

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Second Interim Compliance Report

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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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6. Gender: Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa

“We will continue to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.”

Annex I: Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.63 (81%)	

Background

For the first time in G7/G8 history at the 2008 Tokyo Summit, G8 leaders agreed to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as a principle in their development cooperation through mainstreaming and specific actions.⁷⁷¹ They promised to improve women's security through protection and empowerment of women and their communities.⁷⁷²

At the 2015 Schloss-Elmau Summit, for the second time G7 leaders agreed to take steps toward empowering women in regard to women's health, economic empowerment and climate protection.⁷⁷³ Leaders affirmed to contribute to women's entrepreneurship as a key driver for innovation, growth, and jobs for women across G7 members.⁷⁷⁴ This is the first time G7 leaders chose and vowed to address the specific needs of women and promised to promote their access to finance, markets, skills, leadership opportunities and networks.⁷⁷⁵ G7 members asked the Organisation for Economic and Co-operation and Development (OECD) to monitor progress on promoting women's entrepreneurship as it would work to promote gender equality as well as the full participation of empowering all women and girls.⁷⁷⁶ Additionally, G7 leaders condemned all forms of sexual violence in conflict and are committed to enhancing the role of women in international peace and security.⁷⁷⁷

⁷⁷¹ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 July 2008. Access Date: 14 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁷⁷² G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 July 2008. Access Date: 14 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁷⁷³ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁷⁴ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁷⁵ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁷⁶ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁷⁷ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

Members declared that in order to offer inclusive sustainable solutions to peace and stability women must be included to establish effective governance.⁷⁷⁸

Also at the 2015 Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 leaders recognised that being equipped with relevant skills for decent work, especially through technical and vocational education and training (TVET) via formal and non-formal learning, is key to the economic empowerment of women and girls, including those who face multiple sources of discrimination (e.g. women and girls with disabilities), and to improving their employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.⁷⁷⁹ G7 leaders committed to increasing the number of women and girls technically and vocationally educated and trained in developing countries through G7 measures by one third (compared to “business as usual”) by 2030.⁷⁸⁰ G7 leaders promised to work to increase career training and education for women and girls within G7 members.⁷⁸¹ Members promised to take steps to foster access to quality jobs for women and to reduce the gender gap in workforce participation within countries by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances including by improving the framework conditions to enable women and men to balance family life and employment, including access to parental leave and childcare. Moreover, members recognize that the private sector also has a vital role in creating an environment in which women can more meaningfully participate in the economy.⁷⁸² G7 leaders vowed to support the UN Women’s Empowerment Principles and call on companies worldwide to integrate them into their activities.⁷⁸³ This initiative was the first time G7 leaders promised to coordinate their efforts through a new G7 working group on women.⁷⁸⁴

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members committed to taking concrete actions, internationally and in their own countries and reaffirmed their commitment to achieve gender equality and human rights for women and girls, and to enable women and girls to realize their full potential to 1) actively engage in society and to take control of their own destiny; 2) contribute to and benefit from sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and quality of life at home, in the community, and in all spheres of society; and 3) fully and effectively participate in all phases of the peacebuilding continuum, from conflict prevention to resolution and ultimately reconciliation.⁷⁸⁵ G7 leaders also remained committed to preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls as they are pervasive barriers in realizing their full potentials.⁷⁸⁶ This was the first time that members actively encouraged the active role of women in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and strived to remove gender bias in careers, through promoting institutional change and creating legal and policy environments

⁷⁷⁸ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁷⁹ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁸⁰ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁸¹ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁸² G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁸³ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁸⁴ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁷⁸⁵ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁷⁸⁶ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

which effectively advance gender equality, and thereby increase the number of female students in STEM fields, and broaden the participation of women in research, engineering and entrepreneurial careers.⁷⁸⁷

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders also committed to addressing barriers to equal access for all women and men to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education.⁷⁸⁸ Members committed to take into account women's diverse needs and to encourage a more equal division of unpaid care and domestic work between women and men, in order to facilitate women's access to education and training, and thereby, to increase female labor force participation rates.⁷⁸⁹ G7 leaders committed to enhance education, training and programs to support women to assume leadership positions in the public and private sector, and to increase the number of female leaders at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, academic and public life.⁷⁹⁰

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders adopted the Roadmap.⁷⁹¹ In line with the principles endorsed in the Taormina Declaration, the Roadmap focuses on the structural policies falling within our central governments' jurisdiction that are likely to have the greatest impact in delivering gender equality through enabling women's labor force participation, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and thus their full and equal participation in society.⁷⁹² Members agreed to increasing women's participation and promoting equal opportunities and fair selection processes for leadership at all levels of decision-making.⁷⁹³ This includes recommendations that G7 members take action to increase the representation of women in all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life by 2022.⁷⁹⁴ In addition, they agreed to encourage the private sector to value women's active role in private companies by developing positive actions, such as leadership trainings and gender equality labels/certifications, and promoting role models.⁷⁹⁵ Furthermore, leaders also vowed to strengthen the foundation of women's access to decent and quality job, promote participation by girls and women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM), and eliminate violence against women and girl throughout their lives.⁷⁹⁶

⁷⁸⁷ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁷⁸⁸ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁷⁸⁹ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁷⁹⁰ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁷⁹¹ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁷⁹² G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

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⁷⁹⁵ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁷⁹⁶ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders recognized that gender equality is fundamental for the fulfillment of human rights and is a social and economic imperative.⁷⁹⁷ Leaders declared to remove the barriers that keep their citizens, including women and marginalized individuals, from participating fully in the global economy.⁷⁹⁸ Members promised to reinforce their commitment to eradicate poverty, advance gender equality, foster income equality, ensure better access to financial resources and create decent work and quality of life for all.⁷⁹⁹ Further, members support efforts to promote and protect women's and adolescents' health and well-being through evidence-based healthcare and health information.⁸⁰⁰ Similarly, members vowed to expand market-driven training and education, particularly for girls and women in the STEM fields.⁸⁰¹ G7 leaders recognized the need to remove barriers to women's leadership and equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of the labour market, including by eliminating violence, discrimination and harassment within and beyond the workplace.⁸⁰² Members committed to explore innovative new approaches to apprenticeship and vocational learning, as well as opportunities to engage employers and improve access to workplace training.⁸⁰³

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders promised to work to remove barriers to women's participation and decision-making in social, economic and political spheres as well as increase the opportunities for all to participate equally in all aspects of the labour market.⁸⁰⁴ Leaders vowed that their path forward will promote women's full economic participation through working to reduce the gender wage gap, supporting women business leaders and entrepreneurs and recognizing the value of unpaid care work.⁸⁰⁵ Through the Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls, and Women in Developing Countries, G7 members affirmed their commitment to increase opportunities for at least 12 years of safe and quality education for all and to dismantle the barriers to girls' and women's quality education, particularly in emergencies and in conflict-affected and fragile states.⁸⁰⁶ We recognize that marginalized girls, such as those with a disability, face additional barriers in attaining access to education.⁸⁰⁷ In addition, through the endorsement of the Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts they affirm to strive for a future where individuals' human rights are equally protected both offline

⁷⁹⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁷⁹⁸ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁷⁹⁹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰⁰ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰³ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰⁴ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰⁵ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

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⁸⁰⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

and online; and where everyone has equal opportunity to participate in political, social, economic and cultural endeavours.⁸⁰⁸

Commitment Features

The G7 committed “to continue to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.”

The core of this commitment is to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa. This means the G7 member must aim to support and create programs or a project to promote and advance a women’s economic empowerment and remove legal, social, and regulatory barriers. “Support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁸⁰⁹

“Entrepreneurship” is the activity of setting up a business or businesses, taking on a financial risk in the hope of a profit.”⁸¹⁰ This must be aimed at women, such as giving equal access to financial capital, a social barrier.⁸¹¹

To achieve this, the G7 committed to support African countries’ efforts to remove legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment. In this commitment “removal” means to eliminate or get rid of any barrier that may be “legal” deriving from authority or established by law, “social” deriving from human society, and “regulatory” under the control of law or constituted authority that may discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.⁸¹²

“Promoting women’s economic empowerment” implies tangible efforts by a G7 member to increase women’s labour market participation and employment opportunities, improve labour conditions and reduce the gender pay gap.⁸¹³ Examples of women’s economic empowerment include, but are not limited to, creating employment opportunities, encouraging skills development, encouraging property ownership, and increasing access to economic and educational resources and financial services. Women’s empowerment is actively promoted through the removal of barriers in women’s education, training and professional development.

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member must to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa by doing the following three: 1) Supporting African countries to remove legal barriers; 2) Supporting African countries to remove social barriers; and 3) Supporting African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.

For a score of partial compliance, the G7 member has only strongly supported one or two of the three criteria or somewhat supports all three criteria: 1) supporting African countries to remove legal barriers; 2) supporting African countries to remove social barriers; and 3) supporting African

⁸⁰⁸ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸⁰⁹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

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⁸¹¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸¹² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

⁸¹³ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>

countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.

For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has done none of the aforementioned criteria.

Note: Actions taken between 13 April and 3 June 2020 have been included in this report but were not included in the version sent out for stakeholder feedback.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has failed to take action to support African countries to remove legal barriers, support African countries to remove social barriers or support African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.
0	G7 member has strongly supported only one or two or somewhat supported all of the following three criteria: supporting African countries to remove legal barriers, supporting African countries to remove social barriers, and supporting African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.
+1	G7 member has taken action to support African countries to remove legal barriers, support African countries to remove social barriers and support African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.

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Lead Analyst: Emma Dary*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to women’s entrepreneurship in Africa by supporting the removal of legal, social, and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 20 September 2019, Canada committed CAD4 million to the Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d’Ivoire until 30 September 2021.⁸¹⁴ The components of the project include training leaders of women’s and youth organizations, improving access to sexual health and reproductive health services, and improving preventative responses to gender-based violence.⁸¹⁵ The initiative aims to reduce barriers for more than 700,000 girls between the ages of 10 to 19 in order to support equitable access to education.⁸¹⁶

On 29 October 2019, the Government of Canada made a national statement at the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda during the Open Debate at the UN Security Council.⁸¹⁷ The three areas of focus in implementing the agenda

⁸¹⁴ Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d’Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007019001>

⁸¹⁵ Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d’Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007019001>

⁸¹⁶ Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d’Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007019001>

⁸¹⁷ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx?lang=eng

include; innovative partnerships, new approaches to funding, and focusing on inclusion.⁸¹⁸ With regards to funding, Canada has doubled its commitment to the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund, launched the Equality Fund, and made a three year, CAD650 million commitment to close gaps in supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁸¹⁹

On 29 October 2019, the Government of Canada pledged CAD3,730,020 to the project for Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia.⁸²⁰ The project activities include providing reproductive health training, medical equipment, identifying gaps in medical coverage and providing advocacy using local women's organizations.⁸²¹ As of 14 November 2019 Canada, has disbursed CAD976,370.⁸²²

On 16 November 2019, the Government of Canada pledged CAD10 million toward equitable access to inclusive education in crisis-affected regions of Cameroon.⁸²³ The project works in partnership with UNICEF and seeks to “improve schooling for children and adolescents aged 4 to 15 years, including those living with a disability, with a special focus on girls” and targets areas affected by humanitarian crises.⁸²⁴

On 18 November 2019, the Government of Canada pledged CAD1,905,250 toward The Simameni Project in partnership with the Canadian Teachers' Federation and Uganda National Teachers' Union.⁸²⁵ This project seeks to “improve access, retention, and educational opportunities for secondary-aged girls in schools from the Western and Teso regions in Uganda” by tackling two key drivers of poverty in the region; lack of access to education and gender inequality.⁸²⁶

⁸¹⁸ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx?lang=eng

⁸¹⁹ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx?lang=eng

⁸²⁰ Project profile — Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006317001>

⁸²¹ Project profile — Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006317001>

⁸²² Project profile — Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006317001>

⁸²³ Project profile — Equitable Access to Inclusive Education in Crisis-Affected Regions of Cameroon, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007015001>

⁸²⁴ Project profile — Equitable Access to Inclusive Education in Crisis-Affected Regions of Cameroon, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007015001>

⁸²⁵ Project profile — Simameni: Stand Together for Girls' Secondary Education in Uganda, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005992001>

⁸²⁶ Project profile — Simameni: Stand Together for Girls' Secondary Education in Uganda, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005992001>

On November 22–23 2019, François-Philippe Champagne, Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Nagoya, Japan.⁸²⁷ The ministers discussed issues such as ensuring sustainable economic growth of Africa, assisting African-led progress on peace and security, and addressing the root causes of the outstanding challenges in Africa.⁸²⁸

On 5 December 2019, the Government of Canada in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom announced a CAD15 million contribution over three years toward girls’ education in South Sudan.⁸²⁹ Part of the second phase of Girls Education in South Sudan (GESS2), the project aims to increase access to education for girls in South Sudan by improving enrolment and retention, improving quality of education, and addressing key barriers to education with a particular emphasis on the prevention of sexual and gender based violence and child marriage.⁸³⁰

On 19 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced a CAD5 million contribution over three years in support of UNICEF Canada’s UNdaunted Initiative to educate girls with disabilities in Somalia.⁸³¹ This project works to improve learning outcomes for girls, including those with disabilities, by increasing equal access to education.⁸³²

On 20 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced a CAD1.2 million contribution over three years to support the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Global Education Monitoring Report.⁸³³ The project aims to “contribute to inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, as outlined in the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)” through funding the Global Education Monitoring Report which monitors progress toward international education targets.⁸³⁴

On 20 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD8.5 million over three years in support of community-based education in South Sudan.⁸³⁵ This project aims to improve access to education and learning opportunities for children, especially girls, through the

⁸²⁷ Foreign Affairs Minister to attend G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/foreign-affairs-minister-to-attend-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting.html>

⁸²⁸ Foreign Affairs Minister to attend G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/foreign-affairs-minister-to-attend-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting.html>

⁸²⁹ Project profile — Girls’ Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁸³⁰ Project profile — Girls’ Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁸³¹ Project profile — UNdaunted: Educating Girls with Disabilities in Somalia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007688001>

⁸³² Project profile — UNdaunted: Educating Girls with Disabilities in Somalia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2019 Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007688001>

⁸³³ Project profile — Support to the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/D004898001>

⁸³⁴ Project profile — Support to the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/D004898001>

⁸³⁵ Project profile — Community Based Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007329001>

establishment of 300 community schools in rural communities, providing training to women teachers and providing training to parents on homestead gardening and backyard poultry rearing.⁸³⁶

On 20 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD20,303,941 over three and a half years in conjunction with Plan International Canada, World Vision Canada and Save the Children Canada toward Improving Adolescent Girls' Inclusive Education (IMAGINE) in Mali.⁸³⁷ The project aims to “improve the realization of rights to inclusive, quality and gender-sensitive education for 90,000 conflict-affected girls and adolescent girls in 11 communities in the Segou and Mopti regions of Mali.”⁸³⁸

On 23 January 2020, Minister Champagne concluded a visit to Mali to focus on the bilateral relationship between the countries.⁸³⁹ Champagne announced CAD78.9 millions of funding across eight projects, of which CAD10 million will go toward a partnership with CowaterSogema International toward promoting girls' education.⁸⁴⁰ The project aims to improve the school performance of more than 16,000 adolescent girls, improve access and retention of adolescent girls in targeted schools in the Segou region and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education to reduce barriers to education and promote quality, gender-sensitive education.⁸⁴¹

On 24 January 2020, Minister Champagne concluded a visit to Morocco in which he met with Prime Minister of Morocco Saad Eddine El Othmani to discuss the countries' shared priorities, chief amongst them being gender equality.⁸⁴² During this visit, Minister Champagne announced two projects totalling more than CAD13.9 million over five years toward women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development in the region.⁸⁴³ The development of forestry cooperatives and empowerment of women in the Middle Atlas will support the integration of women in economic activities related to growing rosemary and cedar while the funding toward empowering women through sustainable entrepreneurship aims to create profitable and sustainable economic enterprises with opportunities for women in the labour market.⁸⁴⁴

On 2 February 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement marking the beginning of the 30th annual International Development week.⁸⁴⁵ This statement reaffirms Canada's commitment to

⁸³⁶ Project profile — Community Based Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007329001>

⁸³⁷ Project profile — Improving Adolescent Girls' Inclusive Education (IMAGINE) in Mali, 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006790001>

⁸³⁸ Project profile — Improving Adolescent Girls' Inclusive Education (IMAGINE) in Mali, 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006790001>

⁸³⁹ Minister Champagne concludes visit to Mali, continues on to Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-visit-to-mali-continues-on-to-morocco.html>

⁸⁴⁰ Canadian supported projects in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

⁸⁴¹ Canadian supported projects in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

⁸⁴² Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-morocco.html>

⁸⁴³ Canada Supported Projects in Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-morocco.html>

⁸⁴⁴ Canada Supported Projects in Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-morocco.html>

⁸⁴⁵ Statement by the Prime Minister on International Development Week, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/02/02/statement-prime-minister-international-development-week>

the goals set out in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including prioritizing the empowerment of women and girls through Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy by funding projects to increase access to education in "crisis and conflict situations."⁸⁴⁶ Global Affairs Canada describes Canada's feminist vision in relation to its bilateral international development assistance initiatives which includes economic empowerment in areas of Africa, particularly for women.⁸⁴⁷

On 5 February 2020, Antoine Chevrier, Ambassador of Canada to the African Union, participated in the fourth High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education in Africa at the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia.⁸⁴⁸ The objects of the dialogue were to; "tak[e] specific measures to protect girls and boys in education systems in conflict and post-conflict situations; advocate for all member states to implement the safe school Declaration to protect and secure teaching and learning environments to ease access for children and especially girls in armed conflict and post-conflict zones; [and to] create a platform for sharing and learning on existing reporting mechanisms among stakeholders for protecting education for girls and women in Africa."⁸⁴⁹

On 8 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, on the margins of the 33rd African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁸⁵⁰ Prime Minister Trudeau pledged Canada's continued support for the African Union's work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, focusing on the importance of economic growth and supporting Africa's dynamic women entrepreneurs.⁸⁵¹

On 8 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the President of Ethiopia Zewde Sahle-Work in Addis Abababa.⁸⁵² The leaders discussed ways to "continue advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, building upon their successful collaboration at Women Deliver hosted by Canada in 2019," exchanging views on regional peace and security, and continuing their work in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.⁸⁵³

⁸⁴⁶ Statement by the Prime Minister on International Development Week, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/02/02/statement-prime-minister-international-development-week>

⁸⁴⁷ Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng

⁸⁴⁸ 4th High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education in Africa, African Union (Addis Ababa) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200205/4th-high-level-dialogue-gender-equality-and-education-africa>

⁸⁴⁹ 4th High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education in Africa, African Union (Addis Ababa) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200205/4th-high-level-dialogue-gender-equality-and-education-africa>

⁸⁵⁰ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-african-union-commission-chairperson>

⁸⁵¹ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁵² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President of Ethiopia Zewde Sahle-Work, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-ethiopia-zewde-sahle-work>

⁸⁵³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President of Ethiopia Zewde Sahle-Work, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-ethiopia-zewde-sahle-work>

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded his visit to Ethiopia by making several regional pledges toward advancing gender equality in the African Union.⁸⁵⁴ Pledges include; CAD355.2 million over three years toward the African Development Fund, holding high-level consultations with the AU Commission to explore ongoing work on gender equality, investing CAD4.8 million toward ACUMEN and provide leadership training to youth leaders and support women-led businesses, and contributing CAD15 million to TradeMark East Africa to address barriers to economic opportunities for 150,000 women cross-border traders in East Africa.⁸⁵⁵ Canada also pledged a CAD10 million contribution to support the AU Commission to increase gender equality and women's empowerment in sectors including economic development and CAD8.3 million toward the United Nations Development Programme toward women's economic empowerment and gender equality.⁸⁵⁶

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau made several pledges toward regional support for women in Ethiopia.⁸⁵⁷ Canada will invest CAD20 million in Ethiopia's Land Management Program through the Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods for Women initiative managed by the World Bank, contribute CAD20 million to Marie Stopes International to help 350,000 adolescent girls have increased access to family services, CAD10 million in funding to UNICEF to help provide 1.7 million women and girls with improved health services, and lastly the two contributions of CAD8.5 million toward RENEW and CAD12.9 million to Digital Opportunity Trust, helping the growth of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized businesses in Ethiopia, with a focus on those owned by young people and women.⁸⁵⁸

On 13 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded a trip to Senegal in which he pledged support for removal of barriers that discriminate against Senegalese women's economic empowerment.⁸⁵⁹ Among these, Justin Trudeau announced funding of CAD10 million to the World Bank to provide better educational opportunities for adolescent girls, CAD18 million to College and Institutes Canada to provide support for "income-generating activities for vulnerable and marginalized women" of which 200,000 people will be mobilized to support "women becoming leaders and active citizens in their communities" and CAD4.8 million to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to examine the link between gender-based violence and broader gender inequalities.⁸⁶⁰

⁸⁵⁴ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁵⁵ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁵⁶ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁵⁷ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁵⁸ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁵⁹ Prime Minister concludes productive visit to Senegal, Office of the Prime Minister (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/13/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-senegal>

⁸⁶⁰ Canada working with partners in Senegal to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

On 13 February 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD6,661,368 across three and a half years toward Burundian Refugee Girls' Right to Education in partnership with Right to Play.⁸⁶¹ The project aims to “implement a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive education program for girls affected by the Burundian refugee crisis in Burundi and Tanzania” through the reduction of barriers to education.⁸⁶²

On 27 February 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD9,427,412 across three years in support of the transition, retention, and training for Young Women and Girls in Zimbabwe in partnership with CARE Canada.⁸⁶³ The project “targets socio-economic barriers that are worsened by the lingering crisis in Zimbabwe, prohibiting girls' sustained engagement in secondary education and/or training, and their successful transition into adulthood.”⁸⁶⁴

On 28 February 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD7.5 million across three years toward the Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds project in South Sudan.⁸⁶⁵ The project, a partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, aims to increase equal opportunities for school-age girls and young women, including those with disabilities, to attend school in Gogrial West, South Sudan.⁸⁶⁶ This project works to contribute to Canada's G7 Charlevoix Declaration on “Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries.”⁸⁶⁷

On 12 March 2020, Minister Champagne, alongside the Foreign Affairs Committee, participated in the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to speak about the Canadian Government's foreign policy mandate and priorities.⁸⁶⁸ Minister Champagne discussed his campaigning for Canada's seat on the UN Security Council and his recent trip with Prime Minister Trudeau to the African Union, which focused on bilateral relations and economic security, particularly for women, reiterating Canada's stance toward gender in the region by stating “think about the power of these women in Africa if we push for gender equality.”⁸⁶⁹

⁸⁶¹ Project profile — My Education, My Future: Supporting Burundian Refugee Girls' Right to Education, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007232001>

⁸⁶² Project profile — My Education, My Future: Supporting Burundian Refugee Girls' Right to Education, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007232001>

⁸⁶³ Project profile — Supporting Transition, Retention, and Training for Young Women and Girls, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007216001>

⁸⁶⁴ Project profile — Supporting Transition, Retention, and Training for Young Women and Girls, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007216001>

⁸⁶⁵ Project profile — Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds - South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006959001>

⁸⁶⁶ Project profile — Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds - South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006959001>

⁸⁶⁷ Project profile — Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds - South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006959001>

⁸⁶⁸ House of Commons Canada: Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, House of Commons Canada (Ottawa) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/FAAE/meeting-2/evidence>

⁸⁶⁹ House of Commons Canada: Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, House of Commons Canada (Ottawa) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/FAAE/meeting-2/evidence>

On 30 March 2020, IDRC, which is funded by the Government of Canada, awarded CAD34.2 million to projects aiming to strengthen national education systems in more than 40 low and middle-income countries across Global Partnership for Education members through the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX).⁸⁷⁰ Implemented by IDRC, KIX seeks to strengthen national education systems and accelerate educational progress in the Global South, it is the “largest fund solely dedicated to meet global public good gaps in education.”⁸⁷¹

Canada has demonstrated full compliance with its support for the removal of social, legal, and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women through issuing bilateral meetings, summit diplomacy, and both pledging and disbursing funds to local governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations which focus on region-specific solutions to gender equality in Africa. This includes supporting African women’s access to education and supporting community-based learning for women.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexandra Miller

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 23 September 2019, France announced its plan to co-host the next UN Women’s Generation Equality forum alongside Mexico in July 2020.⁸⁷² As one of the “Core Group” members, France will share ultimate decision-making power over initiatives to encourage urgent action and accountability for global gender inequality.⁸⁷³

On 8 November 2019, Agence Française de Développement (Afd), an agency of the governmental Committee for International Cooperation and Development, awarded Cameroonian company KmerPad with a prize and funding package for its solidarity-based entrepreneurship.⁸⁷⁴ Started by Cameroonian women, the company produces sanitary pads with the goal of removing barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free involvement in education and work due to social taboos that discourage hygienic menstruation practices.⁸⁷⁵

⁸⁷⁰ KIX funding announced for research to scale education innovations, International Development Research Centre (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/kix-funding-announced-research-scale-education-innovations>

⁸⁷¹ Grants awarded to scale proven innovations and strengthen education systems through the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange, Global Partnerships for Education (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date 12 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/news/grants-awarded-scale-proven-innovations-and-strengthen-education-systems-through-gpe-knowledge>

⁸⁷² Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

⁸⁷³ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) 23 September 2019. Access date: 5 November 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

⁸⁷⁴ Lifting the Menstruation Taboo in Cameroon, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/lifting-menstruation-taboo-cameroon?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=4

⁸⁷⁵ Lifting the Menstruation Taboo in Cameroon, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/lifting-menstruation-taboo-cameroon?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=4

On 12 November 2019, French Minister of State for Gender Equality and the Fight against Discrimination Marlene Schiappa hosted international ministers and UN Women executives at a Paris Peace Forum exhibit showcasing the success of women's entrepreneurship projects supported by the French government including "African Girls Can Code" from Ethiopia and "Buy From Digital Platform for Smallholder Farms" from Mali.⁸⁷⁶

On 19 November 2019, the Consulate General of France in Johannesburg unveiled its "Challenge for 1000" initiative, in which 1000 African entrepreneurs will be selected to showcase innovative solutions to urban problems at the Africa-France summit in June 2020.⁸⁷⁷ The Consulate General included in the announcement a commitment to ensure gender parity to support women entrepreneurs and decrease barriers to their participation.⁸⁷⁸

On 28 November 2019, AfD announced it will contribute EUR3 million toward the creation of treatment centres for female victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.⁸⁷⁹ The centers will provide physical, psychological, legal and economic support to victims with the goal of helping to rebuild their lives and reduce barriers that may prevent them from achieving empowerment.⁸⁸⁰

On 31 January 2020, the French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs announced its action coalition themes for the Generation Equality Forum it will co-chair with Mexico in May 2020.⁸⁸¹ Working with UN Women to identify areas of importance, they selected 'economic justice and rights' and 'technology and innovation for gender equality' as top priorities.⁸⁸² The Forum will be informed by multi-regional consultations including African countries.⁸⁸³ France will lead an action coalition and collaborate with various partners to address critical issues of gender inequality.⁸⁸⁴

⁸⁷⁶ UN Women Deputy Executive Director Anita Bhatia attends Paris Peace Forum, UN Women (New York) 14 November 2019. Access date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/11/news-coverage-ded-bhatia-attends-paris-peace-forum>

⁸⁷⁷ African entrepreneurs take part in Challenge of 1,000 at the Africa-France 2020 Summit, Consulat général de France à Johannesburg (Johannesburg) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019.

<https://johannesburg.consulfrance.org/Africans-entrepreneurs-take-part-in-Challenge-of-1-000-at-the-Africa-France>

⁸⁷⁸ African entrepreneurs take part in Challenge of 1,000 at the Africa-France 2020 Summit, Consulat général de France à Johannesburg (Johannesburg) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019.

<https://johannesburg.consulfrance.org/Africans-entrepreneurs-take-part-in-Challenge-of-1-000-at-the-Africa-France>

⁸⁷⁹ Stopping Violence Against Women in Central Africa, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 02 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/stopping-violence-against-women-centralafrica?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=1

⁸⁸⁰ Stopping Violence Against Women in Central Africa, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 02 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/stopping-violence-against-women-centralafrica?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=1

⁸⁸¹ Generation Equality Forum, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/generation-equality-forum/>

⁸⁸² Generation Equality Forum, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/generation-equality-forum/>

⁸⁸³ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

⁸⁸⁴ Generation Equality Forum, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/generation-equality-forum/>

On 13-14 February 2020, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director of Sustainable Development Philippe Lacoste visited the African Development Bank headquarters to negotiate the allocation of USD3 billion in funding for women's economic empowerment in Africa by the G7.⁸⁸⁵ The funds will be directed to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa initiative to further the breaking down of legal and regulatory barriers that restrict women's access to credit, as well as providing technical support to financial institutions to facilitate women's entrepreneurship.⁸⁸⁶

On 3 April 2020, the African Development Bank Group announced a new Gender Equality Trust Fund, jointly funded by the governments of France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.⁸⁸⁷ The first transaction is estimated to unlock USD 2 billion in credit for women-empowered businesses across the continent of Africa. It will be directed toward removing legal and regulatory barriers to women's full and free economic empowerment by improving access to credit and other financial services for entrepreneurial projects.⁸⁸⁸

France has fully complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa. By showcasing and supporting women's entrepreneurship projects in Ethiopia, Mali, and Cameroon, France is removing social barriers that impede women's entrepreneurship. The Consulate General's commitment to ensure gender parity is another action that supports the removal of social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment. The joint funding of the Gender Equality Trust fund and funding of centers that provide economic and legal support to female victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, work to remove legal and regulatory barriers to women's full economic empowerment.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kathryn Mullins

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 30 August 2019, the government-backed development bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) announced its provision of USD458 million in support for female-owned businesses in

⁸⁸⁵ AFAWA Initiative - French Delegation Follows Through Its Commitment With Working Visit to African Development Bank Headquarters, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/afawa-initiative-french-delegation-follows-through-its-commitment-working-visit-african-development-bank-headquarters-34291>

⁸⁸⁶ AFAWA Initiative - French Delegation Follows Through Its Commitment With Working Visit to African Development Bank Headquarters, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/afawa-initiative-french-delegation-follows-through-its-commitment-working-visit-african-development-bank-headquarters-34291>

⁸⁸⁷ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

⁸⁸⁸ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

developing countries.⁸⁸⁹ The funding was raised in contribution with development banks from other G7 nations in the “2X Challenge,” an initiative to raise US\$3 billion for women entrepreneurs and employees in the developing world by 2020.⁸⁹⁰

On 1-28 October 2019, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) contributed to the funding of several “African Code Week” initiatives.⁸⁹¹ Over 1.5 million youth in 37 African nations participated in the week-long events which aimed to improve the digital literacy of girls in particular, reducing the ‘digital divide’ which creates social and regulatory barriers to women’s participation in the economy.⁸⁹²

On 23 October 2019, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR30 million for the promotion of women’s digital literacy to the African Development Bank.⁸⁹³ The Chancellor announced the funding during a speech awarding the 2019 German-Africa Prize to Kenyan information technologist Juliana Rotich, emphasizing the importance of digital skills for African women to achieve full economic participation and empowerment.⁸⁹⁴

On 25 October 2019, the German Federal Foreign Office helped launch a start-up project called Maisha Business Women in Europe.⁸⁹⁵ The project, will offer women refugees from African countries opportunities to develop their entrepreneurial skills and help them participate in the economies of their home countries upon their return.⁸⁹⁶

On 13 November 2019, the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), an agency of BMZ, renewed its support for a joint fund with the Algerian Environment Ministry to encourage women in rural areas to establish cooperative businesses for the sale of sustainably harvested plant

⁸⁸⁹ 2X Challenge: USD 2.5 billion mobilised for women’s economic empowerment, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 23 October 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/News-Details_539264-2.html

⁸⁹⁰ 2X Challenge: USD 2.5 billion mobilised for women’s economic empowerment, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 23 October 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/News-Details_539264-2.html

⁸⁹¹ Germany promotes education in development cooperation worldwide, Deutschland.de (Frankfurt) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/education-and-development-cooperation-projects-from-germany>

⁸⁹² Germany promotes education in development cooperation worldwide, Deutschland.de (Frankfurt) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/education-and-development-cooperation-projects-from-germany>

⁸⁹³ German Africa Prize 2019, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/afrika-preis-2019-1685170>

⁸⁹⁴ German Africa Prize 2019, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/afrika-preis-2019-1685170>

⁸⁹⁵ Project to support African women entrepreneurs in Europe launches, The African Courier (Berlin) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.theafricancourier.de/business/business-support-project-for-african-women-in-europe-launches/>

⁸⁹⁶ Project to support African women entrepreneurs in Europe launches, The African Courier (Berlin) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.theafricancourier.de/business/business-support-project-for-african-women-in-europe-launches/>

products.⁸⁹⁷ GIZ will finance oil presses and other production tools that help Algerian women manage their own entrepreneurial projects.⁸⁹⁸

On 17 December 2019, KfW launched its Gender Smart Opportunity Assessment program to support financial institutions in developing countries in providing opportunities suited to the needs of women.⁸⁹⁹ They aim to help women gain better access to credit for entrepreneurial projects and increase the number of employment opportunities available to women, leading to more full and free economic participation.⁹⁰⁰

On 22 January 2020, the development finance institution Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), a subsidiary of KfW, announced its donation of EUR10,000 for charitable organizations AIM and Tatort Strassen der Welte.V., which fund schooling and vocational training for girls affected by female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone and Kenya, attempting to minimize social barriers to their empowerment.⁹⁰¹

On 4 March 2020, the German Federal Foreign Office released a report outlining its goals for gender equality initiatives in developing countries in 2020.⁹⁰² These include projects to remove social barriers to networking between women for the purpose of entrepreneurship, as well as the removal of barriers to senior positions for women in higher education and research.⁹⁰³

Germany has continued to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment. This includes supporting female-owned businesses in African countries, funding projects that aim to reduce the 'digital divide', pledging support to initiatives that aimed at the removal of regulatory barriers preventing women from attaining senior positions, and supporting financial institutions to help women gain access to credit for entrepreneurial projects.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kathryn Mullins

⁸⁹⁷ Algeria: Natural cosmetics sourced from protected areas and produced by women, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (Bonn) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/80797.html>

⁸⁹⁸ Algeria: Natural cosmetics sourced from protected areas and produced by women, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (Bonn) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/80797.html>

⁸⁹⁹ DEG advisory service: empowering female entrepreneurs in developing countries, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/Pressemitteilungen-Details_557568-2.html

⁹⁰⁰ DEG advisory service: empowering female entrepreneurs in developing countries, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/Pressemitteilungen-Details_557568-2.html

⁹⁰¹ DEG donates to three charitable organisations, DEG Press Office (Cologne) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2020. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/News-Details_562752-2.html

⁹⁰² Gender equality in German foreign policy and in the Federal Foreign Office, Auswärtiges Amt (Berlin) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2314180/31e4d4f4035a37b3cfaf86f3b536e487/geschlechtergerechtigkeit-data.pdf>

⁹⁰³ Gender equality in German foreign policy and in the Federal Foreign Office, Auswärtiges Amt (Berlin) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2314180/31e4d4f4035a37b3cfaf86f3b536e487/geschlechtergerechtigkeit-data.pdf>

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa by supporting African countries to remove social barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment.

On 26 August 2019, Italy provided UNICEF Eritrea with a grant of EUR1 million to enhance existing community-based child protection programs.⁹⁰⁴ As part of this program, adolescent girls from disadvantaged families receive cash incentives to enable the girls to remain in school and pursue secondary education.⁹⁰⁵

On 25 November 2019, Italy reaffirmed its support for the removal of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation subscribed to UN Women's campaign on gender violence called #OrangetheWorld.⁹⁰⁶

On 9 December 2019, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation allocated EUR642,000 from the Africa Fund to the United Nations Capital Development Fund to promote inclusive credit services for refugees in the Tigray, Somaliland and Addis Ababa areas of Ethiopia.⁹⁰⁷ This project aims to enable economic self-sufficiency of refugees, especially refugee women and Ethiopians willingly returning to the country.⁹⁰⁸

On 6 March 2020, Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Emanuela Claudia Del Re inaugurated a new block at the Mayo Girls Basic School in Al Yarmouk's Block 7 in Mayo, Khartoum State, and signed a new agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to further commit EUR1.3 million for peace and social stability projects in Khartoum State and South Darfur.⁹⁰⁹ The focus of this agreement is on job and community infrastructure creation such as women's vocational training for leatherwork and commodity product creation, and peacebuilding.⁹¹⁰ The new school block and vocational training were jointly funded by Italy, the UNDP, and the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission as part of

⁹⁰⁴ Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

⁹⁰⁵ Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara). 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

⁹⁰⁶ Violence against women: Italy joins #OrangetheWorld, #Generationequality campaigns, OnuItalia (New York). 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/violence-against-women-italy-joins-orangetheWorld-generationequality-campaigns/>

⁹⁰⁷ The Foreign Ministry provides two new allocations for refugees in Niger and Ethiopia, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/due-nuovi-contributi-maeci-per-rifugiati-in-niger-e-etioopia_0.html

⁹⁰⁸ The Foreign Ministry provides two new allocations for refugees in Niger and Ethiopia, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/due-nuovi-contributi-maeci-per-rifugiati-in-niger-e-etioopia_0.html

⁹⁰⁹ Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, United Nations Development Programme (Khartoum) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html>

⁹¹⁰ Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, United Nations Development Programme (Khartoum) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html>

Italy's support for UNDP's Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP) aiming to support people most at risk in entering a conflict, including women.⁹¹¹

Italy has taken some actions to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa through the removal of social barriers to women's full and free economic empowerment. This includes providing funding for initiatives that promote the economic self-sufficiency of African women and girls. However, Italy has not demonstrated support for the removal of legal or regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Brandon Yih

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa and to support the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers for women's empowerment.

On 28 August 2019, the Japanese government hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), and issued the Yokohama Declaration and the Yokohama Plan of Actions, which aimed at promoting focus areas including African women empowerment through financial contribution to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) and the Private Sector Investment Finance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).⁹¹² These measures aim to empower African women entrepreneurs through increased financial access and supports.⁹¹³

On 28 August 2019, JICA hosted a symposium that focused on the roles and potential of social business and entrepreneurship to address gender barriers in Africa. During the conference, Dr. Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Gender Advisor of JICA, called for the promotion and collaborations to promote African women's access to greater economic and political power and thus to combat gender inequalities.⁹¹⁴

On 29 August 2019, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe announced that Japan will introduce assistance policy for human resource development in Africa at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region.⁹¹⁵ This initiative would allow youth and

⁹¹¹ Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, United Nations Development Programme (Khartoum) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html>

⁹¹² TICAD7, the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, opening in Yokohama: Advancing Africa's development through People, Technology and Innovation, JICA (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/2019082_01.html

⁹¹³ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 & Actions for Implementation of the Yokohama Declaration 2019, MOFA (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf

⁹¹⁴ Unleashing the power of Women and Girls in Africa – Social Business and Social Entrepreneurship to Achieve Transformation Change, JICA (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access date: 22 December. 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/c8h0vm0000f5zxo1-att/20190912_01_11.pdf

⁹¹⁵ Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kono attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region, MOFA (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001075.html

women to acquire skills to make a living by themselves and to play an increasing role in economic activities.⁹¹⁶

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Abe attended the UN General Assembly and announced that Japan pledged to provide enriched education to a minimum of nine million children and women in Sub-Saharan African nations in the next three years, which would help to “promote inclusive quality education for all girls and women.”⁹¹⁷

On 30 September 2019, Japan’s Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) signed an agreement with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to channel investment toward inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa.⁹¹⁸ The collaboration would provide investment opportunities to GPIF to fund projects in Africa leading to increase women’s employment opportunities in Africa.⁹¹⁹

On 23 November 2019, Japan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Toshimitsu Motegi, held a Presidency Press Conference for the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, in which he confirmed that Japan and other G20 members will continue to support women’s empowerment in Africa as part of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹²⁰

On 5 December 2019, JICA signed an agreement with the Government of the Republic of Kenya to provide a Japanese official development assistance of JPY47.8 billion to the Mombasa Gate Bridge construction Project.⁹²¹ This project not only aimed to facilitate efficient transportation in East Africa, but also provided roadside trading facilities and vocational training to African women entrepreneurs in the region, which removed social barriers that discriminate women’s economic participation.⁹²²

Japan has fully complied in all three commitment areas by supporting African countries in women’s entrepreneurship through their removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment. Japan’s introduction of an assistance policy for human resource development in Africa and its collaboration with the AfDB to fund women’s employment opportunities in Africa has fulfilled its commitment.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mary Qiu

⁹¹⁶ Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kono attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region, MOFA (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001075.html

⁹¹⁷ At UN debate, Japan vows to back global push for inclusive quality education for all girls and women, UN News (New York) 24 September 2019. Access date: 22 December 2018. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1047382>

⁹¹⁸ African Development Bank, Government Pension Investment Fund, partner for green, social and sustainability bond markets, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 11 October 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-government-pension-investment-fund-partner-green-social-and-sustainability-bond-markets-31954>

⁹¹⁹ African Development Bank, Government Pension Investment Fund, partner for green, social and sustainability bond markets, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 11 October 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-government-pension-investment-fund-partner-green-social-and-sustainability-bond-markets-31954>

⁹²⁰ Presidency Conference for the G20 Foreign ministers’ Meeting by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu, MOFA (Tokyo) 23 November 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ec/page25e_000367.html

⁹²¹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Kenya: Contributing to the stimulation of regional economic activities by the construction of a bridge at Mombasa, a gateway to East Africa, JICA (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191211_41_en.html

⁹²² Feasibility Study in the Mombasa Gate Bridge Construction Project, Mombasa County, JICA (Tokyo) March 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/social_environmental/id/africa/kenya/c8h0vm00009praz8-att/c8h0vm0000eu3o4t.pdf

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa by removing legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 28 August 2019, International Development Minister Alok Sharma announced the establishment of a new Commission to mobilize private sector investments following his first visit to Ethiopia.⁹²³ The Commission will be composed of UK and international business experts and aims to facilitate financial investment for infrastructure projects in developing countries.⁹²⁴ While in Ethiopia, Minister Sharma met with women who have taken part in entrepreneurial training programs and guidance initiatives supported by aid from the UK and the company Unilever.⁹²⁵

On 24 September 2019, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP515 million to provide education for approximately 12 million children in developing countries.⁹²⁶ This funding builds on the GBP90 million the Prime Minister committed at the 2019 G7 Biarritz Summit.⁹²⁷ The new spending commitment will focus on teaching literacy and numeracy to children in African and Asian countries.⁹²⁸

On 27 September 2019, International Development Minister Alok Sharma announced a new UK aid package which will help mobilize GBP500 million in private sector investment, support entrepreneurs in countries across sub-Saharan Africa and provide improved access to financial services.⁹²⁹ To achieve this, the UK has committed GBP90 million to Financial Sector Deepening Africa, a non-profit organization that works in 28 countries to help people access financial services, such as banking.⁹³⁰

On 5 November 2019, the United Kingdom's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's International Tech Hub Network opened applications for its new "Africa-UK: Female Tech

⁹²³ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

⁹²⁴ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

⁹²⁵ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

⁹²⁶ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁹²⁷ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁹²⁸ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁹²⁹ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>

⁹³⁰ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>

Founders 2020” program.⁹³¹ The program will invite 15 women entrepreneurs from Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa to partake in workshops and events on business strategies in London from 20-22 January 2020.⁹³² The goal of the program is to foster inclusive economic growth by giving women entrepreneurs the tools to surmount the gender divide.⁹³³

On 5 December 2019, the United Kingdom and Canada announced a contribution over three years toward girls’ education in South Sudan.⁹³⁴ This was part of the second phase of Girls Education in South Sudan, a project which aims to increase access to education for girls education by addressing key barriers to education.⁹³⁵

On 13 January 2020, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport released the names of the 15 finalists for the International Tech Hub Network’s Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders program.⁹³⁶ The finalists are women entrepreneurs in the technology sector hailing from Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria.⁹³⁷

On 16 January 2020, the UK pledged GBP3.5 million to the International Trade Centre’s SheTrades program.⁹³⁸ The UK’s funding will assist women entrepreneurs in Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya in the growth of their businesses by connecting them to trade and investment opportunities and business partnerships.⁹³⁹ Women entrepreneurs will also have access to specialized training and mentorship.⁹⁴⁰

⁹³¹ Applications open for Africa-UK Female Tech Founders 2020, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2019/11/applications-open-for-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-2020/>

⁹³² Applications open for Africa-UK Female Tech Founders 2020, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2019/11/applications-open-for-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-2020/>

⁹³³ Applications open for Africa-UK Female Tech Founders 2020, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2019/11/applications-open-for-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-2020/>

⁹³⁴ Project profile — Girls' Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁹³⁵ Project profile — Girls' Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁹³⁶ Finalists announced for the International Tech Hub Network’s Female Tech Founders and TeXchange programmes, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/finalists-announced-for-the-international-tech-hub-networks-female-tech-founders-and-texchange-programmes/>

⁹³⁷ Finalists announced for the International Tech Hub Network’s Female Tech Founders and TeXchange programmes, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/finalists-announced-for-the-international-tech-hub-networks-female-tech-founders-and-texchange-programmes/>

⁹³⁸ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹³⁹ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹⁴⁰ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

As a result of this aid, the UK projects that approximately 3,000 jobs will be created in African businesses led by women.⁹⁴¹

On 16 January 2020, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Department for International Trade (DIT) partnered with the organization Lionesses of Africa to host Start-up Night Africa.⁹⁴² The event provided 11 African women entrepreneurs with the opportunity to pitch their businesses to UK-based investors and gain funding and partnerships.⁹⁴³ The event also featured a panel of three women entrepreneurs with established African businesses who discussed their experiences and shared advice.⁹⁴⁴

On 20 January 2020, DFID and DIT initiated several programs to meet the demand for investment in Africa, including three programs that will help empower African women.⁹⁴⁵ DFID's new Digital Access program will use GBP45 million to help marginalized populations in Africa, particularly women, improve their digital and technological skills and access the internet.⁹⁴⁶ DFID also announced the establishment of a GBP2 million program which will fund the education of women in developing countries in order to help them obtain jobs.⁹⁴⁷ In addition, DFID will provide the Work and Opportunities for Women program with GBP6.1 million.⁹⁴⁸ This money will increase economic opportunities for women and thereby assist approximately 100,000 women until 2024.⁹⁴⁹

⁹⁴¹ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹⁴² Women entrepreneurs pitch innovation for Africa to UK investors, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-entrepreneurs-pitch-innovation-for-africa-to-uk-investors>

⁹⁴³ Women entrepreneurs pitch innovation for Africa to UK investors, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-entrepreneurs-pitch-innovation-for-africa-to-uk-investors>

⁹⁴⁴ Women entrepreneurs pitch innovation for Africa to UK investors, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-entrepreneurs-pitch-innovation-for-africa-to-uk-investors>

⁹⁴⁵ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁴⁶ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁴⁷ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁴⁸ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁴⁹ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>.

On 20 January 2020, Prime Minister Johnson hosted the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London.⁹⁵⁰ During the conference, the UK strengthened its relationships with African countries and pledged to support their economic empowerment through investment, trade, and funding.⁹⁵¹ The UK also outlined specific commitments toward the empowerment of women in Africa.⁹⁵² This included previously announced aid packages, such as the GBP6.1 million for the Work and Opportunities for Women program and the GBP3.5 million for the SheTrades program, and new funding of GBP2 million to assist initiatives in Mozambique that support the economic empowerment of women.⁹⁵³

On 20 January 2020, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's International Tech Hub Network commenced its three-day Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders program in London.⁹⁵⁴ The 15 women entrepreneurs selected for the program participated in workshops, masterclasses, and networking events, where they connected with investors, stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and government officials in the UK.⁹⁵⁵ They also attended the UK-Africa Investment Summit on 20 January 2020.⁹⁵⁶

On 3 April 2020, the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) authorized the establishment of a new Gender Equality Trust Fund in which the United Kingdom is a key investor, along with France and the Netherlands.⁹⁵⁷ The fund will last for ten years and primarily help expand the AfDB's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa program, which seeks to redress the financing gap

⁹⁵⁰ UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁵¹ UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁵² UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁵³ UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁵⁴ Celebrating a successful Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders programme, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/celebrating-a-successful-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-programme/>

⁹⁵⁵ Celebrating a successful Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders programme, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/celebrating-a-successful-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-programme/>

⁹⁵⁶ Celebrating a successful Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders programme, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/celebrating-a-successful-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-programme/>

⁹⁵⁷ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

African women experience.⁹⁵⁸ In doing so, the Fund hopes to empower women and work toward gender equality in Africa.⁹⁵⁹

The United Kingdom has demonstrated full compliance with its support for the removal of social, legal, and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women by funding projects to address women's barriers to education and job training, projects that assist women entrepreneurs by connecting them to trade and investment opportunities. The UK has also supported projects such as the Digital Access Program and the AfDB's Affirmative Fiancé Action for Women in Africa program which help African women overcome social, legal, and regulatory barriers to their full economic empowerment.

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

Analyst: Annie Ding

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment toward women's empowerment in Africa.

On 12 November 2019, the United States Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Adam Boehler, joined the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina, in signing a memorandum of understanding to support further development in African countries.⁹⁶⁰ Some of the priority sectors the partners will focus on include financial services and investments that empower women in the region.⁹⁶¹ The DFC and the AfDB aim to invest USD 5 billion in regional development projects.⁹⁶²

On 18 November 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative Fund (W-GDP) would increase its funding to USD100 million.⁹⁶³ In February 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump established the W-GDP Initiative to increase women's economic participation in developing nations

⁹⁵⁸ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

⁹⁵⁹ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

⁹⁶⁰ DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (United States) November 12 2019. Access Date: April 8 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-support-development-africa>

⁹⁶¹ DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (United States) November 12 2019. Access Date: April 8 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-support-development-africa>

⁹⁶² DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (United States) November 12 2019. Access Date: April 8 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-support-development-africa>

⁹⁶³ What is USAID's W-GDP Initiative Fund that recently increases its Funding to \$100 million for New Partnerships?, FundsforNGOs Grants and resources for Sustainability (United States) Access Date: 8 December. 2019. <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/featured/what-is-usaids-w-gdp-initiative-fund-that-recently-increased-its-funding-to-100-million-for-new-partnerships/>

throughout Africa.⁹⁶⁴ The initiative seeks to strengthen laws and regulations that promote women's participation in the economy and to provide women entrepreneurs with education, training and support.⁹⁶⁵ With the new funding, the initiative seeks to reach 50 million women in 22 developing countries by 2025.⁹⁶⁶

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to support women's empowerment in Africa through its support of the removal of social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment. Only meeting two out of three criteria points, the United States failed to support African countries in their removal of legal barriers against women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Danielle Maragh

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa through the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 12 November 2019, the European Investment Bank announced a new initiative called SheInvest.⁹⁶⁷ The initiative aims to mobilize EUR1 billion of investment and increase women's economic participation in countries across the African continent.⁹⁶⁸ SheInvest plans to organize efforts to invest in projects that increase the capacity of women to participate in the economy and it will provide monitoring to women entrepreneurs so they can better access finance.⁹⁶⁹ It will also focus on investment in digital solutions and financial products to help women reach important business services.⁹⁷⁰

⁹⁶⁴ What is USAID's W-GDP Initiative Fund that recently increases its Funding to \$100 million for New Partnerships?, FundsforNGOs Grants and resources for Sustainability (United States) Access Date: 8 December. 2019. <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/featured/what-is-usaids-w-gdp-initiative-fund-that-recently-increased-its-funding-to-100-million-for-new-partnerships/>

⁹⁶⁵ Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, The White House (Washington, D.C.) Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wgdp/>

⁹⁶⁶ What is USAID's W-GDP Initiative Fund that recently increases its Funding to \$100 million for New Partnerships?, FundsforNGOs Grants and resources for Sustainability (United States) Access Date: 8 December. 2019. <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/featured/what-is-usaids-w-gdp-initiative-fund-that-recently-increased-its-funding-to-100-million-for-new-partnerships/>

⁹⁶⁷ SheInvest - new initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Johannesburg and Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019.

⁹⁶⁸ Africa Investment Forum 2019: Billion dollar boost for African female entrepreneurs, African Development Bank Group (Johannesburg and Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019.

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africa-investment-forum-2019-billion-dollar-boost-african-female-entrepreneurs-32626>

⁹⁶⁹ SheInvest - new initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Johannesburg and Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

⁹⁷⁰ SheInvest - new initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Johannesburg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

On 19 December, 2019, the European Investment Bank issued a loan of more than EUR10 million for the Women's World Banking Capital Partners II Fund.⁹⁷¹ This fund aims to reduce regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment by increasing financial inclusion in emerging markets in Sub-Saharan Africa and reducing the gender gap.⁹⁷² The fund aims to allow women who have been financially excluded or underserved the opportunity to access a broad range of financial services which will help them grow their businesses.⁹⁷³

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship and economic participation in Africa by launching the SheInvest initiative and financing the Women's World Banking Capital Partners II Fund. These initiatives have helped the EU take action in fulfilling their promise to help remove social and regulatory barriers to women's entrepreneurship in Africa. However, the EU has failed to address the legal barriers to women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

Thus, the EU receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nivaal Rehman

⁹⁷¹ Womens World Banking Capital Partners II Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: Monday April 7 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/all/20180557>

⁹⁷² Womens World Banking Capital Partners II Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: Monday April 7 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/all/20180557>

⁹⁷³ Womens World Banking Capital Partners II Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: Monday April 7 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/all/20180557>