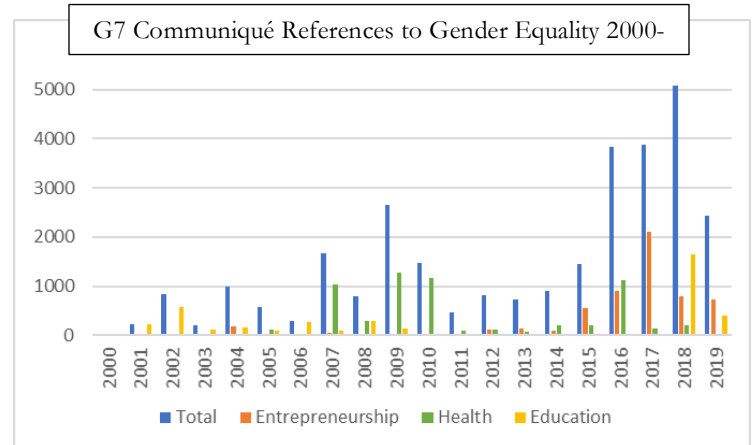


# G7 Governance of Gender Equality and Women's Entrepreneurship

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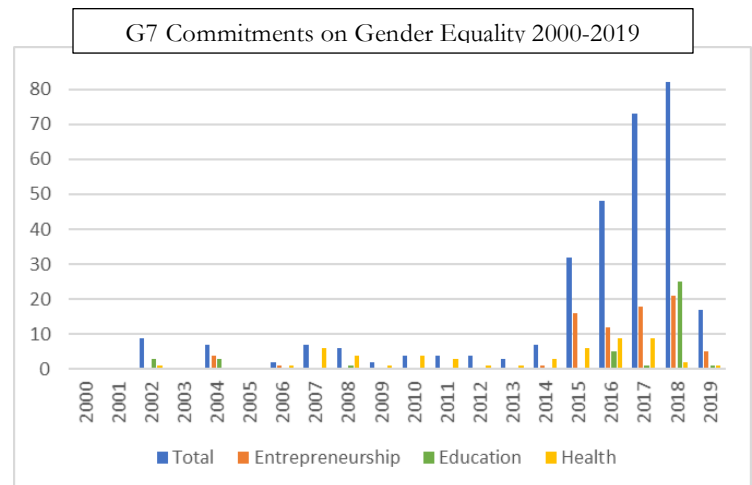
## References to gender equality in G7 summit communiqués

- The G7 began addressing issues related to gender equality and the advancement of women in 1996 with sustained attention since 2001.
- References were largely made on improving girls' education in Africa and on women's health.
- The 2018 summit in Charlevoix, Canada, produced the most dramatic rise in attention to gender equality.
- Support for female entrepreneurship first appeared in 2004 at the Sea Island Summit in the United States, which recognized the importance of expanding access to microfinance.
- The 2017 summit in Taormina, Italy, produced the most attention to female entrepreneurship. It included a separate section titled *G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment*.



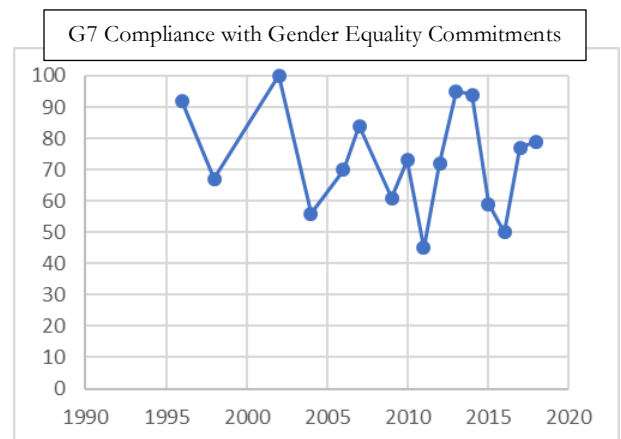
## G7 actionable commitments to achieve gender equality

- References to gender equality did not produce a significant number of action-oriented commitments until 2015.
- The 2015 summit at Schloss Elmau, Germany, hosted by Chancellor Angela Merkel, paid particular attention to women's economic empowerment.
- It made commitments to promote women's access to finance, markets, skills, leadership opportunities and networks; to reduce the gender gap in the workforce by 25% by 2025; and to increase the number of female students in science, technology, engineering and medicine and to broaden the participation of women in research, engineering and entrepreneurial careers.



## G7 compliance with commitments to achieve gender equality

- The average compliance of G7 members with their gender equality commitments is 73%, just below the average of 75% for all commitments.
- Among G7 members, the highest compliers are Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union. The lowest compliers are Italy and Japan.
- Commitments related to women's health are most complied with.



**At the 2017 summit in Taormina, Italy, G7 members committed to: “take sustainable measures at the appropriate level to provide training, mentoring and networking opportunities that specifically address the capacity-building needs of women entrepreneurs by 2020.”**

**The following are a selection of actions taken by G7 members during the compliance period of 27 May 2017 to 7 June 2018:<sup>1</sup>**

**Canada:**

- On 8 July 2017, Canada announced that it would give CAD20 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi). We-Fi, led by the World Bank, will aim to help women-led and -owned businesses in developing countries access the resources they may need, such as financial or technical assistance.

**France:**

- On 5 March 2018, France launched its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Entrepreneurship Week. Women entrepreneurs were invited to share their experiences in educational establishments across France.

**Germany:**

- On 2 May 2018, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG) said it would provide USD20 million in long-term financing to Vietnam to promote women entrepreneurs. The funding was part of a USD150 million financing package created by the International Finance Corporation, which is part of the World Bank Group. Up to 70% of the funding would go towards refinancing loans to small and medium-sized enterprises, of which at least a third are women owned.

**Italy:**

- On 31 August 2017, the Campaign on Women’s Entrepreneurship was launched. This campaign supports women’s entrepreneurship and self-employment by promoting available resources within the Department for Equal Opportunities.

**Japan:**

- On 8 July 2017, Japan announced that it would give USD50 million to We-Fi.

**United Kingdom:**

- On 8 July 2017, the United Kingdom announced that it would give USD10 million to We-Fi.

**United States:**

- On 8 July 2017, the United States announced that it would give USD50 million to We-Fi.

**European Union:**

- On 8 March 2018, the European Union announced that it would increase the participation of women entrepreneurs in the digital sector through the strategy *Women in Digital*. The actions would primarily focus on three different areas, including challenging stereotypes women face, promoting digital skills and education and advocating for women entrepreneurs.

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<sup>1</sup> Compliance assessed by Isabel Davis, G7 Research Group, February 2020.