

# 11. Education: Gender Disparities [205]

## Commitment

“We regret that interim targets related to eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education have not been achieved. Greater concerted action by all will be needed to fulfill these key goals by 2015. We reaffirm our commitments in this regard.”

*Education for Innovative Society in the 21st Century*<sup>487</sup>

## Background

This commitment relates to the UN’s Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of eliminating gender disparity in education by the year 2015.<sup>492</sup> This goal has been tackled primarily by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through their Education for All Campaign geared towards the provision of universal primary education by the year 2015.<sup>493</sup> The Campaign’s Fast Track Initiative is a partnership between developed and developing nations with the goal of funding provision for gender equity in education.<sup>494</sup> As per the Director General of UNESCO’s press release concerning his presence at the G8’s St. Petersburg summit, the Education for All program requires an increase in financial aid by the order of \$12 billion per year, greater priority to be given to the most needy nations, more predictable distribution of aid amounts over time, and innovation in the provision of educational services. Commitment standards are therefore relative to the needs of the Education for All campaign as stated by the Director General. The current budget for the Education for All’s Fast-Track Initiative totals \$57.5 million, \$31.5 million of which represents future monetary donations until the year 2008.<sup>495</sup> Donations to the Initiative have more than doubled over the past year and financial disbursements are projected to improve drastically over the upcoming months to programs throughout the developing world for the development of equal and universal opportunities for education amongst children, youth, and adults.<sup>496</sup> It is estimated, however, that a financing gap of \$513 million US for education programs existed in 2006, and that this gap will rise to \$644 million US in 2007 and \$752

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## Assessment

Interim Compliance Score			
	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Russia		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
<b>Overall</b>			<b>+0.33</b>

### Canada: +1

The Government of Canada demonstrated a high degree of compliance to its commitment to facilitate gender equity in education at the St. Petersburg G8 summit where the country pledged \$25 million to the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI).<sup>498</sup> The Canadian Government has exhibited compliance through verbal re-iterations of the commitment and increases in both

<sup>487</sup> Education for Innovative Societies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, G8 Russia (St. Petersburg) 16 July 2006. Date of access 14 January 2007. [en.g8russia.ru/docs/12.html](http://en.g8russia.ru/docs/12.html)

bilateral monetary donations and donations to the Education for All Program itself. On 8 September 2006 the CIDA Gender Equity Support Programme contributed \$26,225.70 to send 80 young female students to the Youth Employment Summit in Nairobi to promote equal hiring practices and equality of opportunity between genders.<sup>499</sup> On 17 September 2006 Canada released a joint statement with the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the UK reaffirming the need for the Fast Track Initiative and for long term and predictable financing.<sup>500</sup> Canada's Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty, released a statement to the Development Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and IMF on 18 September 2006, reaffirming commitment to increased financial aid to the EFA-FTI.<sup>501</sup> On 18 September 2006 on behalf of Antigua, Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Flaherty promised an increase in bilateral funding to invest in education from \$100 million to \$150 million per year between 2006 and 2010 and re-affirmed the nation's commitment of \$46 million to the EFA through its bilateral aid program.<sup>502</sup> The Canadian International Development Agency's budget for 2006-2007 has reserved 9.5% of the total aid budget for basic education and has issued a statement committing to making gender equity a key focus in all program areas.<sup>503</sup> From 9-10 October 2006 Canada attended the FTI Technical meeting in Brussels, Belgium.<sup>504</sup> Since the G8 meeting in St. Petersburg, Canada has joined the EFA's Catalytic Fund aimed at complementing other donor instruments to impoverished nations, and has since donated US\$ 20 million to the fund.<sup>505</sup> On 8 November 2006 Canada contributed financially to an \$80 million World Bank Project facilitating equitable access to education in Kenya with the aim of increasing elementary school enrollment to 100% by the year 2010.<sup>506</sup> On 1 January 2007 Canada pledged a contribution of \$1.75 million to aid women's maternal health and education in Northern Afghanistan through UNICEF, also a Fast Track Initiative donor, \$1.4 million of which will be devoted primarily to women's education programs.<sup>507</sup> The FTI's 2006 *Status Report* Canada listed Canada as one of the five country donors who account for over two-thirds of total bilateral aid towards basic education.<sup>508</sup>

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## **France: +1**

The Government of France demonstrated a high level of compliance with the St. Petersburg commitment to eliminate gender disparities in education, through its support of the FTI, its commitment to find solutions to end gender disparities, and its provision of bilateral aid to FTI-endorsed national education programs. At the Sixth Meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All held in Cairo in November 2006, the French government announced that it would increase its funding for the FTI by EUR20 million over three years.<sup>488</sup> At the meeting, the French government reconfirmed its commitment to eliminate gender disparities when it participated in endorsing the meeting's final communiqué which committed the meeting's participants to initiate "more targeted efforts to remove barriers to girls' access to school."<sup>489</sup> Following up on this commitment, on 23 November 2006, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted, along with UNESCO, a roundtable to discuss violence against girls in school and how it should be addressed. The objective of the roundtable was to spread awareness of the issue and identify best practices for addressing it.<sup>490</sup>

The French government has also indirectly supported the commitment to eliminate gender disparities in education through its provision of bilateral aid to FTI-endorsed national education programs. In August and September 2006, the French Development Agency (AFD) approved two programs in support of the government of Burkina Faso's Ten-Year Plan for Basic Education Development (PDDEB). In the context of pursuing the EFA goals, one of the objectives of both programs, with funding valued at EUR16.5 million<sup>491</sup> and EUR10 million<sup>492</sup> respectively, is to increase girls' access to education in rural areas through public awareness campaigns. On 19 July 2006, the AFD approved a EUR650,000

<sup>488</sup> Annual meeting of the high-level group on Education for All, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Paris), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2007. [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities\\_1/education-university\\_2274/events\\_3315/annual-meeting-of-the-high-level-group-on-education-for-all-efa-2006\\_7501.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/education-university_2274/events_3315/annual-meeting-of-the-high-level-group-on-education-for-all-efa-2006_7501.html).

<sup>489</sup> Final Communiqué – Sixth Meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All, UNESCO, (Cairo), 16 November 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2007. p 2. [www.unesco.org/education/HLG2006/Communique22Nov.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/education/HLG2006/Communique22Nov.pdf).

<sup>490</sup> School Related Gender-Based Violence In the Context of Education for All: Role and Responsibility of Stakeholders, UNESCO, (Paris), 23 November 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2007. [www.unesco.org/education/HLG2006/Background23%20nov.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/education/HLG2006/Background23%20nov.pdf).

<sup>491</sup> PDDEB (EX-FSP), Agence Française de Développement, (Paris), 21 August 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2007. [www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/NosProjets/accessecteur?secteur=EDUC&srcpage=lstsect&projet=465](http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/NosProjets/accessecteur?secteur=EDUC&srcpage=lstsect&projet=465).

<sup>492</sup> PDDEB-EPT, Agence Française de Développement, (Paris), 1 September 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2007. [www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/NosProjets/accessecteur?secteur=EDUC&srcpage=lstsect&projet=468](http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/NosProjets/accessecteur?secteur=EDUC&srcpage=lstsect&projet=468).

project to assist in the reform of the education system of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. This project will assist in financing the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's National Program for the Development of the Education System (PNDSE), which is being funded by the FTI, and will contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>493</sup>

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## **Germany: 0**

Germany registered partial compliance with its St. Petersburg commitment to eradicating gender disparity in education. While the German Government has participated in a wide range of programs targeting gender disparities in education, it remains low on the list of financial contributors to the FTI and EFA campaigns. In 2006, along with many other donor nations, Germany promised to help Guinea, Honduras, Mozambique, and Tajikistan fund FTI programs in their countries before 2007 though the exact amount of promised funding is not listed in the Fast Track Initiative's November 2006 *Status Report*.<sup>494</sup> Germany also reiterated its commitment to eradicating gender disparity in education by its reaffirmation of this commitment through policy, and Germany has declared that its goal is to expand access and improve the quality of education for all.<sup>495</sup> On 18 September 2006, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul reaffirmed Germany's support for gender equity in education and the EFA-FTI pledging to double the country's financial donations to EUR120 million by 2007.<sup>496</sup> Between 9-10 October 2006, Germany attended the FTI Technical meeting in Brussels, Belgium.<sup>497</sup> Germany sent a large delegation to the Cairo Conference on 12 November 2006 where it reiterated its support to the FTI<sup>498</sup> and led an update for the Capacity Development Task Team.<sup>499</sup> At the Cairo conference Germany did not, however, commit donations to the Catalytic Fund, a supplemental source of money for the FTI.<sup>500</sup> Though the German government has pledged financial donations to the FTI and EFA campaigns donations remain less than 0.002 percent of the nation's gross domestic product and remains relatively low on the list of financial contributors to the initiative.<sup>501</sup>

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## **Italy: 0**

Italy registered partial compliance with the St. Petersburg commitment to combat gender disparity in education because of its lack of budgetary commitment to the EFA-FTI and the Catalytic Fund. As of 7 September 2006, however, Italy pledged financial aid to Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Albania, all of which are attempting to adopt the FTI.<sup>502</sup> The 2006 Global Campaign for Education labeled Italy as one of the least compliant G8 countries in terms of its FTI donations.<sup>503</sup> In 2003, the Catalytic Fund was

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<sup>493</sup> ARSEM, Agence Française de Développement, (Paris), 19 July 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2006.

[www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/NosProjets/accessecteur/lang/en?secteur=EDUC&srcpage=lstsect&projet=427](http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/NosProjets/accessecteur/lang/en?secteur=EDUC&srcpage=lstsect&projet=427).

<sup>494</sup> Education for All Fast-Track Initiative Status Report (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 13-14 November 2006 [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/FTIStatusReportNov2006.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/FTIStatusReportNov2006.pdf).

<sup>495</sup> Germany's Contribution to the FTI: German Federal Ministry of Economics and Development, Date of Access: 16 November, 2006. [www.bmz.de/en/issues/Education/engagement/formaleGrundbildung/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/issues/Education/engagement/formaleGrundbildung/index.html).

<sup>496</sup> Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries. Seventy-Fourth Meeting, Statement by Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany, (Singapore), 18 September 2006 [siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21056145/DCS2006-0050-Germany.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21056145/DCS2006-0050-Germany.pdf).

<sup>497</sup> FTI Technical Meeting. (Brussels) 9 October 2006. Date of Access: 2 January, 2006. See: [www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Brussels/Participants.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Brussels/Participants.pdf)

<sup>498</sup> Education for All Fast Track Initiative 4<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting, The World Bank, (Cairo), 14 November, 2006. Date of Access: 28 December, 2006. [www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/List\\_of\\_Participants.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/List_of_Participants.pdf)

<sup>499</sup> 4th Partnership Meeting "Presentations," (Cairo), 13-14 November 2006 Date of Access: 15 January 2006 [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/Cairomeeting.asp](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/Cairomeeting.asp).

<sup>500</sup> Education for All-Fast Track Initiative: Accelerating progress towards quality universal primary education, The World Bank, (Cairo), 12 November, 2006. Date of Access: 20 December, 2006. [www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo\\_Status\\_Report\\_Nov06.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo_Status_Report_Nov06.pdf).

<sup>501</sup> Education for All Fast-Track Initiative Status Report (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 13-14 November 2006 [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/FTIStatusReportNov2006.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/FTIStatusReportNov2006.pdf).

<sup>502</sup> Progress Report for the Education Fast Track for All Initiative, International Monetary Fund and World Bank, 7 September 2006, Date of Access: 4 November, 2006. [siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21046513/DC2006-0015\(E\)-Education.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21046513/DC2006-0015(E)-Education.pdf).

<sup>503</sup> Underachievers A School Report on Rich Countries' Contribution to Universal Primary Education by 2015. Global Campaign for Education report, (Saxonworld), 2006. Date of Access: 20 November, 2006. <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/resources/Sep2006/Report%20Text.pdf>.

created to provide a supplement to FTI programs<sup>504</sup> and Italy has since contributed 4.8 million dollars, a small amount compared to its fellow G8 members the United States and the United Kingdom.<sup>505</sup> As of 12 November 2006, Italy had donated USD1.2 million to the FTI's Catalytic Fund, a 50% decrease in funding from 2005,<sup>506</sup> and no donation plan to the Catalytic Fund currently exists for 2007.<sup>507</sup> On 12 November 2006, Italy sent a delegation to the Cairo Conference, a meeting in which all members of the EFA program and the FTI congregated to discuss the goal of abolishing gender disparity in education by 2015.<sup>508</sup> For these reasons, Italy receives a "0" compliance score.

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## **Japan: 0**

Japan registered partial compliance with the St. Petersburg commitment to work towards eliminating gender disparities in education through its consistent political support for the EFA and FTI agenda. However, Japan has not increased its development assistance for education. Japan's strategy to support basic education in developing countries, called Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN), incorporates the EFA goals in its policies, and one of its priority areas is "assistance for elimination of gender disparities (girl's education)."<sup>509</sup> According to the FTI's 2006 *Status Report* released 7 September 2006, Japan has joined with several other nations to support initiatives for universal and equitable education programs in Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Yemen, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua, Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, Mali, and Rwanda although Japan's financial contribution is unclear.<sup>510</sup> Japan remains one of the lowest on the list of donor nations to the Fast-Track initiative.<sup>511</sup> The FTI September 2006 *Status Report* also contradictorily lists Japan as among one of the five nations responsible for over two-thirds of total bilateral aid towards basic education.<sup>512</sup>

According to the World Bank's Data Report 2006 on education in Africa, Japan needs to increase its development assistance to primary education in Africa from its 2004 level of US\$70 million to a total of US\$276 million in 2006 for the G8 goal of universal primary education in Africa to be achieved.<sup>513</sup> Japan's ODA (Official Development Assistance) general account budget from September 2006 shows that the contributions to the United Nations agencies decreased by 3.1% from 2005 to 2006. However, the amount of requested contributions has increased by 36.8% in the government draft proposal for 2007 and it remains to be seen if the increase will appear in the nation's next official budget plan.<sup>514</sup> The FTI's *Catalytic Fund Status Report*, released 12 November 2006, cites that Japan has yet to contribute financially to the Catalytic Fund, the main multi-donor trust fund of the EFA-FTI.<sup>515</sup>

*Analyst: Frida Wallin*

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<sup>504</sup> Education for All-Fast Track Initiative: Accelerating progress towards quality universal primary education. The World Bank, 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 20 December, 2006.

<sup>505</sup> Education for All-Fast Track Initiative: Accelerating progress towards quality universal primary education. The World Bank, (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 20 December, 2006.

<sup>506</sup> Education for All-Fast Track Initiative: Accelerating progress towards quality universal primary education. The World Bank, (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 20 December, 2006.

<sup>507</sup> Education for All-Fast Track Initiative: Accelerating progress towards quality universal primary education. The World Bank, (Cairo), 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 20 December, 2006.

<sup>508</sup> Education for All Fast Track Initiative 4th Partnership Meeting, Cairo November 13-14 2006, List of Participants. The World Bank, (Cairo) 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 20 December, 2006.

<sup>509</sup> Supporting the Joy of Learning- Japan's Support for Education, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. March 2006. Date of Access: 10 November 2006. [www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/category/education/support0603.pdf](http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/category/education/support0603.pdf).

<sup>510</sup> Education for All Fast-Track Initiative Status Report (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 13-14 November 2006

<sup>511</sup> Education for All Fast-Track Initiative Status Report (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 13-14 November 2006

<sup>512</sup> Education for All Fast-Track Initiative Status Report (Cairo) 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 13-14 November 2006

<sup>513</sup> The Data Report 2006-Education, The World Bank, November 2006. Date of Access: 16 December 2006.

<sup>514</sup> Japan's ODA General Account Budget, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. September 2006. Date of Access: 10 November 2006. [www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/budget/2007-3.pdf](http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/budget/2007-3.pdf).

<sup>515</sup> Education For All- Fast Track Initiative, FTI Catalytic Fund Status Report, (Cairo), 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 15 December 2006. [www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo\\_Status\\_Report\\_Nov06.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo_Status_Report_Nov06.pdf).

## Russia: 0

The government of Russia has partially complied with its St. Petersburg commitment to eliminate gender disparities in education, through its support of the FTI, its efforts to improve the quality of basic education, and its contribution of new funds to support education in the developing world.

Since the St. Petersburg Summit, Russia has participated in several forums dedicated to advancing the EFA agenda. In October 2006, Russia attended the FTI Technical Meeting in Brussels as one of the co-chairs and as a member of both the FTI Steering Committee<sup>516</sup> and the FTI Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee.<sup>517</sup> In November 2006, Russia attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EFA-FTI Partnership in Cairo as a Donor Partner.<sup>518</sup> At the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EFA-FTI Partnership, Russia took the lead on two proposals. First, Russia led a discussion on a proposal to create a Quality Development Task Team.<sup>519</sup> The objective of the proposed Task Team is to develop methods and indicators of quality assessment of learning outcomes in basic education towards improving the quality of basic education.<sup>520</sup> Second, Russia put forward its proposal for the Basic Education Quality Improvement Program (BEQIP). The objective of BEQIP is to increase the quality of learning outcomes by developing national capacity in quality education assessment and by developing content and methods of teaching according to assessment results.<sup>521</sup> Part of the program will involve the establishment of an International Support for Education Development (ISED) Centre in Russia. The BEQIP, which is a Russian contribution to the Fast Track Initiative,<sup>522</sup> is expected to cost USD67.8 million and will be implemented over the period 2007-2010.<sup>523</sup> It is unclear, however, as to how much of the total cost of the program will actually be funded by Russia. Russia's activity in participating in FTI meetings and advocating policy initiatives has also been accompanied by new financial commitments to foster education in the developing world. On 16 September 2006, Russia's Finance Minister, Alexei Kudrin, announced that Russia will allocate USD60 million to foster education in "the poorest countries". Russia's initiative in this regard will focus on the issue of improving the quality of education.<sup>524</sup>

Russia as the new member of Catalytic Fund has demonstrated the great loyalty to the commitment of elimination gender disparities in education. As the member of Catalytic Fund Russian government continues to finance FTI programs. It paid USD1 million by November 2006 and plans to invest USD2 million in 2007 and up to USD4 million in total by 2008<sup>525</sup>. Due to its increased contribution to international aid (up to USD500 million in federal budget-2007<sup>526</sup>), of which a portion is designated for educational programs, the Russian government made an effort to comply with this commitment. However, when examining the funds given in absolute figures, Russia's contribution is insufficient relative to other donors.<sup>527</sup>

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<sup>516</sup> Minutes from the FTI Technical Meeting, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Brussels), 10 October 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 11. [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Brussels/Brussels\\_Minutes.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Brussels/Brussels_Minutes.pdf).

<sup>517</sup> FTI Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee - Minutes of the Meeting of October 10, 2006, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Brussels), 10 October 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 1.

[www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/CF\\_minutes\\_Oct102006.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/CF_minutes_Oct102006.pdf).

<sup>518</sup> EFA-FTI 4<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting – List of Participants, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Cairo), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 7 [http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/List\\_of\\_Participants.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/List_of_Participants.pdf).

<sup>519</sup> EFA-FTI 4<sup>th</sup> Partnership Meeting – Agenda, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Cairo), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 2 [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/Agenda.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/Agenda.pdf).

<sup>520</sup> Proposal for Quality Development Task Team in EFA-FTI, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Cairo), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 2. [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/Quality\\_taskteam\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/Quality_taskteam_proposal.pdf).

<sup>521</sup> Concept of the Program to Improve the Quality of Basic Education in CIS and African Countries, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Cairo), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 1

[www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/ConceptNote\\_ImprovingQuality.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/ConceptNote_ImprovingQuality.pdf).

<sup>522</sup> Concept of the Program to Improve the Quality of Basic Education in CIS and African Countries, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Cairo), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 1

[www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/ConceptNote\\_ImprovingQuality.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/ConceptNote_ImprovingQuality.pdf).

<sup>523</sup> Concept of the Program to Improve the Quality of Basic Education in CIS and African Countries, EFA-FTI Secretariat (Cairo), 14 November 2006. Date of Access: 1 January 2007. pg. 4.

[www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/ConceptNote\\_ImprovingQuality.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Cairo/ConceptNote_ImprovingQuality.pdf).

<sup>524</sup> Russia to allocate \$60 million to foster education in the poorest nations, Official Website of the G8 Presidency of the Russian Federation in 2006 (St. Petersburg), 16 September 2006. Date of Access: 2 January 2006. [en.g8russia.ru/news/20060916/1260427.html](http://en.g8russia.ru/news/20060916/1260427.html).

<sup>525</sup> EFA-FTI Status Report, 12 November 2006. Date of access: 24 December 2006.

[www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo\\_Status\\_Report\\_Nov06.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo_Status_Report_Nov06.pdf).

<sup>526</sup> Russian information agency RIAN, 20 November, 2006. Date of Access: 29 December 2006

[www.rian.ru/politics/foreign/20061120/55800127.html](http://www.rian.ru/politics/foreign/20061120/55800127.html)

<sup>527</sup> EFA-FTI Status Report, 12 November 2006. Date of access: 24 December 2006.

[www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo\\_Status\\_Report\\_Nov06.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efafti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo_Status_Report_Nov06.pdf).

## United Kingdom: + 1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its St. Petersburg education qualification systems commitment. Since the summit, the UK government has demonstrated a high level of support towards the EFA and FTI through its policy developments and financial contributions. The UK has also explicitly mentioned gender equity in education as a primary and driving policy goal. In September 2006, Mozambique was promised GBP150 million over the span of 10 years,<sup>528</sup> and Bangladesh a sum of GBP100 million over six years to support education initiatives.<sup>529</sup> The UK government has extended efforts to monitor the effectiveness of their ongoing EFA-FTI contributions, as demonstrated by the execution of monthly progress updates regarding the Gleneagles Implementation Plan for Africa.<sup>530</sup> The UK's commitment to the EFA-FTI and gender equality were reflected in its contributions at the October EFA-FTI Technical meeting where it was decided that the Catalytic Fund be expanded, and the UNESCO High Level Group on the EFA in November where the British delegation was critical in scrutinizing current forms of resource mobilization.<sup>531</sup> This Catalytic Fund increase prompted the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for International Development to later pledge at a meeting with the World Bank, to increase the UK's contribution to the Fund by GBP100 million.<sup>532</sup> The UK has also engaged with the World Bank, the Netherlands, and France "in developing joint instruments and to ensure overall harmonization" of their EFA-FTI gender programs.<sup>533, 534</sup> Furthermore, explicit references to the importance of gender equality in education are made in various DFID country plan documents. For example, gender equity is listed as a primary ambition in its programming with Ethiopia. The UK Government also pledged GBP7 million over a period of three years towards this specific goal in Nigeria.<sup>535</sup>

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## United States: 0

The United States demonstrated moderate compliance with its St. Petersburg commitment to eliminating gender disparities in education by 2015. Although the US Government demonstrates a focus on gender equality in education, financial contributions fall short of commitments made during previous years. In August 2006, the US government allocated USD18.5 million to Tajikistan through the auspices of the EFA-FTI program and provided for the training of around 3,000 teachers.<sup>536</sup> This contribution operated in tandem with a specifically designed program by USAID entitled "Basic Education, Especially for Women and Girls" which was in full operation in Yemen during the latter half of 2006.<sup>537</sup> The US Government supported India's EFA program in late 2006 through the provision of 23 grants to various Indian NGOs and the training of approximately 160,000 teachers.<sup>538</sup> USAID reaffirmed its commitment towards gender equality within education, stating that "It is particularly through the education of girls that countries accrue a wide range of benefits, including improved health and survival rates of infants and children, reduced rates of fertility, and greater use of modern contraceptive methods" as stated in the USAID's proposed budget for 2007.<sup>539</sup> Despite noteworthy

<sup>528</sup> DFID and the G8 Presidency 2005, Department for International Development, (London), Date of Access: 27 December, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/milestones.asp](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/milestones.asp).

<sup>529</sup> Government announces new commitment to education for all in Bangladesh, HM Treasury, (London), 30 September 2006. Date of Access: 4 February 2007. [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom\\_and\\_speeches/press/2006/press\\_70\\_06.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2006/press_70_06.cfm)

<sup>530</sup> DFID and the G8 Presidency 2005, Department for International Development, (London), Date of Access: 27 December, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/milestones.asp](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/milestones.asp).

<sup>531</sup> DFID and the G8 Presidency 2005, Department for International Development, (London), Date of Access: 27 December, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/milestones.asp](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/milestones.asp)

<sup>532</sup> Who DFID Works With: The World Bank, Department for International Development, (London), Date of Access: 24 November, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/about/dfid/dfidwork/wbandimf.asp](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/about/dfid/dfidwork/wbandimf.asp).

<sup>533</sup> DFID Ethiopia Country Assistance Plan 2006-10, Consultation Draft, (London). Date of Access: 24 November, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/cap-ethiopia-draft.pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/cap-ethiopia-draft.pdf).

<sup>534</sup> Country Profiles: Africa, Niger, Department for International Development, (London), Date of Access: 24 November, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/cap-ethiopia-draft.pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/cap-ethiopia-draft.pdf).

<sup>535</sup> DFID Ethiopia Country Assistance Plan 2006-10, Consultation Draft, (London). Date of Access: 24 November, 2006. [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/cap-ethiopia-draft.pdf](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/cap-ethiopia-draft.pdf)

<sup>536</sup> USAID Prepares Teacher Trainers for the Fast Track, USAID: Europe and Eurasia, USAID, (Washington), Date of Access: 24 November 2006, [www.usaid.gov/locations/%20europe\\_eurasia/press/success/2006-10-15.html](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/%20europe_eurasia/press/success/2006-10-15.html).

<sup>537</sup> Summary of FY 2007 Budget and Program Overview, USAID, USAID Mission: Yemen, (Washington), Date of Access: 24 November 2006. [www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2007/ane/pdf/ye\\_complete.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2007/ane/pdf/ye_complete.pdf).

<sup>538</sup> USAID Mission: Yemen, (Washington), Date of Access: 24 November 2006. [www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2007/ane/pdf/in\\_386-017.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2007/ane/pdf/in_386-017.pdf).

<sup>539</sup> Summary of FY 2007 Budget and Program Overview, USAID, (Washington), Date of Access: 24 November 2006, Date of Access: 24 November 2006, [www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2007/summary.html](http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2007/summary.html).

bilateral financial contributions and written reaffirmations of the US's commitment to the EFA-FTI program, there remains no evidence of USD65 million being granted to African FTI recipients for the purposes of defraying school fee barriers as promised in 2005.<sup>540</sup> There is little evidence that the US government has contributed directly to the Catalytic fund or participated in the development of the EFA-FTI program.

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## **European Union: 0**

The European Union has undertaken significant actions to comply with its St. Petersburg commitment to promoting gender equality in education. However, it cannot receive a score of full compliance because it has undertaken few efforts since the St. Petersburg Summit. Significantly, the EU has become a major donor to the Catalytic Fund, which is the main multi-donor trust fund in support of the EFA-FTI.<sup>541</sup> Since the FTI Meetings in March 2006 the EU contributed USD80 million to the Catalytic Fund. EU for grants to Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries has been established and the EU will pay its contribution to the Catalytic Fund in three stages until 2008.<sup>542</sup> This is, however, a fulfillment of a pledge made before March 2006.<sup>543</sup> The EU is committed as one of the co-chairs of the FTI until June 2007.<sup>544</sup>

In St. Petersburg, the EU strongly emphasized the importance of girls' education in poverty reduction and sustainable development.<sup>545</sup> In a 20 December 2005 joint statement, representatives of EU member states, the European Parliament and the European Commission all declared their commitment to gender equality by promising to include "a strong gender component in all its [the EU's] policies and practices in its relations with developing countries."<sup>546</sup> The EU is the second-biggest multilateral donor for education and its support is in the form of grants.<sup>547</sup> According to an November 2006 UNESCO report on EFA, the EU allocates greater shares of its education aid to sub-Saharan Africa and to basic education than do donors overall.<sup>548</sup> The report, however, is based on figures and analyses updated in June 2006.

*Analyst: Frida Wallin*

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<sup>540</sup> Points for Mr. Schieck, Session IV: Resource Mobilization and Aid Effectiveness, Addresses and Presentations, 2005, (Washington), Date of Access: 27 December 2006.

[www.unesco.org/education/efa/global\\_co/policy\\_group/HLG5\\_presentations/SessionIV/USAID.doc](http://www.unesco.org/education/efa/global_co/policy_group/HLG5_presentations/SessionIV/USAID.doc).

<sup>541</sup> Education for All- Fast Track Initiative, FTI Catalytic Fund Status Report, World Bank, (Cairo), 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 15 November 2006.

[www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo\\_Status\\_Report\\_Nov06.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo_Status_Report_Nov06.pdf).

<sup>542</sup> Education for All- Fast Track Initiative, FTI Catalytic Fund Status Report, World Bank, (Cairo), 12 November 2006. Date of Access: 15 November 2006.

[www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo\\_Status\\_Report\\_Nov06.pdf](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/documents/Catalytic%20Fund/Cairo_Status_Report_Nov06.pdf).

<sup>543</sup> Education for All- Fast Track Initiative, FTI Catalytic Fund Status Report, World Bank, (Moscow), 13 March 2006. Date of Access: 26 January 2006. [www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efaiti/documents/Moscow/Catalytic\\_Fund\\_Status\\_Update.pdf](http://www.fasttrackinitiative.org/education/efaiti/documents/Moscow/Catalytic_Fund_Status_Update.pdf)

<sup>544</sup> 4th Partnership Meeting, World Bank, (Cairo), 13-14 November 2006. Date of Access: 15 December 2006.

[www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/Cairomeeting.asp](http://www1.worldbank.org/education/efaiti/Cairomeeting.asp)

<sup>545</sup> Education at the G8 Summit: the EC position, European Commission, (St. Petersburg), 15-17 July 2006. Date of Access: 11 November 2006. [europa.eu/press\\_room/presspacks/g820060715/factsheet\\_g8-education\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/press_room/presspacks/g820060715/factsheet_g8-education_en.pdf).

<sup>546</sup> The European Consensus on Development, European Commission, (Brussels), 20 December 2005. Date of Access: 15 December 2006. [ec.europa.eu/development/body/development\\_policy\\_statement/docs/edp\\_declaration\\_signed\\_20\\_12\\_2005\\_en.pdf#zoom=125](http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/development_policy_statement/docs/edp_declaration_signed_20_12_2005_en.pdf#zoom=125).

<sup>547</sup> EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007, UNESCO, November 2006. Date of Access: 15 November 2006. [unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf).

<sup>548</sup> EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007, UNESCO, November 2006. Date of Access: 15 November 2006. [unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794e.pdf).