

On 10 December 2021, Canada joined the United States and the United Kingdom in imposing sanctions against private-sector entities suspected of committing human rights abuses in Myanmar.³⁵⁸² The goal of these sanctions is to send a message that “democracies around the world will act against those who abuse the power of the state to inflict suffering and repression.”

On 12 January 2022, Minister Ng and Minister of Foreign Affairs Francois-Philippe Champagne announced measures related to the human rights situation in Xinjiang such as prohibiting the import of goods produced

³⁵⁷⁷ Canada Seizes Goods Made With Forced Labour From China; MPs Urge More Action For Uyghurs, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-canada-seizes-goods-made-with-forced-labour-from-china-mps-urge-more/>

³⁵⁷⁸ Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 27 November 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/asean-anase/fta-ale/negotiations-negotiations.aspx?lang=eng>

³⁵⁷⁹ Bill S-211, Parliament of Canada (Ottawa) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/S-211/first-reading>

³⁵⁸⁰ Bill S-204, Parliament of Canada (Ottawa) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 26 January 2021. <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/S-204/first-reading>

³⁵⁸¹ Canada Joining Diplomatic Boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics, Global News (Vancouver) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8433493/canada-beijing-diplomatic-boycott-announcement/>

³⁵⁸² Treasury Sanctions Perpetrators of Serious Human Rights Abuse on International Human Rights Day, United States Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0526>

by forced labour, a Xinjiang integrity declaration for Canadian companies, a business advisory on Xinjiang-related entities, export controls and a study on forced labour and supply chain risks.³⁵⁸³ The goal of these measures is to combat the human rights violations in Xinjiang.

On 13 January 2022, Canada met with the US and Mexico for the First USMCA Deputies Meeting where they agreed to collaborate on combating forced labour globally and prohibiting the import of goods produced by forced labour.³⁵⁸⁴ They also agreed to report concrete and measurable outcomes on implementing this obligation at the 2022 Future Technologies Conference. The goal of this meeting was to re-establish a roadmap to achieving the common objective of eradicating forced labour.

On 25 January 2022, Canada and Supermax Healthcare Canada decided to terminate two supply contracts worth more than CAD222 million with Supermax Corp. of Malaysia for the supply of nitrile gloves.³⁵⁸⁵ On 10 November 2021, Public Services and Procurement Canada had put on hold deliveries of the nitrile gloves from Supermax Healthcare Canada following allegations of forced labour practices against Supermax Corp.³⁵⁸⁶ As Supermax Healthcare Canada is currently taking an audit of its Malaysian partner Supermax Corp., whose results will be published in spring 2022, it is yet to be decided if Canada will terminate any further contracts with the supplier.³⁵⁸⁷

On 8 February 2022, Member of Parliament Marcus Powlowski introduced Bill C-243 which is “An Act Respecting the Elimination of the Use of Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains” to the House of Commons.³⁵⁸⁸ If passed, this act imposes an obligation on certain entities to report on the measures taken to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour or child labour in their supply chain. The goal of this legislation is to give the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness the power to require transparency in the entities’ operations.³⁵⁸⁹

On 24 February 2022, Senator Leo Housakos moved Bill S-204 which is “An Act to Amend the Customs Tariff (Goods from Xinjiang)” for a second reading to the Senate.³⁵⁹⁰ On 24 November 2021, Senator Housakos had introduced Bill S-204 to the Senate.³⁵⁹¹ If passed, this act proposes the total prohibition of importing all goods manufactured, wholly or in part, in Xinjiang, China. As the House of Commons has already recognised the ongoing human rights abuses committed against Uyghur and Turkic Muslims in the

³⁵⁸³ Canada Announces New Measures to Address Human Rights Abuses in Xinjiang, China, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 January 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/canada-announces-new-measures-to-address-human-rights-abuses-in-xinjiang-china.html>

³⁵⁸⁴ Mexico, the United States, and Canada Joint Statement on the First USMCA Deputies Meeting, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 13 January 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2022/january/mexico-united-states-and-canada-joint-statement-first-usmca-deputies-meeting>

³⁵⁸⁵ Update on Contracts with Supermax Healthcare Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Ottawa) 25 January 2022. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/medias-media/actualites-news/supermax-update-eng.html>; Canada Terminates \$222M PPE Contract Following Forced Labour Probe, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Toronto) 18 January 2022. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/malaysia-nitrile-gloves-supermax-contract-terminated-1.6319190>

³⁵⁸⁶ Contracts with Supermax Healthcare Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Ottawa) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/medias-media/actualites-news/supermax-eng.html>

³⁵⁸⁷ Update on Contracts with Supermax Healthcare Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Ottawa) 25 January 2022. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/medias-media/actualites-news/supermax-update-eng.html>

³⁵⁸⁸ Bill C-243, Parliament of Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2022. Access Date: 17 March 2022.

<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-243/first-reading?fbclid=IwAR2xOHKriKhgz8B1twCip0TSE74DFNYFCM0tYh8GpjlAcjj7Y6DEeVQJClg>

³⁵⁸⁹ Bill C-243, Parliament of Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2022. Access Date: 17 March 2022. <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-243/first-reading?fbclid=IwAR2xOHKriKhgz8B1twCip0TSE74DFNYFCM0tYh8GpjlAcjj7Y6DEeVQJClg>

³⁵⁹⁰ Debates of the Senate (Ottawa) 24 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022.

https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/441/debates/021db_2022-02-24-e?language=e&fbclid=IwAR0U-jxvcYiZzfhdV-eOtbjFCIx4m4mzxK1pC50U8QrCpP4wx5gxhJU1YE8

³⁵⁹¹ Bill S-204, Parliament of Canada (Ottawa) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 26 January 2022.

<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/S-204/first-reading>

region as genocide, the goal of this legislation is to sanction China for their involvement in the genocidal and unethical activity there such as forced labour camps.³⁵⁹²

On 11 March 2022, Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan Jr. announced the release of the "Labour Exploitation in Global Supply Chains: What We Heard Report," which will propose legislation to eradicate forced labour and ensure that Canadian multinational corporations do not contribute to human rights abuses.³⁵⁹³ Additionally, the Ministry of Labour is exploring best practices as part of the supply chain legislation.

On 28 April 2022, Minister Ng announced the release of a five-year strategy called "Responsible Business Conduct Abroad: Canada's Strategy for the Future" to be implemented from 2022 till 2027.³⁵⁹⁴ Informed by the "Labour Exploitation in Global Supply Chains: What We Heard Report," this strategy aims to help Canadian multinational companies employ socially responsible practices and mitigate supply chain risks related to forced labour in Xinjiang.

On 1 June 2022, Members of Parliament voted to support Bill S-211 which requires Canadian companies operating overseas to ensure that they are not engaging with forced labour or the exploitation of child workers.³⁵⁹⁵ This bill aims to encourage the application of international agreements on forced labour and further examine the use of forced labour in Canadian supply chains.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. Canada has demonstrated its respect for upholding human rights and international labour standards by taking strong action against transgressors who employ forced labour. Most of Canada's actions have been through its own domestic means like introducing federal trade laws against forced labour and sanctioning goods and services which are suspected to be produced with forced labour in Xinjiang. Canada has also used the influence of multilateral institutions like the UN Human Rights Council, ASEAN and USMCA to reaffirm its commitment to ensuring transparency in the global supply chain and taking action against violators of human rights agreements.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Mariem Hamdy, Saarah Khan and Sabar Fatima

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 2 July 2021, the Central Office to Fight Crimes against Humanity, Genocide and War Crimes opened an investigation into Skechers and fashion retailers Fast Retailing, Inditext and SMCP which own Uniqlo France, Zara, etc.³⁵⁹⁶ This investigation comes after a complaint was filed in April 2021 concerning these retailers' use

³⁵⁹² Bill S-204, Parliament of Canada (Ottawa) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/S-204/first-reading>

³⁵⁹³ Government of Canada Publishes Report on Labour Exploitation in Global Supply Chains, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 11 March 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/03/labour-exploitation-in-global-supply-chains-what-we-heard-report.html>

³⁵⁹⁴ Minister Ng Announces Launch of New Responsible Business Conduct Strategy, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/04/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-new-responsible-business-conduct-strategy.html>

³⁵⁹⁵ Labour Minister Seamus O'Regan Backs Senate Forced Labour Bill, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Toronto) 1 June 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/minister-bill-slavery-forced-labour-1.6474273>

³⁵⁹⁶ France probes fashion giants for "crimes against humanity" in Uyghur camps, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210702-france-probes-fashion-giants-for-crimes-against-humanity-in-uyghur-labour-camps-china-xianjing>

of forced Uyghur labour in their textile production. The goal of the investigation is to determine whether these retailers employ forced labour and accordingly take legal action.

On 6 July 2021, President Emmanuel Macron sent a letter to Senator Andre Gattolin that outlined France's position on China regarding forced labour issues.³⁵⁹⁷ Specifically, the letter stated that France has asked China "to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular in Xinjiang, but also the rights, freedoms, and the high degree of autonomy of Hong Kong." The goal of this letter was to diplomatically convey France's stance on eradicating forced labour from the global supply chain to China.

On 20 January 2022, the National Assembly adopted a resolution that officially recognises the violence perpetrated by China against the Uyghurs as "constituting crimes against humanity and genocide."³⁵⁹⁸ The resolution was adopted almost unanimously and it proposes to undertake "the necessary measures within the international community and in its foreign policy" to stop China's mistreatment of the Uyghurs. Such measures can include legal action against companies that continue to use forced labour of the Uyghur people.

France has partially complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. It has demonstrated action only on a domestic level by undertaking an investigation of major fashion retailers reported to be profiting from forced labour and passing a non-binding resolution to stop importing goods made with forced labour.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Eleanor Park

Germany: +1

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 11 June 2021, the Bundestag adopted the Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains.³⁵⁹⁹ Starting January 2024, it places enterprises with more than 1,000 German employees and headquarters, principal place of business, statutory seats or branch office in Germany under the obligation to respect human rights by implementing defined due diligence obligations along supply chains. This is the first time the responsibility of German enterprises to respect human rights in global supply chains has been put on a legal footing.

On 17 June 2021, Germany was involved in both the drafting and successful adoption of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) "Global call to action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient."³⁶⁰⁰ The document calls for the need to address workers' rights violations, particularly emphasizing the need to eliminate "child and forced labour."

³⁵⁹⁷ US, EU Tighten Scrutiny on China's Xinjiang Over Uyghur Forced Labor Issue, Radio Free Asia (Washington D.C.) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/business-advisories-07132021170808.html>

³⁵⁹⁸ French Parliament Adopts Resolution Denouncing China's Uyghur "Genocide", Radio France Internationale (Paris) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 26 January 2022. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20220120-french-parliament-adopts-resolution-denouncing-china-s-uyghur-genocide>

³⁵⁹⁹ Act on Corporate Due Diligence in Supply Chains, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 17 November 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/act-on-corporate-due-diligence-in-supply-chains.html>

³⁶⁰⁰ Global Call To Action For A Human-Centered Recovery From The Covid-19 Crisis That Is Inclusive, Sustainable And Resilient, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2022. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_806092.pdf

On 30 June 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas and the UK's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab signed a joint declaration of intent on UK-German foreign policy cooperation.³⁶⁰¹ The goal of this declaration is to support the Group of Seven (G7)'s work towards ending forced labour among other goals.

On 2 July 2021, the Federal Foreign Office published a White Paper titled "A Multilateralism for the People."³⁶⁰² The document outlines the various multilateral institutions that Germany relies on, including the ILO, to generate action against forced labour. The document also emphasizes Germany's continued support for human rights under the ILO's employment laws and global supply chains. The goal of this publication is to record domestic efforts to protect individuals from forced labour.

On 2 July 2021, Germany, as a member of the Generation Equality Forum, contributed to the 'Action Coalitions Global Acceleration Plan.'³⁶⁰³ The Acceleration Plan addresses how to end forced labour, especially in the context of gender equality.³⁶⁰⁴

On 6 July 2021, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development announced the launch of Green Button 2.0 which is a government-run certification for products and brands that meet human rights standards, certifying that the production process does not entail forced labour.³⁶⁰⁵ The goal of this project is to demonstrate the future adoption of corporate due diligence in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

On 9 September 2021, the Federal Foreign Office published an article titled "China - A Land with Many Faces."³⁶⁰⁶ The article addresses how China set up forced labour camps in its Xinjiang region and affirms its support for the EU's sanctions against the country. The goal of this article is to condemn China's violation of human rights and use diplomatic relations to address the international forced labour issue.

On 23 November 2021, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs organized an event called "Fighting human trafficking and forced labour – What does Germany need to get done by 2030?"³⁶⁰⁷ The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' State Secretary Björn Böhning remarked that "even in Germany, the victims are still not recognised often enough" while stakeholders and experts discussed the road to eradicating forced labour by 2030. The goal of this event was to reiterate the commitment to ending forced labour.

³⁶⁰¹ Joint Declaration by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 21 November 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/gbr-joint-declaration/2468908>

³⁶⁰² A Multilateralism for the People, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 21 November 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2460320/0e29e9a0f2c3b9af9a4268ba913f26a9/weissbuch-multilateralismus-data.pdf>

³⁶⁰³ Press Release: Generation Equality Forum Concludes In Paris With Announcement Of Revolutionary Commitments And Global Acceleration Plan To Advance Gender Equality By 2026, UN Women (New York City) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2022. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/7/press-release-generation-equality-forum-concludes-with-commitments-and-global-acceleration-plan>

³⁶⁰⁴ Action Coalitions Global Acceleration Plan, Generation Equality Forum (Paris) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2022. <https://forum.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/UNW%20-%20GAP%20Report%20-%20EN.pdf>

³⁶⁰⁵ Development of the Green Button 2.0, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 21 November 2021. <https://gruener-knopf.de/sites/default/files/file/2021-07/Green%20Button%20Consultation%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf>

³⁶⁰⁶ China – A Land With Many Faces, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 21 November 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/asien/-/231348>

³⁶⁰⁷ Fighting Human Trafficking And Forced Labour - What Does Germany Need To Get Done By 2030?, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 29 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/what-does-germany-need-to-get-done-by-2030.html>

On 1 December 2021, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development published a report called “Sustainable Agri-Food Systems - A World without Hunger.”³⁶⁰⁸ The publication emphasized the federal ministry’s intention to shoulder responsibility for the social impacts of inequitable supply chains. The goal of this action is to highlight domestic efforts in pursuing the elimination of forced labour.

On 12 December 2021, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock discussed the G7’s handling of forced labour issues with China in an interview with the German Press Agency.³⁶⁰⁹ Baerbock called for an EU-wide import ban on goods from Xinjiang and for a more universal ban on all imports produced with forced labour. The goal of this measure is to emphasize the importance of upholding labour standards and human rights even in the European market.

On 2 March 2022, representatives from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs attended a high-level virtual meeting organized by the Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries titled “Zero Tolerance For Child Labour, Forced Labour And Human Trafficking.”³⁶¹⁰ The goal of this event was to demonstrate a commitment to ending forced labour by 2030 and exchange policy recommendations to achieve it.³⁶¹¹

On 6 May 2022, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs hosted a virtual conference called “Sustainable Value Chains - Success Factors for an Internationally Accepted Binding Standard” in collaboration with the International Labour Organization.³⁶¹² The goal of this event was to discuss potential binding standards in the regulation of supply chains, focusing on the removal of forced labour in global trade.³⁶¹³

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. Germany took strong action through its own domestic means like passing legislation that prohibits corporations from engaging in supply chains that are underregulated and participating in forced labour and progressing with its Green Label initiative that encourages corporations to adhere to human rights standards. Germany has also aided in the implementation in the ILO’s “Global call to action” which calls for the elimination of forced and child labour.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Imaan Khan

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

³⁶⁰⁸ Sustainable Agri-Food Systems – A World without Hunger, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 1 December 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022.

https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/100758/87a73afe4dce879c6f2fef99176a5e62/BMZ-Kernthemenstrategie_EWOH_en.pdf

³⁶⁰⁹ Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock In An Interview With The DPA, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2504416>

³⁶¹⁰ Zero Tolerance For Child Labour, Forced Labour And Human Trafficking, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 February 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2022. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_838315.pdf

³⁶¹¹ High-Level Virtual Meeting: Zero Tolerance For Child Labour, Forced Labour And Human Trafficking, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2022. https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/events/WCMS_837919/lang--en/index.htm

³⁶¹² Supply Chain Conference, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 8 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/g7-conference-supply-chains.html>

³⁶¹³ Draft Programme G7 Conference on May 6 2022, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 8 April 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Internationales/g7-lieferkettenkonferenz-programm-en.pdf;jsessionid=5629B241C6DB9CACE5B6354B70817291.delivery2-master>

On 17 June 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi criticised “China and in general all autocracies” for their use of forced labour and not respecting human rights standards.³⁶¹⁴ The goal of this statement was to verbally reaffirm Italy’s commitment to ending forced labour in supply chains.

On 22 June 2021, Italy adopted the Joint Education and Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration at a meeting hosted by the Group of Twenty (G20)’s Ministers of Education and Labour.³⁶¹⁵ This declaration enables the youth to access employment opportunities and decent work by encouraging the development of education, training and labour market policies.³⁶¹⁶ The G20 members highlighted the need for actions in gender equality and inclusion of the most vulnerable young groups. The goal of this declaration is to enhance the transparency of labour market opportunities and to secure good employment opportunities for the most vulnerable members of society.

On 14 July 2021, Minister of the Interior Luciana Lamorgese signed a protocol for the prevention of labour exploitation in agriculture and illegal hiring.³⁶¹⁷ The protocol promotes cooperation in the inter-institutional system to ensure the implementation of the territorial plan to combat labour exploitation in agriculture and illegal hiring. The goal of this document is to promote the implementation of measures stipulated by the “Three-Year Plan to Combat Labour Exploitation in Agriculture (2020-2022).”³⁶¹⁸ Nevertheless, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has still called on the Government of Italy to take more decisive actions to end the exploitation of migrant workers and to address their precarious legal status.³⁶¹⁹

On 22 October 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio represented Italy in the third Group of Seven (G7) Trade and Investment Ministers’ Meeting hosted in London.³⁶²⁰ Italy endorsed the G7’s joint statements on trade and investment, forced labour and digital trade. The goal of this action was to reaffirm Italy’s commitment to ending forced labour on an international scale.

On 26 October 2021, Minister of Labour and Social Policies Andrea Orlando and Spain’s Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Economy Yolanda Díaz Pérez met in Rome to discuss bilateral labour concerns.³⁶²¹ Minister Orlando highlighted the need for Europe to regulate the minimum wage to combat wage dumping practices. He also emphasized the issues of equal pay for men and women and wage transparency. The goal of this meeting was to establish a bilateral understanding on labour standards and employment protection.

³⁶¹⁴ Draghi Distances Italy From Russia, China to Return to West’s Fold, France 24 (Rome) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210617-draghi-distances-italy-from-russia-china-to-return-to-west-s-fold>

³⁶¹⁵ G20: Summary of the Final Declaration by the Labour Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/g20-sintesi-dichiarazione-finale-dei-ministri-del-lavoro.aspx/>

³⁶¹⁶ G20 Joint Education and Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Catania) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/europa-e-fondi-europei/focus-on/G20/Documents/G20-Joint-Education-and-Labour-and-Employment-Ministers-Declaration.pdf>

³⁶¹⁷ Protocol to the Ministry of the Interior: Fight Against Labour Exploitation in Agriculture and Illegal Hiring, Ministry of the Interior (Rome) 14 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/lotta-allo-sfruttamento-lavorativo-agricoltura-e-caporalato-protocollo-viminale>

³⁶¹⁸ Signing of the Protocol to Fight Against Labour Exploitation in Agriculture and Illegal Hiring, Ministry of the Interior (Rome) 14 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/viminale-oggi-firma-protocollo-prevenzione-e-contrasto-sfruttamento-lavorativo-agricoltura-e-caporalato>

³⁶¹⁹ Italy: Government Must Break Cycle Of Exploitation Of Workers, Hold Businesses Accountable – UN experts, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Rome) 6 October 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27609&LangID=E>

³⁶²⁰ Canada Endorses G7 Joint Statements On Trade And Investment, Forced Labour And Digital Trade, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/10/canada-endorses-g7-joint-statements-on-trade-and-investment-forced-labour-and-digital-trade.html>

³⁶²¹ Orlando: Unity of Purpose Made Even More Solid by the Challenges Posed by the Pandemic, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 26 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/orlando-unita-intenti-resa-ancora-piu-solida-dalle-sfide-imposte-dalla-pandemia.aspx/>

On 29 October 2021, Italy completed the ratification process of the 2019 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace (No. 190) in the presence of the ILO Director-General Guy Ryder.³⁶²² This treaty is the first international labour standard to address violence and harassment in the workplace. The goal of ratifying this treaty was to move “towards a safe, healthy and inclusive world of work that is free from violence and harassment for all and, in particular, for persons in the most vulnerable situations.”³⁶²³

On 23 November 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies and the National Council of Economy and Labor signed a collaboration agreement to observe the labor market and the dynamics of collective bargaining in the private sector. The two institutions aim to monitor the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and its effect on the labour market.³⁶²⁴

On 25 November 2021, Italy participated in the second segment of the 109th International Labour Conference (ILC).³⁶²⁵ The ILC gathers representatives of governments, employers and workers from the 187 ILO member states.³⁶²⁶ The goal of attending this international conference was to discuss, adopt and monitor International Labour Standards and to set the ILO’s global agenda and budget for the coming year.

On 7 December 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy introduced the first National Protocol for Collective Bargaining on Agile Work in the private sector.³⁶²⁷ This protocol is the second provision in Europe to regulate smart working. The goal of this legislation is to protect cross-border workers and promote labour mobility.

On 10 December 2021, Italy launched, in partnership with the ILO and the European Commission, the first training module for trainers on the monitoring of the Three-Year Plan’s (2020-2022) performance in preventing labour exploitation in agriculture.³⁶²⁸ This program includes five training modules and a session on adult training techniques. The Three-Year Plan is a joint ILO-European Commission action that tackles labour exploitation and unlawful recruitment in agriculture. The goal of the plan is to strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions in preventing and combating labour exploitation in agriculture.³⁶²⁹

On 21 December 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies announced the results of the operational activity carried out by Minister Orlando’s “Logistics and Freight Transport” task force to combat social

³⁶²² Italy Ratifies The ILO Convention (No. 190) On The Elimination Of Violence And Harassment In The World Of Work, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. https://www.ilo.org/rome/risorse-informative/comunicati-stampa/WCMS_825453/lang--en/index.htm

³⁶²³ Italy Ratifies The ILO Convention (No. 190) On The Elimination Of Violence And Harassment In The World Of Work, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. https://www.ilo.org/rome/risorse-informative/comunicati-stampa/WCMS_825453/lang--en/index.htm

³⁶²⁴ The Ministry of Labor and Social Policies-CNEL Agreement Has Been Signed For The Monitoring Of Private Work, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 March 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/siglato-accordo-ministero-del-lavoro-e-delle-politiche-sociali-cnel-per-monitoraggio-del-lavoro-privato.aspx/>

³⁶²⁵ International Labour Conference, 109th Session - Second Segment, International Labour Organization (Rome) 29 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 December 2021. https://www.ilo.org/rome/eventi-e-riunioni/WCMS_829833/lang--it/index.htm

³⁶²⁶ 109th International Labour Conference to Resume, International Labour Organization (Rome) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_828630/lang--en/index.htm

³⁶²⁷ National Protocol on Agile Work in the Private Sector, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Protocollo-Nazionale-sul-Lavoro-Agile-nel-settore-privato.aspx>

³⁶²⁸ Training on Monitoring Political Performance Against Labour Exploitation, International Labour Organization (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.ilo.org/rome/risorse-informative/comunicati-stampa/WCMS_831410/lang--it/index.htm

³⁶²⁹ Three-Year Plan To Combat Labour Exploitation In Agriculture, International Labour Organization (Rome) 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.ilo.org/rome/approfondimenti/WCMS_766345/lang--it/index.htm

dumping, labour exploitation and illegal behaviour in the sector.³⁶³⁰ The task force audited 90 companies, verified 1,739 job positions and interviewed 945 workers and suspended the activities of four companies for undeclared work and 15 companies for health and safety reasons. The goal of this action was “to stem the scourges of exploitation, illegal work and to constantly check safety in the workplace.”

On 30 December 2021, Italy approved the Budget Law for 2022 which includes new or stronger social protections for 12.4 million people.³⁶³¹ The goal of introducing these measures is to prevent the exclusion of workers from the social protection system.

On 2 March 2022, Minister Orlando oversaw the signing of an integrated supply chain protocol at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies whereby signatories of the protocol agreed to implement a series of initiatives to encourage workplace safety.³⁶³²

On 29 March 2022, Minister Orlando signed Ministerial Decree number 55 which will see the distribution of EUR200 million to local administrations and the implementation of the 2020 Strategic Plan to combat illegal hiring in agriculture and undeclared work.³⁶³³ This intervention is part of a more general national strategy to combat undeclared work in compliance with the recommendations of the European Commission.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. Italy has taken strong measures using its own domestic means to eradicate labour exploitation in its agricultural sector like the national ratification of laws which uphold human rights in employment and the new budget which seeks to provide social protection to vulnerable members of society. Italy has also worked with multilateral institutions like the ILO and G20 to enforce international labour standards.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Warisa Rahman

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 12 July 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) called on the textile industry to work together and craft guidelines that would root out human rights violations like forced labour in their supply

³⁶³⁰ Logistics: Task Force “Logistics And Freight Transport” Carries Out Wide-Ranging Checks, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 21 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Logistica-task-force-Settore-logistica-e-trasporto-merci-effettua-controllo-a-largo-raggio.aspx>

³⁶³¹ 2022 Budget Law Approved: Work And Social Policies In The Foreground, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 30 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2022.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Approvata-la-Legge-di-Bilancio-2022-lavoro-e-politiche-sociali-in-primopiano.aspx>

³⁶³² A Supply Chain Protocol between ASPI and the Social Partners was Signed in the Presence of Minister Orlando, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 2 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 April 2022.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Alla-presenza-ministro-Orlando-firmato-protocollo-di-filiera-tra-ASPI-e-parti-sociali.aspx>

³⁶³³ PNRR: Fight Against Illegal Hiring and the Exploitation of Workers, Divided up €200 million to the Municipalities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 1 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 April 2022.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/PNRR-lotta-al-caporalato-e-allo-sfruttamento-dei-lavoratori-ripartiti-200-milioni-di-euro-ai-Comuni.aspx>

chains.³⁶³⁴ The goal of these guidelines is to assess existing provisions for fair work hours, fair wages and eliminating the presence of child labour or forced labour in the garment industry.

On 12 August 2021, the METI reaffirmed its support for the protection of individuals from forced labour by updating its “Business and Human Rights”: Towards A Responsible Value Chain” policy.³⁶³⁵ Informed by international institutions such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the policy aims to disseminate guidelines on employing ethical labour practices and prohibiting forced labour.

On 28 September 2021, Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi protested a South Korean court decision which ordered that assets seized from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries be sold off to compensate two women who were subjected to forced labour in the company during Japan’s occupation of the Korean peninsula.³⁶³⁶ On 18 August 2021, the South Korean court had ruled that assets worth KRW850 million (JPY80 million) could be seized from Mitsubishi Heavy’s account.

On 14 October 2021, Vice-Minister for International Affairs Naoshi Hirose attended the 2021 OECD Ministerial council meeting to speak on the importance of promoting corporate conduct responsibility towards seeking the eradication of forced labour in global supply chains.³⁶³⁷ The goal of this action was to use an international platform to urge governments to take responsibility in ensuring that multinational corporations within their jurisdictions are following commitments regarding forced labour.

On 22 October 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kōichi Hagiuda and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Masahiro Ishii adopted an annex concerning forced labour at the G7 Trade Ministers Meeting.³⁶³⁸ The annex reaffirms the commitment to using both domestic and multilateral institutions to eradicate forced labour and protect workers and the intention to increase education and accessibility of guidelines and due diligence practices for businesses.³⁶³⁹

On 5 November 2021, the Japan Textile Federation, with the METI as an observer, signed a memorandum of understanding with the ILO to advocate for due diligence in the labour and employment policies of the textile industry.³⁶⁴⁰ The agreement is based on the ILO’s “Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy” which calls for the elimination of forced and compulsory labour.³⁶⁴¹

³⁶³⁴ Japan to Craft Guidelines to Root Out Rights Violations in Textiles in Xinjiang, Asian News International (Tokyo) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/japan-to-craft-guidelines-to-root-out-rights-violations-in-textiles-in-xinjiang-report20210712224736/>

³⁶³⁵ “Business and Human Rights”: Towards a Responsible Value Chain, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 24 November 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/economy/biz_human_rights/index.html

³⁶³⁶ Japan Protests S.Korean Court Ordering Sale of Mitsubishi Heavy Assets, Reuters (Tokyo) 28 September 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/business/japan-protests-skorean-court-ordering-sale-mitsubishi-heavy-assets-2021-09-28/>

³⁶³⁷ Vice-Minister for International Affairs Hirose Attends the 2021 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 24 November 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1014_001.html

³⁶³⁸ Minister Hagiuda and State Minister Ishii attend G7 Trade Ministers Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo), 22 October 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1022_005.html

³⁶³⁹ G7 Trade Ministers’ Statement on Forced Labour (Annex A), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (London) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2021/10/20211022008/20211022008-2.pdf>

³⁶⁴⁰ ILO and JTF Sign An Agreement To Harness The Responsible Business Practices In Japanese Textile Industry, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 5 November 2021. Access Date: 24 November 2021. https://www.ilo.org/tokyo/information/pr/WCMS_826705/lang--en/index.htm

³⁶⁴¹ Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2021. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/--multi/documents/publication/wcms_094386.pdf

On 10 November 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida elected former Defense Minister Gen Nakatani to be the Prime Minister's Special Advisor on Human Rights.³⁶⁴² Prime Minister Kishida created the position to focus on China's involvement with forced labour in the Xinjiang region. Special Advisor Nakatani has expressed interest in introducing a law that will allow Japan to seize assets in China and ban international travel for human rights violators to and from Japan.³⁶⁴³ The goal of creating this position is to highlight Japan's position on ongoing human rights issues.

On 26 January 2022, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations held an event called "Symposium on Realizing the Access to Remedy in Japan – The 1st Year Anniversary of Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights."³⁶⁴⁴ The national action plan includes guidelines on holding businesses accountable for their activities in the supply chain.³⁶⁴⁵ The goal of the event was to celebrate the action plan's accomplishments in eliminating forced labour after one year of implementation.³⁶⁴⁶

On 15 March 2022, Minister Hagiuda met with trade ministers from Australia and India to discuss supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region.³⁶⁴⁷ During the meeting, the three ministers discussed integrating the elimination of forced labour into their supply chains through enhanced data management and transparency standards. The goal of this meeting was to implement a plan to eliminate forced labour in the region using trade alliances.

On 23 May 2022, Japan and the United States reiterated their cooperation towards combating forced labour under the Japan-U.S. Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening the Free and Open International Order.³⁶⁴⁸ The goal of this action was to emphasise the importance of creating a safer environment for businesses and upholding human rights in supply chains.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. Japan has demonstrated strong actions like publishing national labour standards and signing a memorandum of understanding with the ILO. Japan exhibited its intent to continue supporting the commitment with the establishment of updated labour laws and workplace regulations for the textile and garment industries that will come into effect in 2022.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Imaan Khan

³⁶⁴² Kishida Re-elected Japan's PM In Parliamentary Vote, Associated Press (Tokyo) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/fumio-kishida-japan-legislature-elections-parliamentary-elections-4a22bbe67de50963cf794c3e62a756cc>

³⁶⁴³ Japan PM Kishida To Appoint Ex-Defence Chief Human Rights Aide, Reuters (Tokyo) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/japan-pm-kishida-appoint-ex-defence-chief-human-rights-aide-2021-11-08/>

³⁶⁴⁴ Symposium on Realizing the Access to Remedy in Japan – The 1st Year Anniversary of Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, Japan Federation of Bar Associates (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/en/events/220126.html>

³⁶⁴⁵ "Business and Human Rights": Towards a Responsible Value Chain, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/economy/biz_human_rights/index.html

³⁶⁴⁶ Symposium on Realizing the Access to Remedy in Japan – The 1st Year Anniversary of Japan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, Japan Federation of Bar Associates (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/en/events/220126.html>

³⁶⁴⁷ Japan, Australia And India Target Indo-Pacific Supply-Chain Code, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/Japan-Australia-and-India-target-Indo-Pacific-supply-chain-code>

³⁶⁴⁸ Japan-U.S. Joint Leaders' Statement: Strengthening the Free and Open International Order, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/23/japan-u-s-joint-leaders-statement-strengthening-the-free-and-open-international-order/>

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 24 June 2021, the United Kingdom confirmed that it is investigating allegations of forced labour in the global solar power supply chain.³⁶⁴⁹ This announcement comes after the US Department of Commerce announced that metallurgical-grade silicon imported from Hoshine Silicon Industry would be subject to a withhold and release order as the company is reported to employ forced labour in its production process.

On 30 June 2021, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas signed a joint declaration of intent on UK-German foreign policy cooperation.³⁶⁵⁰ The goal of this declaration is to support the Group of Seven's work towards ending forced labour among other goals.

On 22 October 2021, the International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan issued a joint statement with other G7 Trade Ministers reaffirming that there was "no place for forced labour in the rules-based multilateral trading system" and they called on "countries, multilateral institutions and businesses to work together, including with survivors of forced labour, to eradicate forced labour from global supply chains."³⁶⁵¹ The statement also promised future collaboration and cooperation with multilateral institutions like the United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

On 21 November 2021, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy confirmed that they are investigating Supermax Corp. of Malaysia which had a GBP316 million contract for supplying 88.5 million rubber gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to the National Health Service (NHS).³⁶⁵² The Malaysian supplier has been alleged to have forced employees to work long hours, confiscated passports and ignored COVID-19 safety protocols. The goal of this investigation is to determine whether Supermax did employ forced labour and to then review all contracts with the company.

On 25 November 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) released a statement on forced labour which highlighted the UK's position as a leading international player in the fight against modern slavery.³⁶⁵³ The report highlighted how the FCDO encouraged fashion retailers to adhere to the ILO's Call to Action on Garments, contributed to the Freedom Fund's Emergency Relief Fund to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable communities, adapted the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery programme to support 167 survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and currently supports the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) to enhance policies combatting human trafficking and modern slavery. The goal of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the FCDO's work in ending forced labour between 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

³⁶⁴⁹ UK Government "Thoroughly Investigating" Forced Labour in Solar Supply Chain, Solar Power Portal (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022.

https://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/news/uk_government_thoroughly_investigating_forced_labour_reports_as_us_import_b

³⁶⁵⁰ Joint Declaration by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Foreign Office of Germany (Berlin) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 21 November 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/gbr-joint-declaration/2468908>

³⁶⁵¹ G7 Trade Ministers' Statement on Forced Labour, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-trade-ministers-statement-on-forced-labour-annex-a>

³⁶⁵² UK Investigates Supplier of NHS PPE over Alleged Use of Forced Labour, The Guardian (London) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/nov/21/uk-investigates-supplier-of-nhs-ppe-over-alleged-use-of-forced-labour>

³⁶⁵³ Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Modern Slavery Statement 2020 to 2021, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-modern-slavery-statement-2020-to-2021/foreign-commonwealth-and-development-office-modern-slavery-statement-2020-to-2021>

On 8 December 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing over concerns of human rights abuses in Xinjiang.³⁶⁵⁴ The UK will not send a ministerial delegation but its athletes will still be allowed to compete at the international sporting event. The goal of this boycott is to condemn China's genocide of Uyghur, Turkic and other minorities in Xinjiang where they have been incarcerated in camps, forcibly sterilised and forced into labour.

On 10 December 2021, the UK joined Canada and the US in imposing sanctions against entities suspected of committing human rights abuse in Myanmar.³⁶⁵⁵ The goal of these sanctions is to send a message that “democracies around the world will act against those who abuse the power of the state to inflict suffering and repression.”

On 15 December 2021, the High Court of England and Wales allowed the World Uyghur Congress (WUC) of Munich, Germany and the Global Legal Action Network (GLAN) to proceed with a case that alleges the UK allowed the imports of cotton goods produced with Uyghur forced labour in Xinjiang.³⁶⁵⁶ On 5 November 2021, the Uyghur rights advocacy group had filed the case through crowdfunding efforts.³⁶⁵⁷

On 20 December 2021, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Tom Tugendhat stated that the UK should not be “buying goods from Xinjiang made with slave labour” in an interview with Politico Magazine.³⁶⁵⁸ Minister State for Trade Policy Penny Mordaunt added that the UK has “been one of the leading forces with regard to modern slavery, but also building the systems so that consumers, investors and employers can see what is happening every level of the supply chain.” The goal of these statements is to portray optimism that the Parliament will judiciously review trade with China and work on streamlining checks and balances within the supply chain.

On 27 January 2022, Former Leader of the UK Conservative Party and current Member of Parliament (MP) Iain Duncan Smith called on Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak to block investors from financially supporting firms perpetrating forced labour abuses in Xinjiang, as part of the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC).³⁶⁵⁹ MP Smith, amongst other signatories, urged the UK Government to draw up a blacklist of entities identified to be employing forced Uyghur labour and ban firms from investing in those blacklisted entities. The goal of this measure is to compel international governments to take action against those perpetuating the cycle of forced labour in the global supply chain.

On 25 February 2022, the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation HM Treasury added Min Hlaing and Soe Wina to its list of individuals and entities subject to asset freeze.³⁶⁶⁰ The individuals are targeted because they were found to be enforcing forced labour whilst serving in the Myanmar Armed Forces.

³⁶⁵⁴ UK and Canada Join Diplomatic Boycott of China Winter Olympics, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59582137>

³⁶⁵⁵ Treasury Sanctions Perpetrators of Serious Human Rights Abuse on International Human Rights Day, United States Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0526>

³⁶⁵⁶ UK High Court Allows Uyghur Advocacy Group to Proceed with Forced Labour Case, Asian News International (London) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/uk-high-court-allows-uyghur-advocacy-group-to-proceed-with-forced-labour-case20211217230139/>

³⁶⁵⁷ Legal Challenge to UK on Xinjiang Imports, Ecotextile News (London) 5 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.ecotextile.com/2021110528584/labels-legislation-news/legal-challenge-to-uk-on-xinjiang-imports.html>

³⁶⁵⁸ UK Hints at Banning Chinese Imports with Forced Labour Links, Politico (London) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-could-impose-chinese-forced-labor-import-ban/>

³⁶⁵⁹ International Alliance of MPs Calls for Blacklisting for Chinese Firms over Uyghur ‘Atrocities’, Asian News International (London) 27 January 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/international-alliance-of-mps-calls-for-blacklisting-of-chinese-firms-over-uyghur-atrocities20220127100804/>

³⁶⁶⁰ Consolidated List of Financial Sanctions Targets in the UK, Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation HM Treasury (London) 25 February 2022. Access Date: 17 March 2022. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057481/Global_Human_Rights.pdf

On 3 March 2022, the FCDO published a closing statement of the 40th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Human Rights, which highlighted the UK's position to eradicate forced labour and to end modern slavery.³⁶⁶¹

On 11 March 2022, the FCDO released a guidance document titled "Overseas Business Risk: China" that discusses evidence of forced labour in China.³⁶⁶² The UK has repeatedly called on China to end its forced labour practices and to uphold its international obligations in human rights.

On 8 March 2022, Prime Minister Johnson launched a global partnership worth GBP20 million with 11 businesses including Unilever, Vodafone, Microsoft, Accenture, Coursera and Standard Chartered, to secure girls' access to education and employment in developing countries as it would protect girls from early marriage, forced labour and poverty.³⁶⁶³

On 23 March 2022, Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy Andrew Patrick met with Malaysia's Minister of Human Resources Saravanan Murugan and proposed to add forced labour and migration to the permanent agenda of the UK-Malaysia Strategic Dialogue.³⁶⁶⁴ Envoy Patrick stated that as forced labour is linked to migration, both countries need to foster cooperation from various stakeholders in order to diminish the existence of forced labour.

On 11 April 2022, the UK updated the National Referral Mechanism guidance, which is a framework that identifies and refers potential victims of forced labour.³⁶⁶⁵ The framework helps ensure that adult victims receive the appropriate support.

On 18 May 2022, Deputy Undersecretary of Labor for International Affairs Thea Lee led a briefing on her attendance at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labor in Durban, South Africa.³⁶⁶⁶ The goal of this action was to highlight the different ways that the Department of Justice monitors and polices the presence of forced labour and child labour in US supply chains.

On 23 May 2022, the US and Japan reiterated their cooperation towards combating forced labour under the Japan-U.S. Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening the Free and Open International Order.³⁶⁶⁷ The goal of this action was to emphasise the importance of creating a safer environment for businesses and upholding human rights in supply chains.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. The United Kingdom has demonstrated strong action on a multilateral level as it has worked with the US and Canada on sanctioning

³⁶⁶¹ 40th Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights: UK Closing Statement, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (Geneva) 3 March 2022. Access Date: 17 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/40th-universal-periodic-review-of-human-rights-uk-closing-statement>

³⁶⁶² Overseas Business Risk: China, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 11 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-business-risk-china/overseas-business-risk-china>

³⁶⁶³ UK Government and Global Businesses in New £20 Million Partnership to Educate Girls in Developing Countries, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-and-global-businesses-in-new-20-million-partnership-to-educate-girls-in-developing-countries>

³⁶⁶⁴ Migration, Forced Labour in UK-Malaysia Strategic Dialogue's Agenda, The Edge Communications (Putrajaya) 24 March 2022. Access Date: 21 April 2022. https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/migration-forced-labour-ukmalaysia-strategic-dialogues-agenda?fbclid=IwAR2vPTZmBLebKz_IYnGoptjltTmbOUscXENqYMIzv98xgFVx18lYXdDdsI

³⁶⁶⁵ National Referral Mechanism Guidance: Adult (England and Wales), Home Office (London) 11 April 2022. Access Date: 21 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>

³⁶⁶⁶ Digital Press Briefing on the Elimination of Child Labor, United States Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 18 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.state.gov/digital-press-briefing-on-the-elimination-of-child-labor/>

³⁶⁶⁷ Japan-U.S. Joint Leaders' Statement: Strengthening the Free and Open International Order, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/23/japan-u-s-joint-leaders-statement-strengthening-the-free-and-open-international-order/>

Myanmar and China for their use of forced labour and it has collaborated with international organizations like the ILO to affect change in the global supply chain. On a domestic level, the United Kingdom has demonstrated its commitment to fighting forced labour by reforming labour laws, reviewing international trade and allowing the WUC and GLAN to fight their case of forced labour in a British court.

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

Analysts: Mariem Hamdy, Saarah Khan and Sabar Fatima

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 24 June 2021, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced a Withhold Release Order (WRO) on silica-based products produced by Xinjiang-based Hoshine Silicon Industry Co., Ltd.³⁶⁶⁸ The goal of this sanction is to condemn China's use of forced labour in Xinjiang and systemic abuses against Uyghurs, Kazakhs and members of other Muslim minority groups.

On 24 June 2021, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) added five Chinese entities to the Entity List for accepting or utilising forced labour in Xinjiang.³⁶⁶⁹ The Entity List is a tool used by the BIS to restrict the export, re-export and domestic transfer of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations to people believed to be involved or become involved in activities considered to threaten the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States. The entities include Hoshine Silicon Industry Co., Ltd., Xinjiang Daqo New Energy Co., Ltd., Xinjiang East Hope Nonferrous Metals Co., Ltd., Xinjiang GCL New Energy Material Technology Co., Ltd. and Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

On 24 June 2021, the Department of Labor updated its "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor" to include polysilicon that is produced with forced labor in China.³⁶⁷⁰

On 9 July 2021, the Department of Commerce's BIS added 34 entities to the Entity List involved in activities counter to the US' foreign policy interests.³⁶⁷¹ As 14 out of 34 entities are based in China, the BIS has stated that it will take strong and decisive action to target the entities that are enabling human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

On 13 July 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken updated the official warning against doing business in Xinjiang citing China's use of forced labour and genocide against the Uyghur people.³⁶⁷² The new 36-page advisory, co-signed by the US State, Treasury, Commerce, Homeland Security and Labor Departments and the Office of the US Trade Representative, highlights how stakeholders should "be aware of the significant reputational, economic, and legal risks of involvement with entities or individuals in or linked to Xinjiang that

³⁶⁶⁸ New U.S. Government Actions on Forced Labor in Xinjiang, The White House (Washington D.C.) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/24/fact-sheet-new-u-s-government-actions-on-forced-labor-in-xinjiang/>

³⁶⁶⁹ Commerce Department Adds Five Chinese Entities to the Entity List for Participating in China's Campaign of Forced Labour Against Muslims in Xinjiang, United States Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/06/commerce-department-adds-five-chinese-entities-entity-list>

³⁶⁷⁰ New U.S. Government Actions on Forced Labor in Xinjiang, The White House (Washington D.C.) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/24/fact-sheet-new-u-s-government-actions-on-forced-labor-in-xinjiang/>

³⁶⁷¹ Commerce Department Adds 34 Entities to the Entity List to Target Enablers of China's Human Rights Abuses and Military Modernization, and Unauthorized Iranian and Russian Procurement, United States Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/07/commerce-department-adds-34-entities-entity-list-target-enablers-chinas>

³⁶⁷² US, EU Tighten Scrutiny on China's Xinjiang Over Uyghur Forced Labor Issue, Radio Free Asia (Washington D.C.) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/business-advisories-07132021170808.html>

engage in human rights abuses...including widespread state-sponsored forced labour.” Trade Representative Katherine Tai stated that action demonstrates “the commitment to ending forced labour around the world, especially in global supply chains.”

On 20 October 2021, CBP ordered the detainment of all disposable gloves produced by Supermax Corporation Bhd. and its subsidiaries.³⁶⁷³ The goal of this action is to protect vulnerable workers and eliminate the practice of forced labour from supply chains.

On 21 October 2021, CBP detained tomatoes produced by Agropecuarios Tom S.A. de C.V., Hortícola Tom S.A. de C.V. and their subsidiaries.³⁶⁷⁴ The CBP issued a WRI after identifying at least five of the International Labour Organization (ILO)’s indicators of forced labour.

On 4 November 2021, CBP ordered the detainment of all disposable gloves produced by a group of companies named Smart Glove in Malaysia.³⁶⁷⁵ The order reflects the ILO’s reports indicating Smart Glove’s use of forced labour. CBP Office of Trade Executive Assistant Commissioner AnnMarie R. Highsmith stated, “there is no place for forced labor in today’s world, particularly in U.S. supply chains.”³⁶⁷⁶

On 6 December 2021, the US announced a diplomatic boycott against the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing over China’s abuse of Uyghur Muslims.³⁶⁷⁷ The boycott means that no government officials will attend but athletes will be allowed to compete. The goal of this measure is to publicly condemn China for its ongoing violations of human rights commitments.

On 10 December 2021, the US joined with Canada and the UK in imposing sanctions against private-sector entities suspected of committing human rights abuses in Myanmar.³⁶⁷⁸ The goal of these sanctions is to send a message that “democracies around the world will act against those who abuse the power of the state to inflict suffering and repression.”

On 14 December 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD3 million cooperative agreement to the ILO.³⁶⁷⁹ The goal of this investment is to strengthen the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s compliance with international labour standards.

³⁶⁷³ CBP Issues Withhold Release Order on Supermax Corporation Bhd. and Its Subsidiaries, United States Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-issues-withhold-release-order-supermax-corporation-bhd-and-its>

³⁶⁷⁴ CBP Issues Withhold Release Order on Tomatoes Produced by Farm in Mexico, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 21 October 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-issues-withhold-release-order-tomatoes-produced-farm-mexico>

³⁶⁷⁵ CBP Issues Withhold Release Order on Malaysian Glove Producers, United States Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-issues-withhold-release-order-malaysian-glove-producers>

³⁶⁷⁶ CBP Issues Withhold Release Order on Malaysian Glove Producers, United States Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-issues-withhold-release-order-malaysian-glove-producers>

³⁶⁷⁷ In pointed snub, no U.S. government official will attend Beijing Winter Olympics, The Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 6 February 2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/us-beijing-winter-olympics-diplomatic-boycott/2021/12/06/1d2e9920-56b1-11ec-9a18-a506cf3aa31d_story.html

³⁶⁷⁸ Treasury Sanctions Perpetrators of Serious Human Rights Abuse on International Human Rights Day, United States Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0526>

³⁶⁷⁹ US Department of Labor Awards \$3M Grant to Support Progress on Labor Standards in the Democratic Republic of Congo, United States Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 15 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20211214>

On 20 December 2021, the CBP ordered the detainment of disposable gloves produced by Brightway Holdings in Malaysia following the issuing of withhold release order after the entity showed indicators of using forced labour.³⁶⁸⁰

On 23 December 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act into law in efforts of pushing back against the treatment of the Uyghur Muslim minority in China.³⁶⁸¹ The Senate had passed the act on 14 July 2021 and the House of Representatives had passed the act with one opposing vote on 8 December 2021.³⁶⁸² This act bans imports from Xinjiang under the presumption that all products are made with forced labour and imposes sanctions on foreign individuals responsible for forced labour in Xinjiang, China.³⁶⁸³

On 4 January 2022, the Department of Labour announced USD14 million in grants to two projects combating child labour, forced labour and human trafficking worldwide.³⁶⁸⁴ The first award to the ILO is worth USD10 million to support the UN Sustainable Development Goal's target to end child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery. The ILO will use this investment with trade unions, civil society organizations, governments, regional institutions and Alliance 8.7 which is a global partnership to end these abuses. The second award is to the Global March Against Child Labour's Catalyst project, worth USD4 million, to work in Uganda, Peru and Nepal, to address child labour abuses. The goal of these investments is to set equitable labour standards and to ensure access by all children to free and quality education.

On 12 January 2022, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) issued a letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in a public request for assurance that uniform productions were not made with forced labour.³⁶⁸⁵ The CECC identified concerns over the IOC's contracts with Anta Sports and Hengyuanxiang Group which use cotton from Xinjiang to mass-produce uniforms.

On 13 January 2022, the US met with Mexico and Canada for the First United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Deputies Meeting where they agreed to prohibit the importation of goods produced by forced labour.³⁶⁸⁶ They also agreed to report concrete and measurable outcomes on implementing this obligation at the 2022 Future Technologies Conference. The goal of this meeting was to re-establish the USMCA's common objective of eradicating forced labour from global supply chains.

On 20 January 2022, Chair of Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight Bill Pascrell and Chair of Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade Earl Blumenauer jointly issued a letter to Elon Musk addressing forced

³⁶⁸⁰ CBP Issues Withhold Release Order on Brightway Group, United States Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 20 December 2021. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-issues-withhold-release-order-brightway-group>

³⁶⁸¹ Bill Signed: H.R. 6256, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 24 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/23/bill-signed-h-r-6256/>

³⁶⁸² Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/65/titles?r=5&s=1>; Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1155>

³⁶⁸³ Bill Signed: H.R. 6256, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 24 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/23/bill-signed-h-r-6256/>

³⁶⁸⁴ US Department Of Labor Awards \$14m In Grants To Two Projects Combating Child Labor, Forced Labor, Human Trafficking Worldwide, United States Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20220104>

³⁶⁸⁵ Chairs Ask IOC President to Justify Contracts With Chinese Companies Using Forced Labor, Congressional-Executive Commission on China (Washington D.C.) 12 January 2022. Access Date: 10 March 2022. <https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/chairs-ask-ioc-president-to-justify-contracts-with-chinese-companies>

³⁶⁸⁶ Mexico, the United States, and Canada Joint Statement on the First USMCA Deputies Meeting, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 13 January 2022. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2022/january/mexico-united-states-and-canada-joint-statement-first-usmca-deputies-meeting>

labour allegations against Tesla.³⁶⁸⁷ The letter labelled Tesla's development in Xinjiang as being "misguided" and requested for disclosure of whether any of their goods were being manufactured there.³⁶⁸⁸

On 24 January 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it will seek public input to continue to prohibit goods produced with forced labour in China according to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.³⁶⁸⁹ The DHS also explained how the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force would be conducting a public hearing to create a strategy to help enforce the act.

On 28 January 2022, the CBP issued a Withhold Release Order against YTY Industry Holdings and published two new forced labour discoveries from Malaysian company Sime Darby Plantation Berhad and Taiwanese fishing vessel Da Wang.³⁶⁹⁰ The issuance aims to advance the implementation of counter-human trafficking law enforcement and protect the human rights of workers around the world.

On 8 February 2022, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Josh Hawley called for the endorsement of a Slave-Free Business Certification Act which is based on a bill that was previously introduced in 2020.³⁶⁹¹ The goal of this endorsement was to reintroduce a bill to target forced labour in global supply chains and subsequently hold businesses accountable.

On 11 February 2022, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh issued a statement in response to the Application of Conventions and Recommendations report by the ILO's Committee of Experts.³⁶⁹² The statement called on China to adhere to the steps identified by the Committee of Experts to terminate abuses of the Muslim Uyghurs and other minority groups in Xinjiang. The goal of the statement is to emphasise the commitment to emancipating both domestic and international workers.

On 8 March 2022, the CBP announced that they had seized four palm oil shipments worth USD2.5 million since 11 February 2022 after receiving information that indicated that the palm oil was produced with forced labour in Malaysia.³⁶⁹³ The importer of the shipments did not demonstrate to CBP that the products were not made with forced labour within the three-month timeframe.

On 16 March 2022, the CBP seized all goods produced by Chinese sportswear behemoth Li Ning after discovering that they were made with North Korean forced labour.³⁶⁹⁴ While the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act requires evidence that any products from North Korea are not made with forced labour, Li Ning has labelled the allegations as false and refused to answer to individual allegations.

³⁶⁸⁷ U.S. Lawmakers Call Tesla Expansion in Xinjiang 'Misguided,' Reuters (Washington D.C.) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 9 March 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-lawmakers-call-tesla-expansion-xinjiang-misguided-2022-01-20/>

³⁶⁸⁸ U.S. Lawmakers Call Tesla Expansion in Xinjiang 'Misguided,' Reuters (Washington D.C.) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 9 March 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-lawmakers-call-tesla-expansion-xinjiang-misguided-2022-01-20/>

³⁶⁸⁹ DHS Advances Biden-Harris Efforts to Stop Flow of Goods Produced by Forced Labor, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 24 January 2022. Access Date: 10 March 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/01/24/dhs-advances-biden-harris-efforts-stop-flow-goods-produced-forced-labor>

³⁶⁹⁰ DHS Takes Action to Combat Forced Labor and Hold Companies Accountable for Exploiting Workers, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2022. Access Date: 10 March 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/01/28/dhs-takes-action-combat-forced-labor-and-hold-companies-accountable-exploiting>

³⁶⁹¹ Senators Introduce Bipartisan Bill Targeting Forced Labor in Supply Chain, NBC News (New York City) 8 February 2022. Access Date: 9 March 2022. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senators-introduce-bipartisan-bill-targeting-forced-labor-supply-chain-rcna15275>

³⁶⁹² Statement By US Secretary of Labor Walsh On International Labour Organization Report Citing Serious Situation in Xinjiang, United States Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 11 February 2022. Access Date: 11 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20220211>

³⁶⁹³ Baltimore CBP Seizes \$2.5 Million in Palm Oil Shipments Under Forced Labor Finding, United States Customs and Border Protection (Baltimore) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 10 March 2022. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/baltimore-cbp-seizes-25-million-palm-oil-shipments-under-forced-labor>

³⁶⁹⁴ U.S. Detains Li Ning's Products At Ports, Citing Use of North Korean Labour, Reuters (Beijing) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 12 April 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-detains-li-nings-products-ports-citing-use-north-korean-labour-2022-03-16/>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. The United States has consistently taken strong action against China's use of forced labour by imposing sanctions on Chinese goods, banning the imports of all goods produced in Xinjiang and conducting a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics. The United States has also cooperated with other countries and the ILO to enhance the enforcement of action against those employing forced labour in global supply chains.

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

Analyst: Eleanor Park

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions.

On 13 July 2021, the European Commission and the European External Action Service published guidelines to help European Union companies eradicate forced labour in their supply chains.³⁶⁹⁵ The goal of these guidelines is to provide practical advice on how to identify, prevent, mitigate and address the risk of forced labour.

On 19 July 2021, the European Commission held a civil society dialogue to review the 15-Point Action Plan for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Trade Policy Review actions on forced labour.³⁶⁹⁶ This meeting included representatives from civil society who discussed legislative and non-legislative initiatives addressing forced labour. The goal of this dialogue was to ensure that forced labour does not find a place within European supply chains.

On 15 September 2021, the EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the European Commission's intention to propose a ban on the import of goods produced with forced labour.³⁶⁹⁷ President von der Leyen stated that "the European Union should ban the import of products made by the roughly 25 million people forced into labour worldwide."

On 23 November 2021, the EU-Korea Domestic Advisory Group (DAG) underlined the importance of the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention C29 on Forced Labour by the Republic of Korea in April 2021.³⁶⁹⁸ Deputy Director of the ILO's International Labour Standards Department Karen Curtis stated that "the ratification demonstrates political commitment and a pledge to ensure these standards at national level, regardless of administration. It is also a significant leadership message to non-ratifiers."³⁶⁹⁹

³⁶⁹⁵ New EU Guidance Helps Companies To Combat Forced Labour In Supply Chain, European Commission (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2287&serie=1868&langId=en>

³⁶⁹⁶ Civil Society Dialogue on the Review of the 15-Point Action Plan for Trade and Sustainable Development and on the Trade Policy Review Actions on Forced Labour, European Commission (Brussels) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/dialogue/meetdetails.cfm?meet=11601>

³⁶⁹⁷ EU Will Propose Ban On Products Made By Forced Labour, Says EU Commission President Von Der Leyen, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (London) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/eu-will-propose-ban-on-products-made-by-forced-labour-says-eu-commission-president-von-der-leyen/>

³⁶⁹⁸ EU-Korea DAG Follows The Developments In South Korea Subsequent To The Report Of The Panel Of Experts And South Korea's Ratification Of ILO Conventions, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 23 November 2021. Access Date: 11 December 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eu-korea-dag-follows-developments-south-korea-subsequent-report-panel-experts-and-south-koreas-ratification-ilo>

³⁶⁹⁹ EU-Korea DAG Follows The Developments In South Korea Subsequent To The Report Of The Panel Of Experts And South Korea's Ratification Of ILO Conventions, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 23 November 2021. Access Date: 11 December 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eu-korea-dag-follows-developments-south-korea-subsequent-report-panel-experts-and-south-koreas-ratification-ilo>

On 12 December 2021, the European Parliament held an urgent debate on the use of forced labour in the Linglong tire factory in Serbia. The aim of this dialogue was to incentivize action against forced labour.

On 16 December 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the use of forced labour in the Linglong tire factory in Serbia.³⁷⁰⁰ The objective of this resolution was to highlight the forced labour allegations of at least 500 factory workers from Vietnam and urge Serbia to improve its alignment to EU labour laws.

On 22 December 2021, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for An Economy that Works for People Valdis Dombrovskis wrote to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) urging caution over recent plans to ban products made using forced labour as sanctions could risk a trade backlash.³⁷⁰¹ These sentiments indicate a reluctance to adopt such explicit import bans for fear they could be seen as discriminatory trade measures if the ban does not also target forced labour inside the EU. Instead, they are drafting due diligence legislation that will force companies to take action against potential abuses of human rights in their supply chains.

On 23 February 2022, the European Commission adopted the Communication on Decent Work Worldwide and announced their continued preparation of an instrument for a ban on products made with forced labour.³⁷⁰² The strategy focuses on the eradication of forced labour and maintains that the only way to achieve such goals would be through the promotion of other objectives of decent work. Moreover, the European Commission said that the instrument for a ban would cover goods inside and outside the EU and that it would be combined with a robust enforcement framework.³⁷⁰³

On 16 May 2022, the European Parliament's Trade Committee approved a draft resolution calling on the EU to ban imports made with forced labour.³⁷⁰⁴ The goal of this action was to encourage the European Commission to introduce stronger laws against forced labour.

On 23 May 2022, the European Commission issued a month-long call for evidence towards a potential EU initiative that would effectively ban products produced, extracted or harvested with forced labour whether they were made in the EU or elsewhere.³⁷⁰⁵

On 9 June 2022, the European Parliament adopted a resolution banning the import of goods made by forced labor.³⁷⁰⁶ The same resolution also officially recognized "the violence perpetrated by the [Chinese] authorities against the Uyghurs as amounting to crimes against humanity and a serious risk of genocide." This new ban

³⁷⁰⁰ Forced Labour In The Linglong Factory And Environmental Protests In Serbia, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2022. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/243623/EP%20resolution%20Linglong%20and%20environmental%20protests%2016_Dec-2021_EN.pdf

³⁷⁰¹ EU Urges Caution on Any Ban on Imports Made with Forced Labour, Financial Times (Brussels) 24 December 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2022. <https://www.ft.com/content/748a837b-ac51-4f2e-9a5d-3af780ec8444>

³⁷⁰² Commission Sets Out Strategy To Promote Decent Work Worldwide And Prepares Instrument For Ban On Forced Labour Products, European Commission (Brussels) 23 February 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1187

³⁷⁰³ Commission Sets Out Strategy To Promote Decent Work Worldwide And Prepares Instrument For Ban On Forced Labour Products, European Commission (Brussels) 23 February 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1187

³⁷⁰⁴ European Parliament Moves to End Forced Labour with Updated Resolution, Environmental Justice Foundation (London) 17 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. <https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/european-parliament-moves-to-end-forced-labour-with-updated-resolution>

³⁷⁰⁵ Effectively Banning Products Produced, Extracted or Harvested with Forced Labour, European Commission (Brussels) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13480-Effectively-banning-products-produced-extracted-or-harvested-with-forced-labour_en

³⁷⁰⁶ European Union takes major step toward ban on imports of products made by forced labor, Le Monde (Paris) 10 June 2022. Access Date: 20 June 2022. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2022/06/10/european-union-takes-major-step-toward-ban-on-imports-of-products-made-by-forced-labor_5986310_19.html

may significantly lessen the commercial enterprises using labor camps set up by the Government of the People's Republic of China in Xinjiang. The resolution has called for a new trade mechanism to ban such products to be put into place soon.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue its cooperation in protecting individuals from forced labour through its own available domestic means and multilateral institutions. The European Union has taken multiple strong actions to support the protection of individuals from forced labour such as creating labour guidelines for European companies and weak actions such as announcing intentions to ban the import of goods involving forced labour and hosting civil society dialogues.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Eliane Ramos