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THE G7 RESEARCH GROUP'S ANNUAL REPORT: ANALYSING G7 MEMBER COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2016 ISE-SHIMA SUMMIT COMMITMENTS
"We speak truth to power, power listens, and we know that from the way they react to our compliance reports."

John J. KIRTON¹

The G7 Research group is a non-partisan, global group geared at serving as the leading independent source of information, analysis, and research on the G7

- Spans participants who are:
 - Scholars, professionals, academics
 - Associated with academia, research, media, business, and the non-governmental, governmental, and intergovernmental communities

Core deliverables:

- Annual compliance report (interim and final) analyzing the one-year progress G7 member states have made towards the previous year's commitments, as stated in the summit communiqué
- The G8 Information Centre: an online repository of summit analyses, publications, research, briefing books (Newsdesk Media), relevant literature, and meeting (*i.e.*, past summit and ministerial meeting) documents
- Trinity College's John W. Graham Library: archives and museum of G7-related artifacts, collected from each summit

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- Intangibles and peripherals: an unparalleled network of academics, advisors, alumni/ae, students, and professionals; social media coverage of summit activities; the opportunity to effect change by facilitating leader accountability through compliance analysis and reporting

Methodology: the compliance report Commitment Selection

- Carried out by executive committee chair, alongside senior researchers and executive director
- Emphasizes breadth, past year summit focus, projections of next year's focus, and the filling of data set gaps isolated from previous years' reports

Commitment scope definition

- Carried out by lead analysts, alongside executive committee chair, senior researchers, and executive director
- Outline the commitment, its interpretation, and relevant background information; define scoring guidelines

Research and analysis is carried out by compliance analysts, under the guidance of lead analysts and directors of compliance studies

Fact-checking and Editing is carried out by lead analysts, alongside executive committee chairs, senior researchers, and executive director

Two cycles: 1. Preliminary research and analyses are reviewed several times in preparation for the interim report (15 April, spanning eight commitments), and again following updating in preparation for the final report (to be published); 2. after the final report is prepared, stakeholders are asked for feedback. Done as cross-check to ensure that all information presented is accurate

Once report is made publicly available, errata will continue to be collected, and feedback continues to be welcomed.

RESULTS on 2016/17

The average final compliance score is +0.45 (73%)

Trend

- Slight increase from interim score (+0.43, 72%)
- Slight decrease from previous two years' final scores
 - 2015 – 2016: +0.65, 83% (Schloss-Elmau)
 - 2014 – 2015: +0.63, 82% (Brussels)

The full compliance: Paris Agreement on climate change and maritime security (+1.00, 100%)

Next-best compliance: Cyber stability (+0.88, 94%); Global Fund, combatting terrorist financing, and refugees (+0.75, 88%)

Least compliance: Women's engagement in emergency response situations (-0.63, 19%)

Overall, compliance decreased from previous years

- Could be a reflection of increased oversight
- However, also likely attributable to key worldwide events

Multi-year compliance shows consistencies

- European Union and United States are consistently within 80% compliance, with Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom fluctuating around the 70 – 80% range, Japan and France averaging lower (60 – 80% range), and Italy remaining consistently in the 60% range

Certain minority groups are not thoroughly accounted for

- *E.g.*, while women's involvement in STEM was thoroughly progressed towards, and while refugees as a whole were made a priority, women's involvement in emergency response situations was de-emphasized, indicating that sexual and gender-based violence – as

well as support for refugee and internally displaced women – remain key issues

Certain countries (*i.e.*, Japan, France, and Italy) consistently lack compliance relative to other members

Receipt of feedback from key stakeholders

- Report updating and publication
- Dissemination to the public and to academia
- Updating of errata and analysis as necessary
- Analysis and implementation of potential areas of improvement for next cycle

Conveyance of priority focus areas at the Taormina Summit