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2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Interim Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 3 December 2023

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19 February 2024

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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

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Research Team	4
Compliance Analysts	4
Summary	6
The Interim Compliance Score	6
Compliance by Member	6
Compliance by Commitment.....	6
The Compliance Gap Between Members.....	6
Future Research and Reports.....	7
Table A: 2023 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment*	7
Table B: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Interim Compliance Scores	9
Table C: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Interim Compliance Scores by Member.....	10
Table D: 2023 G7 Hiroshima Interim Compliance Scores by Commitment	11
1. Regional Security: Sanctions	12
2. Regional Security: Security Assistance for Ukraine.....	34
3. Non-Proliferation: Responsible Nuclear Supply Chain	51
4. Climate Change: Domestic Mitigation Measures	74
5. Climate Change: Emission Reduction Policies	91
6. Energy: Clean Energy Technologies	108
7. Energy: Low Carbon and Renewable Hydrogen Markets	152
8. Environment: Conservation Measures.....	207
9. Food and Agriculture: Healthy and Safe Diets.....	226
10. Food and Agriculture: Food Safety and Sustainable Production	245
11. Health: Life Expectancy.....	273
12. Human Rights: Forced Labour	325
13. Education: Inclusivity and Equity	337
14. Gender: Labour Markets.....	355
15. Labour and Employment: Job Creation	370
16. Digital Economy: Digital Ecosystem with Trust	386
17. Macroeconomics: Fiscal Sustainability and Price Stability.....	402
18. Crime and Corruption: Synthetic Drugs.....	426
19. Development: Official Development Assistance.....	440
20. Trade: Resilient Supply Chains.....	470

13. Education: Inclusivity and Equity

“We commit to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.”

G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Education has become a prominent commitment area within the member states as the solution to fight poverty, reach equality within various aspects and improve productivity worldwide. Most recently, member states have focused on making education more accessible and inclusive for everybody irrespective of any background, maintaining the firm belief that education is the main factor to solve many world issues. Education first became a topic of interest for G8 member countries during the 1989 Paris Summit, where leaders primarily discussed education in the context of improving economic efficiency.¹⁹²⁸ While education was not a prominent topic during this summit, members highlighted the significance of providing education and vocational training to address social issues, establishing future discussion of education during these summits.

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders discussed social inclusion and employment, recognizing education’s role in promoting social cohesion and human capital investment.¹⁹²⁹ They committed to addressing basic education and training and partnered with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to achieve concrete results in primary education.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders underscored the challenges faced by developing countries in integrating into the global economy.¹⁹³⁰ For the first time, they committed to ensuring access to basic education for every child.

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders endorsed the Finance Ministers and Multilateral Development Banks’ increased focus on human investments like education.¹⁹³¹ Although not the primary focus, the summit emphasized the importance of investing in social development goals.

¹⁹²⁸ Economic Declaration: Paris, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 28 September 2023.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html>

¹⁹²⁹ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 1996. Access Date: 27 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html>

¹⁹³⁰ Communiqué: Birmingham, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

¹⁹³¹ G7 Statement: Genoa, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 July 2001. Access Date: 27 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/g7statement.html>

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders affirmed their commitment to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), supporting UNESCO and other ESD-focused organizations.¹⁹³² They recognized the importance of education, science, and technology as drivers of development, emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity of individuals, organizations, institutions, and societies. The leaders emphasized their commitment to education for all, working to improve access and quality, with a focus on marginalized populations and conflict-affected regions.

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders engaged in discussions on education to address pressing global challenges, shifting future governance agendas to prioritize gender equality and inclusivity.¹⁹³³ The leaders acknowledged the significance of acquiring relevant skills to attain decent work, highlighting the necessity of technical and vocational education.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieve gender equality and identified education as playing a pivotal role in achieving such equality.¹⁹³⁴ G7 leaders expressed their support for policies that reduce gender stereotypes in education and that support the inclusion of women in Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and other primarily male-dominated careers. G7 leaders noted addressing gender-based violence as key to removing barriers to quality education for women.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders emphasized the necessity to address barriers to women's access to education and to increase support for women in all schooling levels and in higher education.¹⁹³⁵ They reaffirmed their commitment to the G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, aiming to enhance women's access to equal opportunities in education and all aspects of life. Leaders recognized the necessity of investing in social infrastructure, particularly quality education across all subjects and levels.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders focused on breaking down education barriers in developing countries.¹⁹³⁶ They pledged to advance education for girls in STEM and ensure continuous access to education for all, leading to initiatives like the Charlevoix Education Initiative. Additionally, they committed to promoting gender equality through quality education and training, especially for girls and women in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders signed a declaration aimed at advancing laws that contribute to the empowerment of women through a strong emphasis on quality education.¹⁹³⁷ They addressed barriers to learning, including gender-based discrimination, underscoring the vital role of quality education in achieving gender equality and fostering the active participation of both men and women in society.

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, the G7 leaders committed to advancing women's entrepreneurship and addressing the impacts of crises to gender equality.¹⁹³⁸ They reaffirmed the G7 Principles on Women's Entrepreneurship

¹⁹³² G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2023. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

¹⁹³³ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit Elmau, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

¹⁹³⁴ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 January 2024.

¹⁹³⁵ G7 Roadmap For A Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 27 May 2017. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

¹⁹³⁶ Charlevoix declaration on quality education for girls, adolescent girls and women in developing countries, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/education-commitment.html>

¹⁹³⁷ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

¹⁹³⁸ Joint Statement of the G7 Gender Equality Ministers: Elmau, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 27 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/gender/2022-gender-declaration.html>

to highlight the role of vocational, sexuality and financial education to overcome obstacles in access to education and empowerment for women.

Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, leaders committed to “making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.” This commitment can be interpreted as having two primary, and one secondary, targets. Firstly, members must ensure “inclusive” education. Equally importantly, this education must be of “equitable quality” to the standard of existing education systems. Secondly, this must also apply to “vocational education.”

Definitions and Concepts

“Commit” is understood to mean “to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.”¹⁹³⁹

“Making” is understood to mean “a process or means of advancement or success.”¹⁹⁴⁰ “Progress” is understood to mean “gradual betterment.”¹⁹⁴¹ “Making Progress,” therefore, is understood to mean the advancement of gradual betterment by available means.

“Ensuring” is understood to mean making something certain to happen.¹⁹⁴²

“Inclusive” is understood to mean that all parties are included in the discussion and decision-making process, taking into account relative capabilities.¹⁹⁴³

“Equitable” is understood to mean “fair and just as indicated by law,”¹⁹⁴⁴ and “quality” is understood to mean “the degree of excellence with which something can be credited.”¹⁹⁴⁵ In this sense, “equitable quality” assures fair and just degrees of excellence across different settings.

“Education” is understood to mean “the action or process of educating or of being educated.”¹⁹⁴⁶

“Vocational Education” is understood to mean “training for a specific occupation in agriculture, trade, or industry through a combination of theoretical teaching and practical experience provided by many high schools in their commercial and technical divisions, and by special institutions of collegiate standing (as a college of agriculture, a school of engineering, or a technical institute).”¹⁹⁴⁷

¹⁹³⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 06 October 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁹⁴⁰ Making, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 06 October 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/progress>

¹⁹⁴¹ Progress, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/progress>

¹⁹⁴² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁹⁴³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁹⁴⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

¹⁹⁴⁵ Quality, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/quality>

¹⁹⁴⁶ Education, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/education>

¹⁹⁴⁷ Vocational Education, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vocational%20education>

General Interpretive Guidelines

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that demonstrate measurably strong progress towards all three of the outlined targets. Strong action towards “inclusivity” may take the form of curriculum and other structural reforms, such as extracurricular program offerings, in contexts where inclusivity can be more appropriately integrated into parts of the education system, or measures to promote educational leadership that is proportionally representative of student bodies. Strong action towards ensuring “equitable quality” of education may include, but is not limited to: direct financial support for demonstrably underprivileged individuals or groups, such as subsidies or scholarships; increased funding for geographic areas with relatively poorer educational infrastructure, personnel, or programs; training programs, either government-run or through publicly-funded private-sector partners. For full compliance, such measures must apply, on more than one occasion, to vocational education specifically, alongside the pursuit of improved inclusivity and equitable quality in education more broadly. These actions may be domestic or international, supporting populations within or outside the G7 member’s borders.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members in two scenarios. The first is when the G7 member exhibits strong compliance in one of the main target areas, pursuing “inclusive” and “equitable quality” education, and these measures have applied to at least one instance of vocational education; The second instance is when the G7 member exhibits weak compliance with both main targets but vocational education is included in these actions on at least one occasion. These actions may be domestic or international, supporting populations within or outside the G7 member’s borders.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned in the following situations: the G7 member does not exhibit compliance in either main target area; the G7 member exhibits weak compliance in just one main target area, regardless of the inclusion of vocational education in these actions.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not taken any action towards inclusivity or equitable quality of education, or the G7 member has taken weak action on one of inclusivity or equitable quality of education but these actions are not applied to vocational training.
0	The G7 member has either taken strong action to improve inclusivity in education or equitable quality of education including vocational training or the G7 member has taken weak action towards both inclusivity and equitable quality in education including vocational training.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action to improve inclusivity in education and equitable quality of education and these measures apply to vocational education on more than one occasion.

*Compliance Director: Angus MacKellar
Lead Analyst: Ana Maria Guevara*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with making progress toward ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 1 June 2023, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, announced that six Canadian organizations providing skills training and education will receive CAD16 million in funding through the Skills for Success program.¹⁹⁴⁸ The aim of this initiative is to reduce workplace barriers by creating inclusive and relevant skills teachings, with projects serving persons with disabilities.

On 1 June 2023, Minister Qualtrough announced the CAD3 million in funding through the Government of Canada’s Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities for ETHOS’ Skills Quest 4 Success Project which

¹⁹⁴⁸ Government of Canada invests in skills training and career advancements for persons with disabilities, Employment and Social Development Canada (Nanaimo) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-skills-training-and-career-advancements-for-persons-with-disabilities.html>

assists with workplace education for women and persons with disabilities.¹⁹⁴⁹ The aim of this initiative is to create inclusive education for women with disabilities to reduce barriers to the workplace.

On 2 June 2023, Indigenous Services Canada, in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, reaffirmed its commitment to working towards improved and inclusive educational infrastructure for schools in First Nations communities through the School Space Accommodation Standards policy.¹⁹⁵⁰ The aim of this initiative is to create well-funded and more inclusive schools based on Indigenous learning and teachings that will better accommodate students with different learning abilities.

On 29 June 2023, Minister of International Development Harjit S. Sajjan announced a CAD6 million grant for the Commonwealth of Learning for a new project called Empowering Women and Girls in the Commonwealth to support education and skills development for women and girls in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.¹⁹⁵¹ The aim of this initiative is to promote inclusive and equitable quality education for women in disadvantaged areas.

On 14 July 2023, Minister Qualtrough announced a CAD27 million grant for Skills Canada to provide hands-on vocational education in skilled trades and technology for youth and marginalized groups including women, persons with disabilities, newcomers to Canada, individuals identifying as 2SLGBTQI+, Indigenous people and racialized individuals.¹⁹⁵² The aim of this initiative is to promote vocational education for groups and reduce barriers to entry into the skilled trades.

On 25 July 2023, Minister Sajjan announced a CAD212.75 million in funding to support access to educational and social development including vocational training colleges for youth in Tanzania.¹⁹⁵³ The aim of this initiative is to promote equitable education and economic prosperity in Tanzania.

On 8 September 2023, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages Randy Boissonnault announced a cross-provincial awareness campaign to raise interest in vocational education and encourage youth to engage with skilled trades through grants, educational loans, and in-school training.¹⁹⁵⁴ The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness about the quality prospects for Canadian youth through vocational education.

On 11 October 2023, Minister Boissonnault announced CAD16.5 million in funding to expand vocational education opportunities for persons with disabilities, racialized Canadians, Indigenous people, official language

¹⁹⁴⁹ Government of Canada invests in skills training and career advancements for persons with disabilities, Employment and Social Development Canada (Nanaimo) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-skills-training-and-career-advancements-for-persons-with-disabilities.html>

¹⁹⁵⁰ The Assembly of First Nations and the Government of Canada announce updates to school design standards for schools on-reserve, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2023/06/the-assembly-of-first-nations-and-the-government-of-canada-announce-updates-to-school-design-standards-for-schools-on-reserve0.html>

¹⁹⁵¹ Minister Sajjan announces funding to empower women and girls in the Commonwealth, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/06/minister-sajjan-announces-funding-to-empower-women-and-girls-in-the-commonwealth.html>

¹⁹⁵² Government of Canada invests in youth to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 14 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-youth-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

¹⁹⁵³ Canada announces funding of over \$200 million to support food security, education, health and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Tanzania, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/07/canada-announces-funding-of-over-200-million-to-support-food-security-education-health-and-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-tanzania.html>

¹⁹⁵⁴ Government of Canada encourages Canadians to explore careers in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 8 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-encourages-canadians-to-explore-careers-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

minority communities and newcomers.¹⁹⁵⁵ The aim of this initiative is to make vocational education more equitable for underrepresented groups and reduce barriers to entry to the workforce through education.

On 2 November 2023, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities Kamal Khera announced CAD1.5 million in funding to the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community, and Diaspora at York University.¹⁹⁵⁶ The Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community, and Diaspora aims to reduce barriers and inequity in the Canadian education system, particularly for Black and racialized students by uplifting their educational ambitions. The aim of this initiative is to support Black communities and foster inclusive and equitable education.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Canada created inclusive and quality education for underrepresented groups generally and with the aim to promote vocational education domestically and internationally.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rejaa Khalid

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 1 September 2023, President Emmanuel Macron met with students from vocational school l'Argensol d'Orange and discussed his plans for vocational education going forward.¹⁹⁵⁷ President Macron aims for a zero per cent dropout rate and total employability for students.

On 27 September 2023, Senate adopted a bill titled "Securing and Regulating Digital Space."¹⁹⁵⁸ The goal of this bill is to stop student cyber harassment, with the aim to make school environments more inclusive.¹⁹⁵⁹

On September 27 2023, France announced a budget increase in education of 13.6 per cent between 2022 and 2024.¹⁹⁶⁰ Specific initiatives include improved accessibility; support for students with handicaps, their families, and students with special learning needs, for whom 100 specifically-trained teachers will be hired before the school year beginning in 2024 at a cost of EUR3.8 million; providing "equitable access to culture" through increased artistic and cultural education; and recalibrating resource distribution to promote equality. This large investment will, therefore, address equitable quality and inclusivity across the French education system.

¹⁹⁵⁵ Government of Canada creating more skills training opportunities for Canadians, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 11 October 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/10/government-of-canada-creating-more-skills-training-opportunities-for-canadians0.html>

¹⁹⁵⁶ Minister Khera to Make a Funding Announcement, Canadian Heritage (Toronto) 02 November 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2023/11/minister-khera-to-make-a-funding-announcement.html>

¹⁹⁵⁷ Déplacement du Président au Lycée professionnel de l'Argensol d'Orange pour la pré-rentree, Presidency of the Republic (Paris) 1 September 2023. Translation provided by: Compliance Director. Access Date: 15 November, 2023. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2023/09/01/deplacement-du-president-au-lycee-professionnel-de-largensol-dorange-pour-la-pre-rentree>

¹⁹⁵⁸ Lutte contre le cyberharcèlement: Les harceleurs bannis des réseaux sociaux, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/lutte-contre-le-cyberharcèlement-les-harceleurs-bannis-des-reseaux-sociaux-379692>

¹⁹⁵⁹ What the new digital law will change for people in France, The Connexion (Monaco) 18 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/article/French-news/What-the-new-digital-law-will-change-for-people-in-France>

¹⁹⁶⁰ Projet de loi de finances 2024, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) November 2023. Access Date: 01 December 2023. Translation provided by Compliance Director. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/projet-de-loi-de-finances-2024-379542>

On 1 October 2023, the France National Recovery and Resilience Plan granted all teachers and education staff access to a self-positioning course.¹⁹⁶¹ By encouraging critical thinking and bolstering media and information literacy, this approach seeks to improve student proficiency with digital citizenship while also fostering national and local collaboration among education stakeholders.¹⁹⁶²

On 20 October 2023, Minister Delegate in charge of Vocational Education and Training, Carole Grandjean, travelled to Gien following the implementation of the reformation of vocational high schools to emphasize the importance of training in craftsmanship.¹⁹⁶³ This tour aims to increase the possibility to build plans and have conversations with apprentices and trainers about the difficulties of providing training in this field.¹⁹⁶⁴

On 8 November, Minister of National Education and Youth, Gabriel Attal, met with Brazilian Minister of Education, Camilo Santana to affirm their commitment to objectives within the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in promoting quality education for all.¹⁹⁶⁵ Specific agreements for the Brazil-France Strategic Partnership educational cooperation includes training of primary and secondary education professionals and on media and information education to combat disinformation and cyber-harassment among younger audiences and training teachers to promote multilingualism.

France has fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Initiatives such as hiring specifically trained teachers for students with disabilities, reforming vocational high schools, and fostering an international collaboration with Brazil to advance equality in education underscore its commitment to ensuring inclusive and equitable education.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Emily Carlucci

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to making progress toward ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 24 May 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection announced, alongside the Alliance for Training and Further Education, that they finalized a key policy which focuses on increasing vocational education among the German population.¹⁹⁶⁶ This includes a training guarantee and the creation of

¹⁹⁶¹ Développer les compétences numériques des enseignants et personnels d'éducation avec le dispositif Pix+ Édu: déploiement d'un parcours d'auto-positionnement pour tous les enseignants et personnels d'éducation volontaires dès octobre 2023, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 10 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/developper-les-competences-numeriques-des-enseignants-et-personnels-d-education-avec-le-dispositif-379683>

¹⁹⁶² France: Digital strategy for education 2023-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 3 May 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news/france-digital-strategy-education-2023-2027>

¹⁹⁶³ Réforme des lycées professionnels et formation aux métiers d'art: Déplacement de Carole Grandjean à Gien (45), Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) October 2023. Translation provided by Compliance Director. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/reforme-des-lycees-professionnels-et-formation-aux-metiers-d-art-deplacement-de-carole-grandjean-379752>

¹⁹⁶⁴ The many challenges facing France's reindustrialization, GIS (Schaan) 11 September 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/france-reindustrialization/>

¹⁹⁶⁵ Rencontre entre les ministres Français et Brésilien de l'Éducation nationale, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 9 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 December 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/rencontre-entre-les-ministres-francais-et-bresilien-de-l-education-nationale-379938>

¹⁹⁶⁶ Bund, Länder, Wirtschaft und Gewerkschaften stärken duale Ausbildung, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz (Berlin) 24 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2023/05/20230524-bund-laender-wirtschaft-und-gewerkschaften-staerken-duale-ausbildung.html>

the Vocational Education Excellence Initiative which guarantees higher vocational training and placement. The aim of this initiative is to increase vocational education accessibility in Germany.

On 14 June 2023, the Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training reported on a study tour in Berlin organized in association with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and South African academics guiding how to promote vocational education in South Africa.¹⁹⁶⁷ The aim of the tour was to enable vocational knowledge sharing with South Africa, concurrent to the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development's ongoing commitment to foster equitable and inclusive economic development in South Africa.

On 15 June 2023, the Federal Ministry of Finance concluded negotiations with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and announced an extension and additional funding of EUR38 million in 2026 and EUR41 million in 2027 to increase inclusive and innovative Holocaust education in Germany and beyond.¹⁹⁶⁸ The aim of this initiative is to continue to foster high-quality awareness in education regarding the Holocaust.

On 3 August 2023, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced that the Government of Germany pledged EUR12 million to assist UNRWA with the digitization of their Health and Education program which seeks to assist educational capacities for refugees across Jordan, the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Lebanon.¹⁹⁶⁹ The aim of this initiative is tied to Germany's concurrent pledge to assist development in Palestinian territories.

On 4 August 2023, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research reaffirmed their commitment to accessible means for vocational pursuits for German citizens and immigrants, through the on-going "Excellence Initiative on vocational education and training" through which Germany has pledged EUR750 million until 2026 to promote vocational education.¹⁹⁷⁰ The German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training reported on a technical meeting between the Italian Ministries of Education, Labour, and the Italian Employment agency and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the German Embassy, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Milan and the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts to ensure a collaborative and inclusive dialogue between the two G7 members.¹⁹⁷¹

On 30 August 2023, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced that the Government of Germany would be partnering to provide quality education and other social services to Palestinian children in

¹⁹⁶⁷ South Africa: Sustainability in vocational education and training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Berlin) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/176512.php>

¹⁹⁶⁸ Holocaust Survivors Will Continue to Receive Additional One-Time Payments from the German Government Until 2027 As a Result of Claims Conference Negotiations, Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (New York) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.claimscon.org/2023/06/holocaust-survivors-will-continue-to-receive-additional-one-time-payments-from-the-german-government-until-2027-as-a-result-of-claims-conference-negotiations/>

¹⁹⁶⁹ Germany Signs EUR 28 Million in Project Funding to Support UNRWA for Participatory Camp Improvement and Digitalization in Health and Education, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Amman) 3 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/news-releases/germany-signs-eur-28-million-project-funding-support-unrwa>

¹⁹⁷⁰ Italy – Reforms for Modern Vocational Education and Training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Milan) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/178406.php>; Germany: Excellence in VET brings together new and proven initiatives to address skill shortages, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Thessaloniki) 4 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/germany-excellence-vet-brings-together-new-and-proven-initiatives-address-skill-shortages>

¹⁹⁷¹ Italy – Reforms for Modern Vocational Education and Training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Milan) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/178406.php>

the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.¹⁹⁷² The aim of this initiative is to continue Germany's commitment to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

On 28 September 2023, the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training announced that it will be organizing a research conference about international vocational education.¹⁹⁷³ The conference will foster inclusive discussion on vocational education practices, recruitment, and strategies in an international context. The aim of this initiative is to continue Germany's commitment to increasing vocational education accessibility and capacity.

On 21 October 2023, Development State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth pledged EUR200 million to the Ukrainian government to assist with education and reconstruction.¹⁹⁷⁴ The aim of this funding is part of the on-going commitment of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development to support quality educational systems in Ukraine.

On 20 November 2023, Germany hosted the Compact with Africa Summit of the G20.¹⁹⁷⁵ Development Minister Svenja Schulze pledged to increase Germany's support for African start-ups such as the developPPP ventures program, which uplifts women through economic and business education. The aim of this initiative is to expand the entrepreneurial and educational ability of women across Africa.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to making progress toward ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Germany has implemented initiatives, such as the Vocational Education Excellence Initiative and partnerships with international organizations like UNRWA, to advance inclusive and quality education.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rejaa Khali

Italy: +1

Italy fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 23 May 2023, Ministry of Education provided a EUR20 million fund to allow students to continue with school despite the floods in Emilia Romagna, as well as EUR3.5 million to help students who need computers while facilitating the transition to remote learning.¹⁹⁷⁶ These funds aimed to better aid students in the region of Emilia-Romagna to avoid falling behind in their education and make quality education accessible despite the complications for families, teachers and students.

¹⁹⁷² Providing Palestinian Children and Their Families Access to Crucial Lifesaving Basic Services, UNICEF in the State of Palestine (Ramallah) 20 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/providing-palestinian-children-and-their-families-access-crucial-lifesaving-basic>

¹⁹⁷³ Vocational Education, Skilled Workers and Transformation in an International Perspective, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (Bonn) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.bibb.de/en/180891.php>

¹⁹⁷⁴ Flasbarth: Investitionen in Landwirtschaft sind zentrales Element für wirtschaftlichen Wiederaufbau der Ukraine, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Mykolaiv) 21 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 02 November 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/flasbarth-wirtschaftlicher-wiederaufbau-ukraine-182954>

¹⁹⁷⁵ Entwicklungsministerium legt Fokus auf Unternehmerinnen und Jobs für nachhaltige Entwicklung in Afrika, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Berlin) 20 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/compact-with-africa-gipfel-190780>

¹⁹⁷⁶ Emergenza Emilia-Romagna, riunione a Palazzo Chigi, Governo Italiano (Rome) 23 May 2023. Translation provided by Google. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-address-meeting-held-palazzo-chigi-flood-emergency-emilia-romagna/22714>

On 4 August 2023, Ministries of Education, Labour, and the Italian Employment Agency met with the German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training and German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, German Embassy, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Milan and the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts to ensure a collaborative and inclusive dialogue on vocational education between the two G7 members.¹⁹⁷⁷

On 15 October 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit approved new contracts for hiring Ata staff in Southern Italy, as well as authorized a EUR12 million investment to support hiring new positions, such as technical assistants and school collaborators.¹⁹⁷⁸ The fund aims to narrow educational gaps between Northern and Southern Italy by strengthening and building a more inclusive school system.

On 23 October 2023, Council of Ministers approved the bill to offer benefits for teachers working in mountain schools, such as tax credit to cover property rental costs.¹⁹⁷⁹ This bill aims to make quality education accessible for students living in mountain areas and any disadvantaged areas.

On 27 October 2023, Italy hosted a meeting with French Cooperation Officer for French Agnès Pallini-Martin regarding the promotion of the French language and education.¹⁹⁸⁰ The courses offered in French result in a double diploma credited to the government of France and Italy. This meeting contributes to a bilingual educational path for youth and students to pursue more education and be recognized while advocating for inclusivity.

On 27 October 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit allocated EUR12 million to schools in Southern Italy.¹⁹⁸¹ This investment aims to increase quality of education in Southern Italy by funding staff hiring to better implement the educational agenda and decrease education gaps nationwide.

On 31 October 2023, Minister of Education and Merit Giuseppe Valditara announced the release of EUR78 million to help families and over 200,000 students with the purchase of teaching materials.¹⁹⁸² Coupled with proposing a general rule for the right to study, this action aims to support students and families going through economic hardship with the essential resources to access education.

On 9 November 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit responded to recent antisemitism by taking concrete steps and further committing to implement measures to eradicate racial hatred and antisemitic behaviors in

¹⁹⁷⁷ Italy – Reforms for Modern Vocational Education and Training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Milan) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/178406.php>

¹⁹⁷⁸ Scuola, al via assunzione di nuovo personale Ata. Valditara: impegno mantenuto. Stanziare risorse aggiuntive anche per le scuole del Mezzogiorno ad alto tasso di dispersione, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 15 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-al-via-assunzione-di-nuovo-personale-ata-valditara-impegno-mantenuto-stanziate-risorse-aggiuntive-anche-per-le-scuole-del-mezzogiorno-ad-alto-t>

¹⁹⁷⁹ Scuola, agevolazioni per docenti che prestano servizio nelle aree di montagna. Il Ministro Valditara: "Iniziativa di equità per garantire presidio in territori svantaggiati," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 23 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-agevolazioni-per-docenti-che-prestano-servizio-nelle-aree-di-montagna-il-ministro-valditara-iniziativa-di-equita-per-garantire-presidio-in-terr>

¹⁹⁸⁰ Nuove opportunità per docenti e studenti per il francese, ANSA (Bolzano) 27 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://www.ansa.it/trentino/notizie/qualitaaltoaadige/2023/10/27/nuove-opportunita-per-docenti-e-studenti-per-il-francese_fe7f0e65-2762-4c25-9349-e62c1b9327ef.html

¹⁹⁸¹ Agenda Sud, da MIM 12 milioni in più per contratti ATA aggiuntivi. Valditara: "Dal Ministero grande attenzione alle scuole del Mezzogiorno," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 27 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/agenda-sud-da-mim-12-milioni-in-piu-per-contratti-ata-aggiuntivi-valditara-dal-ministero-grande-attenzione-alle-scuole-del-mezzogiorno->

¹⁹⁸² Scuola, da Mim sbloccati 78 milioni di euro per il diritto allo studio, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 31 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-da-mim-sbloccati-78-milioni-di-euro-per-il-diritto-allo-studio>

schools.¹⁹⁸³ This response is geared towards creating inclusive educational spaces that welcome everyone, irrespective of their background.

On 10 November 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit published a report presenting projects to improve training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for students and teachers while strengthening scientific skills for innovation.¹⁹⁸⁴ These projects aim to reduce gender gaps in learning and make these tools accessible for both public and private school teaching.

On 4 December 2023, Minister Valditara emphasizes the results in technological and training improvement in school given the recent investment of EUR1 billion made for education in Puglia.¹⁹⁸⁵ These funds have made quality education more accessible within this region.

Italy fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Italy has funded and supported initiatives such as investing in Southern Italy to narrow educational gaps, supporting teachers in mountain schools, allocating funds for teaching materials to aid economically challenged families, and promoting STEM education with a focus on gender equality to promote inclusive and exclusive education. Additionally, international collaborations, such as with Germany, underscore Italy's commitment to narrowing global disparities in vocational education.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zoha Mobeen

Japan: +1

Japan fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 13 June 2023, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida approved the Basic Policies Related to Women 2023, which outlined goals to increase diversity, financial independence and decrease gender-based violence.¹⁹⁸⁶ Through this policy, the government aims to implement overall skill programs and to ensure diversity in academia.

On 23 June 2023, the Japanese Diet implemented the Act on Promotion of Public Understanding of Diversity of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (No. 68 of 2023).¹⁹⁸⁷ Japan's government aims to promote gender and sexual orientation diversity in schools as well as building a society of tolerance and coexistence, addressing inclusivity concerns in education.

¹⁹⁸³ Valditara su caso docente di Roncade: "Odio razziale e antisemitismo incompatibili con principi della scuola costituzionale," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 9 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/valditara-su-caso-docente-di-roncade-odio-razziale-e-antisemitismo-incompatibili-con-principi-della-scuola-costituzionale>

¹⁹⁸⁴ Scuola, pubblicato primo avviso PNRR per progetti paritarie su potenziamento competenze Stem. Valditara: "Con queste iniziative sarà possibile colmare divari territoriali e fornire agli studenti le competenze richieste dal mondo del lavoro," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 10 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-pubblicato-primo-avviso-pnrr-per-progetti-paritarie-su-potenziamento-competenze-stem-valditara-con-queste-iniziativa-sara-possibile-colmare-div>

¹⁹⁸⁵ Lecce, Valditara: "Puglia regione strategica. Sbloccato oltre 1 miliardo di fondi PNRR per istituzioni scolastiche ed enti locali del territorio," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 4 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/lecce-valditara-puglia-regione-strategica-sbloccato-oltre-1-miliardo-di-fondi-pnrr-per-istituzioni-scolastiche-ed-enti-locali-del-territorio>

¹⁹⁸⁶ Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in Which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Prime Minister's Office of Japan (Tokyo) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202306/13josei.html

¹⁹⁸⁷ 性的指向及びジェンダーアイデンティティの多様性に関する国民の理解の増進に関する法律, e-Gov法令検索 (Tokyo) 23 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate and DeepL. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/document?lawid=505AC1000000068_20230623_00000000000000

On 21 July 2023, Japan supported 111 universities and technical colleges with an investment of JPY300 billion for higher education.¹⁹⁸⁸ Japan aimed to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates to boost the industrial and technological sector, in part by attracting students through the development of additional scholarships for “middle-income” students. The government also aimed to achieve this whilst increasing the proportion of female students by, for example, increasing female dormitory spaces.

On 25 July 2023, Immigration Services Agency announced the prospective certification of vocational students by the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry, granting these students similar visa rights as university students.¹⁹⁸⁹ The certification allows foreign graduates to apply for work visas that allow them to work in a wide variety of sectors.

On 25 September 2023, Japan donated JPY500 million to support Paraguay’s sustainable development through their technical capacity and industry.¹⁹⁹⁰ The project aims to supply vocational schools and universities with educational equipment to improve skills for the workforce.

On 12 October 2023, Japan provided funding for three classrooms and furniture in a new building at Nabaitavo school district in Fiji to improve student’s learning conditions.¹⁹⁹¹ The new classrooms allow younger students to receive quality education while shielded from extreme weather and cold.

On 27 October 2023, Japan signed a contract to support two school construction projects in Peru.¹⁹⁹² The projects aim to increase accessibility to education by building schools in rural areas.

On 9 November 2023, Japan and Bangladesh launched a joint vocational training project. The project involves the construction of a building aiming to train over a 1,000 young people.¹⁹⁹³

On 29 November 2023, Japan signed a grant of around USD65,000 for the construction of new classrooms at Shree Chandrawati Secondary School, Nepal, to create a better education environment with the aim to decrease socio-economic gaps in communities.¹⁹⁹⁴

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. Domestically and abroad, Japan has invested in education in a way that is conscious of inclusivity and equity concerns, such as investing in higher education to boost STEM graduates and encourage gender diversity, and providing support to various countries for vocational training.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ana Grace Rans Kolakovic

¹⁹⁸⁸ Japan to give ¥300 billion to universities expanding science education, Japan Times (Tokyo) 21 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/07/21/national/japan-billion-universities-science-education/>

¹⁹⁸⁹ Japan to Broaden Employment Options for Intl Students Studying at Vocational Schools, Japan News (Tokyo) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/politics-government/20230725-125121/>

¹⁹⁹⁰ Acto de Suscripción de Acuerdo de Cooperación financiera, Embassy of Japan In Paraguay (Asunción) 10 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.py.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00407.html

¹⁹⁹¹ Japan Hands over Two New School Projects in Naitasiri, Embassy of Japan in Fiji (Suva) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.fj.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100574596.pdf>

¹⁹⁹² Firma de 2 proyectos del programa APC, Embassy of Japan In Peru (Lima) 9 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.pe.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_01708.html

¹⁹⁹³ Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori Visited the Project Site of Japanese Grant in Habiganj, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh (Dhaka) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/11_000001_00858.html

¹⁹⁹⁴ Japanese Assistance for New Classroom at Shree Chandrawati Secondary School in Udayapur District, Embassy of Japan in Nepal (Kathmandu) 29 November 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00942.html

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 27 June 2023, the UK Human Rights Ambassador Rita French delivered a statement that highlights the importance of the quality of education provided to children from disadvantaged backgrounds at school.¹⁹⁹⁵ French ensured that teachers are given high quality training, allowing for professional development at every stage in their professional career. Additionally, she delivered a statement stating that the UK will create a national system that allows students with Special Education Needs and Disabilities to have access to provisions that will allow them to reach their potential.

On 27 June 2023, the Government of the United Kingdom responded to the Education Committee's third report of session 2022-23.¹⁹⁹⁶ In this response, the Government outlined a GBP2.7 billion funding increase for apprenticeship opportunities and GBP40 million in funding for degree apprenticeships. Degree apprenticeships help fund degrees for students otherwise unable to afford degrees.¹⁹⁹⁷

On 13 July 2023, the Department for Education announced GBP570 million in funding to support "skills delivery" in education,¹⁹⁹⁸ including vocational education.¹⁹⁹⁹

On 15 July 2023, the Department for Education announced that two-thirds of over 40,000 students studying and working abroad through the Turing Scheme during the 2023-2024 school year were from disadvantaged backgrounds.²⁰⁰⁰ These opportunities, including vocational education, are paid for by GBP105 million in government funding.

On 1 August 2023, the Department of Education published a Higher Education Policy Statement and Result, following a consultation conducted to citizens about higher education.²⁰⁰¹ The Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan and the Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education Robert Halfon expressed the importance of achieving social justice through improvements in quality education, mentioning the investment of GBP115 million to decrease the national gaps in skills.

On 23 August 2023, the Right Honourable Minister of Parliament, Claire Coutinho discussed the government's continued support towards the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) program.²⁰⁰² The goal of

¹⁹⁹⁵ UN HRC53: Statement on the right to education, Gov.UK (Geneva) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-hrc53-statement-on-the-right-to-education>

¹⁹⁹⁶ The future of post-16 qualifications: Government response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2022-23, UK Parliament (London) 05 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmeduc/1673/report.html>

¹⁹⁹⁷ Speech: Minister Halfon's speech at the Times Higher Education conference, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 07 December 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-halfons-speech-at-the-times-higher-education-conference>

¹⁹⁹⁸ Correspondence: ESFA Update further education: 19 July 2023, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-update-19-july-2023/esfa-update-further-education-19-july-2023#information-fe-funding-update>

¹⁹⁹⁹ Teacher strikes: Everything you need to know about the 2023/24 teacher pay award, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/07/13/teacher-strikes-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-2023-24-teacher-pay-award/>

²⁰⁰⁰ Press Release: Disadvantaged students to benefit from government's Turing Scheme, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disadvantaged-students-to-benefit-from-governments-turing-scheme>

²⁰⁰¹ Higher Education Policy Statement and Result, Department for Education (London) 1 August 2023. Access Date: 13 November 2023.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1188231/CP876_Higher_Education_policy_statement_and_reform_government_consultation_response_web_.pdf

²⁰⁰² More Support for children with special educational needs, GOV.UK (London) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 24 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-children-with-special-educational-needs>

the SEND program is to facilitate high quality training for staff to ensure an inclusive environment for students in the program, fulfilling their educational needs.

On 19 September 2023, the Department of Education approved the Lifelong Learning Bills which aims to support students across all backgrounds to access loans and be able to pay for university and higher education courses.²⁰⁰³ Similarly, the Bill will allow a new method of calculation for the tuition of university courses, which will make shorter courses accessible at a more affordable price. This initiative narrows the gap of educational equity between lower-income prospective students and the population at large.

On 26 October 2023, the Department of Education started an open consultation for citizens to participate in with the purpose of improving non-statutory elective home education.²⁰⁰⁴ The proposed changes aim to promote equitable quality education for homeschooled students.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. The UK has invested in programs and enacted policies promoting inclusive and equitable quality education, with these measures applying to vocational education on more than one occasion.

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

Analyst: Zoha Mobeen

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational training.

On 5 September 2023, the Department of Education announced that it would host the “Teach to Lead Summit” and the “Conference on Equity in Opportunity” to foster dialogue about the utility of a diverse workforce in education.²⁰⁰⁵

On 13 September 2023, the Department of Education announced USD21 Million in funding to assist schools’ Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).²⁰⁰⁶ MTSS helps identify unique student needs and cater to otherwise struggling groups of students, making education more inclusive and of equitable quality for students with those needs. Likewise, the Department pledged USD50 million in new grants to support states and educational partners in developing and implementing evidence-based literacy interventions and supports. These grants support school districts and communities in promoting equitable access to high-quality reading instruction and resources for all students.²⁰⁰⁷

On 6 October 2023, the Department of Education announced that technical assistance centers will receive over USD20 million to support state and local initiatives aimed at improving school safety, academic performance,

²⁰⁰³ Transformative student finance bill becomes law, Gov.Uk (London) 22 September 2023. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transformative-student-finance-bill-becomes-law>

²⁰⁰⁴ Elective home education guidance review, Gov.Uk (London) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/elective-home-education-guidance-review>

²⁰⁰⁵ U.S. Department of Education to Promote Educator Diversity Through National Convenings, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 5 September 2023. Access Date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-promote-educator-diversity-through-national-convenings>

²⁰⁰⁶ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Build on Work to Accelerate Learning and Improve Student Achievement, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 13 September 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-build-work-accelerate-learning-and-improve-student-achievement>

²⁰⁰⁷ Education Dept. opens fund to boost research IT at minority-serving institutions, EdScoop (Washington) 3 August 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://edscoop.com/education-department-research-infrastructure-federal-funding/>

and student well-being.²⁰⁰⁸ This assistance aims to improve learning, address students' mental health needs, and increase academic opportunity, increasing quality of education of skills and vocation at schools.²⁰⁰⁹

On 12 October 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced approximately USD 13 million in grants to 34 higher education institutions to aid campus-based childcare programs.²⁰¹⁰ These grants aim to provide better support at these daycare programs, which will make education more accessible and inclusive for student parents.²⁰¹¹

On 17 October 2023, the Department of Education announced new awards of USD11 million to support the new Native American Language Resource Centers, the Native American Teacher Retention Initiative, and the State Tribal Education Partnership programs.²⁰¹² This funding aims to facilitate initiatives that encourage coordination and collaboration among tribal, state, and local educational agencies to address the needs of Native students.²⁰¹³

On 19 October 2023, the Department of Education and the Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Program awarded USD14 million in grants to support voluntary efforts to create more diverse school communities locally and across states.²⁰¹⁴ These grants aim to help districts in their efforts to enhance educational experiences by providing students quality education within an inclusive environment more conducive for learning.

On 25 October 2023, the Department of Education announced awards valued at almost USD115 million to increase educator diversity and combat staff shortages that disproportionately affect students from minority groups.²⁰¹⁵ This support aims to provide educators with skills training irrespective of background, fostering a welcoming environment for all students portrayed by the educators' diversity.

²⁰⁰⁸ The Biden-Harris Administration Announces Technical Assistance Centers to Accelerate Learning and Support Student Wellbeing, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-technical-assistance-centers-accelerate-learning-and-support-student-wellbeing>

²⁰⁰⁹ U.S. Department of Education Announces Technical Assistance Centers to Accelerate Learning and Support Student Wellbeing, National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments" (Arlington) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/news/us-department-education-announces-technical-assistance-centers-accelerate-learning-and-support>

²⁰¹⁰ Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$13 Million to Improve Access to Child Care for Student Parents, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-more-13-million-improve-access-child-care-student-parents>

²⁰¹¹ Department of Education to Award More Than \$13 Million for Campus-Based Childcare Programs, Diverse Issues in Higher Education (Fairfax) 13 October 2023. Access Date: October 2023. <https://www.diverseeducation.com/student-issues/article/15636442/departement-of-education-to-award-more-than-13-million-for-campusbased-childcare-programs>

²⁰¹² Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$11 Million to Preserve Native Languages, Increase Native Teacher Retention, and Support Tribal Educational Agencies, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 17 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-more-11-million-preserve-native-languages-increase-native-teacher-retention-and-support-tribal-educational-agencies>

²⁰¹³ US Department of Education Announces \$11 Million for Native American Programs, Native News Online (Grand Rapids) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://nativenewsonline.net/education/us-department-of-education-announces-11-million-for-native-american-programs>

²⁰¹⁴ Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$14 Million Under First-Ever Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Grant Program, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-14-million-under-first-ever-fostering-diverse-schools-demonstration-grant-program>

²⁰¹⁵ U.S. Department of Education Awards Nearly \$115 Million to Help Increase Educator Compensation and Promote Educator Diversity, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-nearly-115-million-help-increase-educator-compensation-and-promote-educator-diversity>

On 9 November 2023, the Department of Education committed to facilitating student transfers and increase diversity in the students' search for new educational opportunities.²⁰¹⁶ This commitment aims to support transfer and community college students who wish to diversify their education and achieve higher quality education.

On 28 November 2023, the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services announced the update of a joint Policy Statement on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs.²⁰¹⁷ This update aims to highlight the urgency of including children with disabilities in early quality education programs.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational training. It supported diversity and inclusion in the education workforce, provided supports for underprivileged and minority students, and invested in indigenous-language education.

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

Analyst: Emily Carlucci

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including in vocational education.

On 15 June 2023, the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine signed an agreement recognizing the importance of education in Ukraine.²⁰¹⁸ The agreement establishes Ukrainian involvement in European Union working groups, recognition of Ukrainian academic qualifications and further integration through cooperation and Erasmus+ programs. This agreement attempts to maintain equitable education access for Ukrainians, despite the ongoing conflict.

On 20 June 2023, the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain facilitated a week-long visit of Omani officials to Germany to study European approaches to Technical and Vocational Education and Training.²⁰¹⁹

On 3 July 2023, the European Union allocated EUR66 million to support Niger's education policy.²⁰²⁰ The funds will close the gender gap in education and increasing women and girls' access to education, as well as investing in teachers.

²⁰¹⁶ Biden-Harris Administration Convenes Higher Education Leaders to Improve Student Transfer to Increase Completion of College Degrees, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-convenes-higher-education-leaders-improve-student-transfer-increase-completion-college-degrees>

²⁰¹⁷ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Updated Resource to Support the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 28 November 2023. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-updated-resource-support-inclusion-children-disabilities-early-childhood-programs>

²⁰¹⁸ ARRANGEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON EDUCATION between the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, European Commission, (Kyiv) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/document/7feb877e-3cc0-4302-94f3-d3436aee293f_en

²⁰¹⁹ The European Union and Oman cooperate on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman (Riyadh) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/saudi-arabia/european-union-and-oman-cooperate-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training_en

²⁰²⁰ Global Gateway: EU strengthens partnership with Niger with a €66 million investment in education, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (Brussels) 3 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-strengthens-partnership-niger-eu66-million-investment-education-2023-07-03_en

On 20 July 2023, the European Union and Benin signed a new deal aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.²⁰²¹ The EUR63.75 million fund includes funds for social and economic improvements. The Benin government aims to use funds to promote human rights and gender equality through technical and vocational education and training.

On 3 August 2023, the European Commission invested EUR115.3 million to support education programs in non-EU countries worldwide.²⁰²² Higher education stakeholders will use these funds to improve educational quality in various regions worldwide, including matters of inclusivity and equitable education quality for marginalized groups.

On 23 August 2023, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a cooperation agreement including an EUR8.5 million grant to support the implementation of Ukraine's Vocational Education and Training Project.²⁰²³ The project highlights the importance of supporting young people and creating an inclusive reconstruction of the education system.

On 19 October 2023, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen with Minister of Budget and Economic Planning of Nigeria Abubakar Atiku Bagudu allocated EUR5.4 million to education in Nigeria from the Global Gateway program.²⁰²⁴ The Nigerian-EU partnership aims to develop and support education in North Western Nigeria.

On 25 October 2023, the EU promised EUR30 million in fiscal support to Tajikistan to enhance vocational education and training, with a focus on empowering local youth, women, and returnee migrants.²⁰²⁵ The funding aims to promote employment in key sectors like agriculture, energy, and green and digital industries.

On 26 October 2023, the EIB announced EUR10 million in funding for schools, including technical divisions, and education in Armenia.²⁰²⁶ The funding is focused on the Syunik region and includes transportation from rural areas to the school. This addresses equal access concerns for rural Armenians.

On 28 November 2023, the European Commission announced EUR4.3 billion for Erasmus+ programming.²⁰²⁷ The new proposal guidelines emphasize funding for mobility from rural areas and continued support for Ukrainians.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including in vocational education. The EU has demonstrated an interest in

²⁰²¹ Global Gateway: EU strengthens partnership with Benin through launch of Budget Support programme (Brussels) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-strengthens-partnership-benin-through-launch-budget-support-programme-2023-07-20_en

²⁰²² Erasmus+: 159 projects selected to modernise higher education worldwide, European Commission, Press Release (Brussels) 03 08 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4007

²⁰²³ EU and EIB continue helping Ukraine build modern vocational education infrastructure, European Investment Bank, (Luxembourg) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-299-eu-and-eib-continue-helping-ukraine-build-modern-vocational-education-infrastructure>

²⁰²⁴ Global Gateway: Commissioner Urpilainen launches a major EU package to drive education, energy and transport programmes across Nigeria, Press and information team of the Delegation to Nigeria (Abuja) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nigeria/global-gateway-commissioner-urpilainen-launches-major-eu-package-drive-education-energy-and_en?s=114

²⁰²⁵ Global Gateway Forum: EU boosts employment in Tajikistan with €30 million in budget support, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (Brussels) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 28 November 2023. https://global-gateway-forum.ec.europa.eu/news/global-gateway-forum-eu-boosts-employment-tajikistan-eu30-million-budget-support-2023-10-25_en

²⁰²⁶ Armenia: Global Gateway Forum - EU announces over €10 million to support education opportunities, European investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-395-global-gateway-forum-eu-announces-over-eur-10-million-to-support-education-opportunities-in-armenia>

²⁰²⁷ €4.3 billion under Erasmus+ to support mobility and cooperation in education, training, youth and sport in 2024, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6098

supporting and funding education programs across the world that reduces regional, and gender disparities. The EU funds go towards education to support the development of teachers and other employment groups.

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

Analyst: Ana Grace Rans Kolakovic