

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

## 2018 Charlevoix G7 Final Compliance Report

10 June 2018 — 25 July 2019

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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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## 9. Gender: Development Finance

“Supporting development finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhance economic opportunities for women.”

*G7 Charlevoix Leaders’ Communiqué*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States of America			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50	

### Background

There have been many commitments made at G7 summits aimed at promoting women’s rights as well as women’s economic and employment equality.<sup>2161</sup> Addressing gender equality first came on the G7 agenda at the 2010 Muskoka Summit, where members committed to addressing gender inequality for women and girls in education.<sup>2162</sup> Gender equality went off the summit agenda until the 2014 Brussels summit. On 5 June 2014, G7 leaders stated that employment and participation of women was a priority within the ambitious and comprehensive growth strategies in the global economy with the goal to create a resilient economy.<sup>2163</sup> The feature was a component of the overall strategy and growth plan to enhance the economy.<sup>2164</sup>

At the Schloss Elmau Summit, on 8 June 2015, the G7 countries committed to supporting women’s entrepreneurship.<sup>2165</sup> The G7 leaders highlighted the strength of women’s entrepreneurship as a driver in innovation, growth, and jobs.<sup>2166</sup> Such strength was being limited by the barriers facing women in starting and growing businesses.<sup>2167</sup> This included “mak[ing] girls and women aware of the possibility of becoming entrepreneurs.”<sup>2168</sup> Leaders further stated: “we will address the specific needs

<sup>2161</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2162</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Date of access: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>2163</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2164</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2165</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2166</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2167</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2168</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

of women entrepreneurs, e.g. by promoting their access to finance, markets, skills, leadership opportunities, and networks.”<sup>2169</sup>

Gender equality and women’s empowerment was highlighted under Japan’s presidency at the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit.<sup>2170</sup> On 27 May 2016, the G7 leaders committed to “create a society where all women and girls are empowered and actively engage for sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth.”<sup>2171</sup> The commitment also pledged to “empower women and girls, including through capacity-building such as education and training as well as promoting the active role of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.”<sup>2172</sup> The *G7 Guiding Principles for Building the Capacity of Women and Girls* were created.<sup>2173</sup>

Attention to gender equality continued at the 2017 G7 Taormina Summit. On 27 May 2017, the G7 leaders committed to “mainstreaming gender equality in all our policies.”<sup>2174</sup> Such mainstreaming of gender equality in all policies led to the first *G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment*.<sup>2175</sup>

On 9 June 2018, G7 members endorsed the *Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth*, which is an encompassing commitment to work together to maximize the economic prosperity of all citizens.<sup>2176</sup> The G7 members also indicated the value of development and assistance that promotes greater equality of opportunity, gender equality and prioritizes the most vulnerable to work.<sup>2177</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 member agreed to “support ... development finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.”

The first component of the commitment is “supporting development [of] finance programs.” These finance programs must also “strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality.” “Support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”<sup>2178</sup> Strive is defined as “to devote serious effort or energy.” Development is defined as “the process of economic and social transformation that is based on

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<sup>2169</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2170</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2171</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2172</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2173</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2174</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2175</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2176</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of access: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/growth-commitment.html>.

<sup>2177</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of access: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>2178</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 26 August 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

complex cultural and environmental factors and their interactions.” To advance is “move or push forward, make progress, give active support to, promote, cause an event to occur at an earlier date.”<sup>2179</sup> This commitment continues by stating that while G7 members support the development of finance programs for gender balance, they will also “promote mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries.” Finance programs are defined as “providing financial resources to finance a need, program, or project.” In order to achieve this goal G7 members will “provide ... access to capital [to] enhance economic opportunities for women.” Thus, while there are two parts to this commitment, the second part is connected to the first part by the conjunction “while,” suggesting that the first more general part on supporting the development of finance programs for gender equality is the intended core of this commitment.

The development of finance programs can be achieved by providing financing to a program being led by an international organization. For full compliance, it must be evident that the financing will support the development of financing programs and/or including access to capital. “Support” could also include a relevant policy initiative or program that fulfils the welfare target of the commitment. regarding gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.

Access is “the right to obtain or make use of the entity in reference.”<sup>2180</sup> Capital is “relating to or being assets that add to the long-term net worth of a corporation.” “Access to capital” signifies providing access to capital to women in the pursuit of enhancing economic opportunities for women to promote gender equality and economic empowerment. Members must demonstrate the specific allocation of capital to be accessed by women for the purpose of enhancing economic opportunities. To promote is to “support or renew old efforts or create new efforts in the area and should not have to have to be a brand-new initiative but contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”<sup>2181</sup> Support requires “aid” while promote may not require an actual financial contribution. Examples of compliance for access to capital could be creating a capital fund for women to start personal businesses or any sort of entrepreneurial venture. Another example could be accessing capital for mothers to have childminding in order to aid them in getting back into the workforce to enhance their economic earning opportunities.

In scoring compliance greater weight will be given to the fulfillment of the first part of the commitment. Moreover, it is noted that should the G7 member promote greater access to capital for women, this could count as supporting the development of a financing program to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality.

To achieve full compliance, G7 member countries must take action according to both parts of the commitment by supporting development finance programs while also promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries specifically by providing access to capital. The G7 member must promote mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries through access to capital to receive a score of +1.

Partial compliance will be awarded if only the first part of the commitment is met but there is no promotion of mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries specifically

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<sup>2179</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 26 August 2018.  
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

<sup>2180</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 26 August 2018.  
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

<sup>2181</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 26 August 2018.  
<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

by providing access to capital. A score of no compliance will be accorded only with no demonstrable compliance to any part of the commitment.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member does NOT take any efforts to support the development of finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality AND does not promote mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.
0	G7 member has taken efforts to support the development of finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality but HAS NOT has taken efforts in promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.
+1	G7 member has taken efforts to support the development of finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality AND has taken efforts in promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

*Lead Analyst: Joanna Ilunga-Kapinga  
Compliance Director: Meagan Byrd*

**Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to support development finance programs that advance women’s economic empowerment, whilst also reinforcing economic prosperity in partner countries, including through the provision of access to capital for women.

On 29 June 2018, Minister of Finance Bill Morneau announced that he would become an International Gender Champion (IGC), led by the United Nations to unite international leaders in support of gender equality.<sup>2182</sup> As an IGC, Minister Morneau supports the IGC Panel Parity Pledge to no longer sit on single-sex panels.<sup>2183</sup> Additionally, he made two individualized commitments: 1) to pursue gender budgeting and 2) to achieve gender parity in Canadian appointments to the International Financial Institutions where the Minister is governor and to ensure appointees prioritise gender equality.<sup>2184</sup> Minister Morneau made the announcement at the iW50 Summit in Paris and invited other G7 leaders to join him as IGCs.<sup>2185</sup>

On 13 August 2018, the Business Development Bank of Canada announced that it would be hosting “WE Talk Business” boot camps throughout 2018 and 2019, to enhance women entrepreneurs’ business skills and financial literacy.<sup>2186</sup> The boot camps are part of the Women Entrepreneurship

<sup>2182</sup> Minister Morneau attends summit on importance of empowering women, announces new role as International Gender Champion, Department of Finance Canada (Paris) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 28 November 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-057-eng.asp>.

<sup>2183</sup> About International Gender Champions, Gender Champions (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 November 2018. <https://genderchampions.com/about>.

<sup>2184</sup> William Morneau, Gender Champions (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 November 2018. <https://genderchampions.com/champions/william-morneau>.

<sup>2185</sup> Minister Morneau attends summit on importance of empowering women, announces new role as International Gender Champion, Department of Finance Canada (Paris) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 28 November 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-057-eng.asp>.

<sup>2186</sup> BDC talks business with women entrepreneurs and launches a series of bootcamps throughout Canada, Business Development Bank of Canada (Montreal) 13 August 2018. Access Date: 27 November 2018. [https://www.bdc.ca/en/about/mediaroom/news\\_releases/pages/bdc-talks-business-with-women-entrepreneurs-launches-series-boot-camps-through-out-canada.aspx](https://www.bdc.ca/en/about/mediaroom/news_releases/pages/bdc-talks-business-with-women-entrepreneurs-launches-series-boot-camps-through-out-canada.aspx).

Strategy, a CAD2 billion government plan launched under Budget 2018 that aims to help businesswomen through a focus on access to capital, data and federal innovation programming.<sup>2187</sup>

On 6 September 2018, Status of Women Canada awarded CAD498,000 to Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters for their project, “Untapped Potential: Attracting and Engaging Women in Canadian Manufacturing.”<sup>2188</sup> This project aims to increase Canadian women’s participation in the manufacturing sector by collaborating with working groups and creating a web portal.<sup>2189</sup> The budget was provided as part of the Status of Women Canada’s “Women’s Program,” a federal funding program that releases annual calls for proposals.<sup>2190</sup> The current 2017 calls are entitled: “Support for Women’s Economic Security,” which uses CAD10 million to address systemic barriers and encourage partnerships with the private sector to find innovative solutions, and “Addressing the Economic Security and Prosperity of Indigenous Women,” which uses CAD5 million to focus on indigenous groups.<sup>2191</sup>

On 21 and 22 September 2018, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland co-chaired a meeting of women foreign ministers along with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini. The meeting focused on the meaningful participation of women in foreign policy.<sup>2192</sup> They pledged to work together to promote shared values and to work towards building a network of governments and civil society organisations to support gender empowerment.<sup>2193</sup>

On 23 September 2018, Canada marked the start of its first ever Gender Equality Week.<sup>2194</sup> The Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jean-Yves Duclos announced that the Government of Canada would be launching its Employment Insurance parental sharing benefits in

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<sup>2187</sup> Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 10 September 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2018. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/107.nsf/eng/home>.

<sup>2188</sup> New federal funding will help more women enter the manufacturing sector, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/09/backgrounder---new-federal-funding-will-help-more-women-enter-the-manufacturing-sector.html>.

<sup>2189</sup> New federal funding will help more women enter the manufacturing sector, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/09/backgrounder---new-federal-funding-will-help-more-women-enter-the-manufacturing-sector.html>.

<sup>2190</sup> Backgrounder — the new federal investment will help boost number of women in Canada’s forestry sector, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/backgrounder---new-federal-investment-will-help-boost-number-of-women-in-canadas-forestry-sector.html>.

<sup>2191</sup> Backgrounder — the new federal investment will help boost number of women in Canada’s forestry sector, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/backgrounder---new-federal-investment-will-help-boost-number-of-women-in-canadas-forestry-sector.html>.

<sup>2192</sup> Canada and EU reiterate shared commitment to advance gender equality, Global Affairs Canada (Montreal) 23 September 2018. Access Date: 12 October 2018. [www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/09/canada-and-eu-reiterate-shared-commitment-to-advance-gender-equality-and-womens-contributions-to-peace-and-security-at-the-women-foreign-ministers-.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/09/canada-and-eu-reiterate-shared-commitment-to-advance-gender-equality-and-womens-contributions-to-peace-and-security-at-the-women-foreign-ministers-.html).

<sup>2193</sup> The EU and Canada reiterate shared commitment to advance gender equality, European External Action Service (Montreal) 23 September 2018. Access Date: 1 December 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/regions/north-america/50954/eu-and-canada-reiterate-shared-commitment-advance-gender-equality-and-women%E2%80%99s-contributions\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/regions/north-america/50954/eu-and-canada-reiterate-shared-commitment-advance-gender-equality-and-women%E2%80%99s-contributions_en).

<sup>2194</sup> New five week parental sharing to start in March 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/09/new-five-week-parental-sharing-to-start-in-march-2019.html>.

March 2019.<sup>2195</sup> Employment Insurance parental sharing benefits provide additional insurance to parents who share benefits.<sup>2196</sup> In turn, this allows working mothers to attain greater financial security whilst shifting childcare responsibilities away from them.<sup>2197</sup>

On 28 September 2018, the Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion Mary Ng and the Minister of Status of Women Maryam Monsef introduced the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem Fund, which will use CAD85 million to fund organizations that support women entrepreneurs.<sup>2198</sup> The fund is part of the Canada's Women Entrepreneurship Strategy launched under Budget 2018.<sup>2199</sup>

On 15 October 2018, the Minister of Status of Women Canada Maryam Monsef introduced the department's newest call for proposals as part of the "Women's Program," entitled the "Capacity-Building Fund."<sup>2200</sup> The fund will use CAD100 million over five years to build the organisational capacity of women's organisations.<sup>2201</sup>

On 19 October 2018, the Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion Mary Ng and the Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility Carla Qualtrough, announced the launch of the Women Entrepreneurship Fund, as part of Canada's Women Entrepreneurship Strategy.<sup>2202</sup> The Women Entrepreneurship Fund makes CAD20 million directly available to women-owned businesses that are pursuing markets abroad or scaling up.<sup>2203</sup>

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<sup>2195</sup> New five week parental sharing to start in March 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/09/new-five-week-parental-sharing-to-start-in-march-2019.html>.

<sup>2196</sup> New five week parental sharing to start in March 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/09/new-five-week-parental-sharing-to-start-in-march-2019.html>.

<sup>2197</sup> New five week parental sharing to start in March 2019, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/09/new-five-week-parental-sharing-to-start-in-march-2019.html>.

<sup>2198</sup> Minister Ng announces funding for women's entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Toronto) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/09/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-womens-entrepreneurship.html>.

<sup>2198</sup> Minister Monsef announces investment to ensure strong and vibrant women's movement, Status of Women Canada (Vancouver) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/10/minister-monsef-announces-investment-to-ensure-strong-and-vibrant-womens-movement.html>.

<sup>2199</sup> Minister Ng announces funding for women's entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Toronto) 28 September 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/09/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-womens-entrepreneurship.html>.

<sup>2200</sup> Minister Monsef announces investment to ensure strong and vibrant women's movement, Status of Women Canada (Vancouver) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/10/minister-monsef-announces-investment-to-ensure-strong-and-vibrant-womens-movement.html>.

<sup>2201</sup> Minister Monsef announces investment to ensure strong and vibrant women's movement, Status of Women Canada (Vancouver) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/10/minister-monsef-announces-investment-to-ensure-strong-and-vibrant-womens-movement.html>.

<sup>2202</sup> Minister Ng announces funding for women's entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Delta) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/10/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-womens-entrepreneurship.html>.

<sup>2203</sup> Women Entrepreneurship Fund, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2018. [https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/128.nsf/eng/h\\_00000.html](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/128.nsf/eng/h_00000.html).

On 29 October 2018, the Government of Canada Introduced the second Budget Implementation Act for Budget 2018, “Equality + Growth: Strong Middle Class.”<sup>2204</sup> This act seeks to establish the Department for Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), which would be a formal department that is less vulnerable to change and a centre of gender expertise through Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+).<sup>2205</sup>

On 1 November 2018, Status of Women Canada announced the funding of the Young Women’s Christian Association of Canada (YWCA), as part of its ongoing Women’s Program call for proposals.<sup>2206</sup> The YWCA will receive CAD1.25 million for a project that will improve access to jobs for Canadian women by identifying systemic barriers faced by marginalised women communities, and testing solutions across 20 YWCAs.<sup>2207</sup>

On 5 November 2018, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women Canada announced an amount of CAD547,300 to be invested in a project led by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that aims to increase women’s public and political participation.<sup>2208</sup> Entitled “Towards Parity in Municipal Politics,” the project will introduce a national strategy to increase women’s participation and decision-making opportunities at a municipal level.<sup>2209</sup>

On 5 November 2018, the Minister of Small Businesses and Export Promotion Mary Ng announced further investments to be made under the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative, a funding program for new companies with high potential.<sup>2210</sup> These investments are specifically focused on the creation of gender parity, by prioritising emerging women-owned businesses.<sup>2211</sup>

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<sup>2204</sup> Government continues effort to bring growth and equality to the middle class, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 23 November 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-100-eng.asp>.

<sup>2205</sup> Statement by Minister Monsef on the introduction on Legislation to create the Department of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE), Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 23 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/10/statement-by-minister-monsef-on-the-introduction-on-legislation-to-create-the-department-of-women-and-gender-equality-wage.html>.

<sup>2206</sup> New federal funding will help vulnerable and marginalised women access job market, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/new-federal-funding-will-help-vulnerable-and-marginalized-women-access-job-market.html>.

<sup>2207</sup> New federal funding will help vulnerable and marginalised women access job market, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 1 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/new-federal-funding-will-help-vulnerable-and-marginalized-women-access-job-market.html>.

<sup>2208</sup> New federal funding investment will help more women run for elected office, Status of Women Canada (Montreal) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/new-federal-investment-will-help-more-women-run-for-elected-office.html>.

<sup>2209</sup> New federal funding investment will help more women run for elected office, Status of Women Canada (Montreal) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 3 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/new-federal-investment-will-help-more-women-run-for-elected-office.html>.

<sup>2210</sup> Minister Ng announces federal funding venture capital investments focused on gender and diversity, Innovation, Science and Economic Development, (Montreal) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/11/minister-ng-announces-federal-venture-capital-investments-focused-on-gender-and-diversity.html>.

<sup>2211</sup> Minister Ng announces federal funding venture capital investments focused on gender and diversity, Innovation, Science and Economic Development, (Montreal) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/11/minister-ng-announces-federal-venture-capital-investments-focused-on-gender-and-diversity.html>.

On 29 November 2018, Status of Women Canada announced the funding of the Canadian Institute of Forestry a total of CAD467,000 as part of its Women’s Program call for proposals.<sup>2212</sup> The project to be funded is “Gender Equality in Forestry National Action Plan,” which will use the “gender-based analysis plus” analytical process to identify and resolve systemic barriers for women in the forestry industry.<sup>2213</sup>

On 3 December 2018, the Government of Canada announced their investment of a total of CAD9 million over three years in the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH), as a part of Canada’s Women Entrepreneurship Strategy.<sup>2214</sup> The WEKH intends to become a “one-stop source of knowledge, data, and practices for women entrepreneurs.”<sup>2215</sup>

On 8 March 2019, International Women’s Day, Minister of International Development and of Women and Gender Equality Maryam Monsef and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Ahmed Hussen announced that the Capacity-Building Fund will be investing in over 250 projects from Canadian women’s organizations as well as from indigenous organizations that serve women.<sup>2216</sup>

On 21 May 2019, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality Maryam Monsef announced a new initiative with BMO Financial Group, in preparation for Canada’s hosting of the Women Deliver 2019 Conference on health, rights and wellbeing of women and girls.<sup>2217</sup> BMO Financial group aims to provide training to women’s organizations being funded by the Government of Canada, in order to improve their financial and strategic planning.<sup>2218</sup>

Canada has only partially complied with its commitment to support women’s economic empowerment. Canada has taken efforts to support the development of finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality with Canada’s launch and

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<sup>2212</sup> Backgrounder — New federal investment will help boost number of women in Canada’s forestry sector, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/backgrounder---new-federal-investment-will-help-boost-number-of-women-in-canadas-forestry-sector.html>.

<sup>2213</sup> Backgrounder — New federal investment will help boost number of women in Canada’s forestry sector, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2018/11/backgrounder---new-federal-investment-will-help-boost-number-of-women-in-canadas-forestry-sector.html>.

<sup>2214</sup> Minister Ng announces funding for research on women entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/11/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-research-on-women-entrepreneurship.html>.

<sup>2215</sup> Minister Ng announces funding for research on women entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/11/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-research-on-women-entrepreneurship.html>.

<sup>2216</sup> Toronto Government of Canada celebrates International Women’s Day by making historic investment in women’s movement, Status of Women Canada (Toronto) 8 March 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/03/government-of-canada-celebrates-international-womens-day-by-making-historic-investment-in-womens-movement.html>.

<sup>2217</sup> Government of Canada celebrates International Women’s Day by making historic investment in women’s movement, Status of Women Canada (Toronto) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 4 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/05/in-lead-up-to-women-deliver-2019-government-of-canada-announces-innovative-cross-sector-partnerships-to-advance-gender-equality.html>.

<sup>2218</sup> Government of Canada celebrates International Women’s Day by making historic investment in women’s movement, Status of Women Canada (Toronto) 21 May 2019. Access Date: 4 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/05/in-lead-up-to-women-deliver-2019-government-of-canada-announces-innovative-cross-sector-partnerships-to-advance-gender-equality.html>.

investment in several finance programs such as the Capacity-Building Fund, the WES Ecosystem Fund, the Women Entrepreneurship Fund, and the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative. Additionally, Canada has supported the development of programs that provide further sources of capital, such as the introduction of WE Talk Business Schools, Employment Insurance parental sharing benefits, WAGE, and the WEKH. In addition, Canada is working with partner countries, Canada has supported women empowerment at an international level most notably through Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland's ministerial meeting and Minister of Finance Bill Morneau's participation as an IGC. However, Canada has not partnered with G7 members specifically for the provision of access to capital as outlined in its G7 commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ridhwana Laloo*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to support development finance programs that advance women's economic empowerment, whilst also reinforcing economic prosperity in partner countries, including through the provision of access to capital for women.

On 5 September 2018, France enacted the "For the Freedom to Choose One's Professional Future" law which will come into effect on 1 January 2019, for companies with more than 250 employees and on 1 January 2020, for companies with employees between 50 to 250 people.<sup>2219</sup> Under this law, companies must reveal information such as gender pay gaps and an obligation of equal pay.<sup>2220</sup> Companies are also required to report on actions taken to combat gender pay gaps.<sup>2221</sup> Companies that do not follow this law will face financial penalties of up to 1 percent of the total payroll.<sup>2222</sup>

On 7 September 2018, the Board of directors and the Supervisory Board of French public limited companies and French limited partnerships passed a new decree that corporate governance reports must contain information on how a company plans to achieve a balanced representation of men and women on the executive committee if one is present.<sup>2223</sup> Additionally, companies are to report what the gender balance among the 10 percent of positions with the highest responsibilities in the company.<sup>2224</sup>

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<sup>2219</sup> New French Rules on Gender Pay Equality Enacted, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LPP (Pennsylvania) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 21 October, 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d76e3d36-bbeb-4e2c-9aff-fa83b7ebbf2d>.

<sup>2220</sup> New French Rules on Gender Pay Equality Enacted, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LPP (Pennsylvania) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 21 October, 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d76e3d36-bbeb-4e2c-9aff-fa83b7ebbf2d>.

<sup>2221</sup> New French Rules on Gender Pay Equality Enacted, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LPP (Pennsylvania) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 7 December, 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d76e3d36-bbeb-4e2c-9aff-fa83b7ebbf2d>.

<sup>2222</sup> New French Rules on Gender Pay Equality Enacted, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LPP (Pennsylvania) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 21 October, 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d76e3d36-bbeb-4e2c-9aff-fa83b7ebbf2d>.

<sup>2223</sup> New French Rules on Gender Pay Equality Enacted, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LPP (Pennsylvania) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 7 December, 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d76e3d36-bbeb-4e2c-9aff-fa83b7ebbf2d>.

<sup>2224</sup> New French Rules on Gender Pay Equality Enacted, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LPP (Pennsylvania) 20 September 2018. Access Date: 7 December, 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d76e3d36-bbeb-4e2c-9aff-fa83b7ebbf2d>.

On 21 September 2018, the Minister of Culture Françoise Nussen, announced that in 2019 France will launch a funding bonus for production companies in which key crew members are women.<sup>2225</sup> If the crew are women the production will be eligible for a 15 percent bonus. The purpose of this is for film companies to hire more women.

On 19 February 2019, human rights advocates met with the President in France to discuss methods on how countries can reduce violence against women, promote women's education and enhance women's entrepreneurship.<sup>2226</sup> During this meeting, the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, declared that France was investing USD 136 million to help women across developing countries.<sup>2227</sup>

On 9-10 May 2019, France held a meeting for the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council. The meeting focused on creating legislations to prevent gender-based violence and promote women's education and entrepreneurship.<sup>2228</sup> The initiative called Biarritz Partnership is to be more focused with more concrete goals to enhance the education and entrepreneurship of women across the globe.<sup>2229</sup>

France has partially complied with their its commitment to support development finance programs that advance women's economic empowerment, whilst also reinforcing economic prosperity in partner countries, including through the provision of access to capital for women. France has taken efforts to support the development of finance programs by creating a fund for organizations to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality and has taken effort to promote mutually reinforcing economic prosperity by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women. For example, France providing incentives for companies who usually do not hire women to hire women.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Cindy Lawrence*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support development finance programs that advance women's economic empowerment, whilst also reinforcing economic prosperity in partner countries, including through the provision of access to capital for women.

Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) has outlined the following strategies to advance women's economic empowerment: promote women's access to financial products; improving social protection systems for women; improving working conditions for women; improving women's vocational training; eliminating legal, social and culture discrimination for women; improving conditions for women's employment; and enhancing

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<sup>2225</sup> France launches gender parity production incentives, Melanie Goodfellow (London) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 21 October, 2018. <https://www.screendaily.com/news/france-launches-gender-parity-production-incentives/5132855.article>.

<sup>2226</sup> Nobel Laureates, Advocates to Advise G-7 on Women's Rights (Paris) 19 February 2019. Access date 20 February 2019. [https://www.theindependent.com/news/politics/nobel-laureates-advocates-to-advise-g--on-women-s/article\\_5a6d80d5-2cec-5376-a08c-b61d651ffe3a.html](https://www.theindependent.com/news/politics/nobel-laureates-advocates-to-advise-g--on-women-s/article_5a6d80d5-2cec-5376-a08c-b61d651ffe3a.html).

<sup>2227</sup> Nobel Laureates, Advocates to Advise G-7 on Women's Rights (Paris) 19 February 2019. Access date 20 February 2019. [https://www.theindependent.com/news/politics/nobel-laureates-advocates-to-advise-g--on-women-s/article\\_5a6d80d5-2cec-5376-a08c-b61d651ffe3a.html](https://www.theindependent.com/news/politics/nobel-laureates-advocates-to-advise-g--on-women-s/article_5a6d80d5-2cec-5376-a08c-b61d651ffe3a.html).

<sup>2228</sup> Second Meeting of the Gender Advisory Council (France) 12 May 2019. Access date 10 June 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/g7/2019/05/12/second-meeting-of-the-gender-equality-advisory-council>.

<sup>2229</sup> Second Meeting of the Gender Advisory Council (France) 12 May 2019. Access date 10 June 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/g7/2019/05/12/second-meeting-of-the-gender-equality-advisory-council>.

engagement with the private sector.<sup>2230</sup> To do this BMZ plans on promoting the “access to financial products.”<sup>2231</sup> The timeframe to increase the participation of women in vocational training is 2030.<sup>2232</sup>

On 9 June 2018, Germany along with Canada, Britain, Japan, and the European Union contributed to a CAD3.8 billion investment to promote education for women and girls.<sup>2233</sup> In partnership with the World Bank, this initiative is the largest investment in the education of women and girls around the world.<sup>2234</sup> The funding will go towards providing women with essential skills that will help them with employability and job searching; improving training quality for teachers; gathering data on the education of women and girls; supporting innovative education methods, specifically for vulnerable groups; and ensuring developing countries encourage women and girls to get at least 12 years of quality education.<sup>2235</sup>

On 11 to 13 June 2018, Gender@International Bonn at the Global Media Forum held an organizing session with the intention to close the digital gender gap in order to empower women in the digital era.<sup>2236</sup> This event was aimed at teaching women and girls how to close the digital gender gap.<sup>2237</sup> The event aimed to showcase Asia and Africa’s best practices for promoting girls and women’s access to jobs in information and communications technologies, along with recommendations on how to overcome the digital gender gap.<sup>2238</sup> The goal of the event was to promote access to technology jobs for women and girls by using best practices from Asia and Africa.<sup>2239</sup>

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<sup>2230</sup> Promoting the employment and economic empowerment of women, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) Access date: 21 October 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/frauenrechte/arbeitsfelder\\_und\\_instrumente/wirtschaft/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/frauenrechte/arbeitsfelder_und_instrumente/wirtschaft/index.html).

<sup>2231</sup> Promoting the employment and economic empowerment of women, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) Access date: 7 December 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/frauenrechte/arbeitsfelder\\_und\\_instrumente/wirtschaft/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/frauenrechte/arbeitsfelder_und_instrumente/wirtschaft/index.html).

<sup>2232</sup> Promoting the employment and economic empowerment of women, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) Access date: 7 December 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/frauenrechte/arbeitsfelder\\_und\\_instrumente/wirtschaft/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/issues/frauenrechte/arbeitsfelder_und_instrumente/wirtschaft/index.html).

<sup>2233</sup> Girls’ education gets \$3.8 billion boost at G7, CBC (Quebec) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-day-2-of-g7-opens-with-trumps-late-arrival-to-meeting-with-feminist/>.

<sup>2234</sup> Girls’ education gets \$3.8 billion boost at G7, CBC (Quebec) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-day-2-of-g7-opens-with-trumps-late-arrival-to-meeting-with-feminist/>.

<sup>2235</sup> Canada and partners announce historic investment in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations, Government of Canada (Quebec) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

<https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/06/09/canada-and-partners-announce-historic-investment-education-women-and-girls-crisis>.

<sup>2236</sup> Road Map 2018: Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2018, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) August 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450\\_08\\_2018.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450_08_2018.pdf).

<sup>2237</sup> Road Map 2018: Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2018, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) August 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450\\_08\\_2018.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450_08_2018.pdf).

<sup>2238</sup> Road Map 2018: Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2018, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) August 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450\\_08\\_2018.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450_08_2018.pdf).

<sup>2239</sup> Road Map 2018: Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2018, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) August 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450\\_08\\_2018.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier450_08_2018.pdf).

On 14 October 2018, Germany signed an agreement that pledged EUR50 million to the World Bank's Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi).<sup>2240</sup> We-Fi is a collaborative partnership between fourteen different governments, eight multilateral development banks, and public and private sector stakeholders hosted by the World Bank Group.<sup>2241</sup> We-Fi seeks to address financial and non-financial challenges facing women-owned/led SMEs in developing countries.<sup>2242</sup>

Germany has engaged in some activities to improve education and skills development for girls and women around the world. It has adequately reinforced economic prosperity and stability, including through the provision of access to capital for women via the We-Fi collaboration.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Cindy Lawrence*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support development finance programs that strive to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

On 27 June 2018, the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, in agreement with the Italian Ministry of the Interior, announced the Recruitment Bonus for Women Victims of Gender Violence in the Official Gazette.<sup>2243</sup> The Bonus aims to facilitate the job reintegration of women by providing monthly tax reliefs of up to EUR350 for social cooperatives that hire women victims of gender-based violence with a permanent contract. EUR1 million has been allocated yearly from 2018 to 2020.<sup>2244</sup>

On 19 July 2018, representatives from Italy's Project for Supporting Women's Education and Empowerment of women for inclusive local development (PAEF plus) met with the Senegal Minister of National Education to discuss greater support for the project.<sup>2245</sup> Funded through Italian cooperation, PAEF plus contributes to gender equality in Senegal by eliminating inequalities in access to primary and secondary education, supporting the implementation of a gender policy, and providing financial support for women belonging to mothers' associations.<sup>2246</sup>

On 20 July 2018, the Italian National Labor Inspectorate and National Equality Advisor signed a draft agreement expressly aimed at promoting equal opportunities between men and women and

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<sup>2240</sup> Germany signs Agreement for EUR50 Million Contribution to We-Fi, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Institute 14 October 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://we-fi.org/who-we-are/>.

<sup>2241</sup> Who We Are, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Institute 14 October 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://we-fi.org/who-we-are/>.

<sup>2242</sup> Who We Are, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Institute 14 October 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://we-fi.org/who-we-are/>.

<sup>2243</sup> Gazzetta Ufficiale Della Repubblica Italiana Numero 147, Italian Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato (Rome), 27 June 2018. Date of access: 2 November 2018. <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/gu/2018/06/27/147/sg/pdf>.

<sup>2244</sup> Gazzetta Ufficiale Della Repubblica Italiana Numero 147, Italian Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato (Rome), 27 June 2018. Date of access: 2 November 2018. <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/gu/2018/06/27/147/sg/pdf>.

<sup>2245</sup> Tutte e tutti a scuola: madri, famiglie e comunità coinvolte per la parità genere tra i banchi, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Dakar), 19 July 2018. Date of access: 7 October 2018. <https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/24619/>.

<sup>2246</sup> Tutte e tutti a scuola: madri, famiglie e comunità coinvolte per la parità genere tra i banchi, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Dakar), 19 July 2018. Date of access: 7 October 2018. <https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/24619/>.

fighting gender discrimination through several actions, including the organization of professional training on gender equality.<sup>2247</sup>

On 3 August 2018, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IACS) formed a new partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia that launched an initiative to empower women refugees from Syria in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt.<sup>2248</sup> Among other issues, this initiative will build on the capacity of women leaders among refugees from Syria with a specific focus on improving the socio-economic empowerment of women, through activities orientated to income generation.<sup>2249</sup> The Government of Italy pledged EUR6 million to the overall initiative, beginning in August 2018 through September 2020.<sup>2250</sup>

On 25 September 2018, the Italian Parliament presented a bill for the creation of a Parliamentary Commission on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.<sup>2251</sup> The proposed Parliamentary Commission aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by striving to eliminate the gender gap, create employment opportunities for women, and eradicate female poverty.<sup>2252</sup> The budget of the Parliamentary Commission is proposed to be EUR100 thousand for 2018, and a half for the following year.<sup>2253</sup>

On 10 October 2018, the Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of Labor and Social Policies Luigi Di Maio pledged to extend the mandate of the women's option for the 2015 to 2018 period by including it in the Budget Law for the 2019 to 2021 period.<sup>2254</sup> The women's option legislation provides women workers access to early retirement benefits at the age of 57 or 58 for self-employed women.<sup>2255</sup>

On 11 October 2018, the Italian Department for Equal Opportunities hosted a monitoring roundtable that identified ways to promote the development and growth of women's

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<sup>2247</sup> Draft agreement between the National Labor Inspectorate and the National Equality Advisor, European Commission (Brussels), 20 July 2018. Date of access: 7 October 2018. <https://www.equalitylaw.eu/downloads/4652-italy-draft-agreement-between-the-national-labour-inspectorate-and-the-national-equality-adviser-pdf-32-kb>.

<sup>2248</sup> UN-ESCWA and Italy partner to support empowerment of women refugees from Syria, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Beirut), 3 August 2018. Date of access: 7 October 2018. <https://www.unescwa.org/news/un-escwa-and-italy-partner-support-empowerment-women-refugees-syria>.

<sup>2249</sup> UN-ESCWA and Italy partner to support empowerment of women refugees from Syria, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Beirut), 3 August 2018. Date of access: 7 October 2018. <https://www.unescwa.org/news/un-escwa-and-italy-partner-support-empowerment-women-refugees-syria>.

<sup>2250</sup> UN-ESCWA and Italy partner to support empowerment of women refugees from Syria, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Beirut), 3 August 2018. Date of access: 7 October 2018. <https://www.unescwa.org/news/un-escwa-and-italy-partner-support-empowerment-women-refugees-syria>.

<sup>2251</sup> Nascita della Commissione dei diritti della donna e dell'uguaglianza di genere, Termolionline.it (Termoli), 24 September 2015. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://www.termolionline.it/news/flash-news/754512/commissione-dei-diritti-della-donna-e-delluguaglianza-di-genere-giuditta-lembo-a-roma>

<sup>2252</sup> Nascita della Commissione dei diritti della donna e dell'uguaglianza di genere, Termolionline.it (Termoli), 24 September 2015. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://www.termolionline.it/news/flash-news/754512/commissione-dei-diritti-della-donna-e-delluguaglianza-di-genere-giuditta-lembo-a-roma>.

<sup>2253</sup> Cos'è la commissione parlamentare per la parità di genere, LetterDonna.it (Milan), 25 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://www.letteradonna.it/it/articoli/politica/2018/09/25/commissione-parlamentare-diritti-donne/26667/>.

<sup>2254</sup> Opzione donna per il triennio 2015/2018, Department of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 10 October 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Opzione-donna-per-il-triennio-20152018.aspx>.

<sup>2255</sup> Opzione donna per il triennio 2015/2018, Department of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 10 October 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Opzione-donna-per-il-triennio-20152018.aspx>.

entrepreneurship.<sup>2256</sup> At this event, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development presented an updated progress report on the Women's Special Entrepreneurship SME Fund for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and promoted wider access to the fund for women-owned companies.<sup>2257</sup>

On 9 November 2018, the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies published its Interministerial Decree concerned with the 2019 Women Recruitment Bonus.<sup>2258</sup> The Decree serves to identify sectors and professions characterized by a rate of male-female disparity that exceeds at least 25 percent of the average annual value, for the application of the 2019 Women Recruitment Bonus.<sup>2259</sup> The Bonus provides a financial incentive for companies aimed at hiring women over 50 who have been unemployed for more than 12 months, women of any age who have been unemployed for at least 24 months, women residing in disadvantaged areas, or women employed in sectors with a high rate of gender inequality.<sup>2260</sup>

On 13 November 2018, the AICS branch in El Salvador, the UN Women branch in Honduras, and the Italian Embassy in Guatemala and Honduras launched the "Economic Empowerment of Women in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador" project.<sup>2261</sup> The project aims to broaden economic opportunities for women in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador by creating tools for women micro-entrepreneurs in rural areas to create entrepreneurial networks that open up markets and increase competitiveness for women-led businesses.<sup>2262</sup> The Government of Italy pledged EUR3.5 million towards the regional initiative.<sup>2263</sup>

On 23 November 2018, the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced that EUR61 million was granted to fund new initiatives and projects of national importance in the year 2018.<sup>2264</sup>

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<sup>2256</sup> Imprenditoria femminile, riunione del tavolo di monitoraggio, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome), 11 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/impreditoria-femminile-riunione-del-tavolo-di-monitoraggio/>.

<sup>2257</sup> Imprenditoria femminile, riunione del tavolo di monitoraggio, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome), 11 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/impreditoria-femminile-riunione-del-tavolo-di-monitoraggio/>.

<sup>2258</sup> Il Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali di concerto con il Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 9 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <https://www.lavoroediritti.com/wp-content/files/Decreto-interministeriale-min-lavoro-MEF-09-11-2018.pdf>

<sup>2259</sup> Il Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali di concerto con il Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 9 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <https://www.lavoroediritti.com/wp-content/files/Decreto-interministeriale-min-lavoro-MEF-09-11-2018.pdf>

<sup>2260</sup> Il Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali di concerto con il Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 9 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <https://www.lavoroediritti.com/wp-content/files/Decreto-interministeriale-min-lavoro-MEF-09-11-2018.pdf>

<sup>2261</sup> Più forza alle donne che lavorano nelle aree rurali, al via un nuovo programma regionale, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Tegucigalpa), 13 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/26942/>

<sup>2262</sup> Più forza alle donne che lavorano nelle aree rurali, al via un nuovo programma regionale, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Tegucigalpa), 13 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/26942/>

<sup>2263</sup> Più forza alle donne che lavorano nelle aree rurali, al via un nuovo programma regionale, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Tegucigalpa), 13 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018. <https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/26942/>

<sup>2264</sup> Terzo settore: 61 milioni e 960.000 euro a disposizione per iniziative, progetti e sostegno degli Enti, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 23 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018.

<http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Terzo-settore-61-milioni-e-960-000-euro-a-disposizione-per-iniziativa-progetti-e-sostegno-degli-Enti.aspx>.

Of the thirteen objectives identified to gain access to funding, achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls was promoted.<sup>2265</sup>

On 4 December 2018, the impact of the assistance and empowerment of Syrian refugee women and girls and host communities in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon initiative, funded by Italian cooperation, was presented in the Jordanian capital.<sup>2266</sup> The Italian Ambassador to Jordan Fabio Cassese chaired the event and stressed that “gender equality and women’s rights are a central concern of Italian politics in development cooperation.”<sup>2267</sup>

On 30 January 2019, Italy, along with Luxembourg, and Sweden funded a five-year EUR5million loan to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Western Balkans Women in Business Programme II to Intesa San Paoloa Bank Albania that will be used to fund women-led small businesses in Albania.<sup>2268</sup> The loan is designed to encourage female entrepreneurship and narrow the gender gap in accessing finance and business advisory services with the intent to increase greater economic inclusion for women in Albania.<sup>2269</sup> The loan is the second of its type following a EUR2 million loan in 2015.<sup>2270</sup>

On 18 February 2019, the Committee for the planning and coordination of financial education activities under the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Italian National Institute of Pensions regarding the implementation of the National Strategy for Financial Education.<sup>2271</sup> This partnership will create new initiatives aimed at raising financial education awareness and measurably improving the skills of Italian citizens in the fields of savings, investments, social security, and insurance.<sup>2272</sup> In this MOU, particular attention is paid to the specific training needs of potentially vulnerable populations such as women.<sup>2273</sup>

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<sup>2265</sup> Terzo settore: 61 milioni e 960.000 euro a disposizione per iniziative, progetti e sostegno degli Enti, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 23 November 2018. Date of access: 24 November 2018.

<http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Terzo-settore-61-milioni-e-960-000-euro-a-disposizione-per-iniziativa-progetti-e-sostegno-degli-Enti.aspx>.

<sup>2266</sup> Crisi siriana, un programma regionale dedicato alle donne per promuovere sviluppo e diritti, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Amman), 4 December 2018. Date of access: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/27660/>

<sup>2267</sup> Crisi siriana, un programma regionale dedicato alle donne per promuovere sviluppo e diritti, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Amman), 4 December 2018. Date of access: 6 December 2018.

<https://www.aics.gov.it/2018/27660/>

<sup>2268</sup> Boosting access to finance for women-led small businesses in Albania, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 30 January 2019. Date of access: 20 February 2019.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/boosting-access-to-finance-for-womenled-small-businesses-in-albania.html>

<sup>2269</sup> Boosting access to finance for women-led small businesses in Albania, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 30 January 2019. Date of access: 20 February 2019.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/boosting-access-to-finance-for-womenled-small-businesses-in-albania.html>

<sup>2270</sup> Boosting access to finance for women-led small businesses in Albania, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 30 January 2019. Date of access: 20 February 2019.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/boosting-access-to-finance-for-womenled-small-businesses-in-albania.html>

<sup>2271</sup> Educazione finanziaria: siglato accord Comitato Edufin – INPS, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 18 February 2019. Date of access: 20 February 2019. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Educazione-finanziaria-siglato-accordo-Comitato-Edufin-INPS.aspx>

<sup>2272</sup> Educazione finanziaria: siglato accord Comitato Edufin – INPS, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 18 February 2019. Date of access: 20 February 2019. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Educazione-finanziaria-siglato-accordo-Comitato-Edufin-INPS.aspx>

<sup>2273</sup> Educazione finanziaria: siglato accord Comitato Edufin – INPS, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome), 18 February 2019. Date of access: 20 February 2019. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Educazione-finanziaria-siglato-accordo-Comitato-Edufin-INPS.aspx>

On 4 March 2019, the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers launched the CL.E.A.R “Closing the Gender pension Gap by increasing women’s Awareness” project to narrow the gender pension gap in Italy.<sup>2274</sup> The project aims to improve increase access to information and the awareness of women on how to determine their future pensions.<sup>2275</sup>

On 5 March 2019, the Minister of Economic Development and Labor Luigi Di Maio announced the creation of the National Innovation Fund (FNI) of approximately EUR1 billion with the objective to bring together and increase public and private resources dedicated to innovation.<sup>2276</sup> The overall impact of the FNI is expected to include the positive rebalancing of inequalities, including gender inequality.<sup>2277</sup>

On 2 April 2019, the Department of Youth and National Civil Service under the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers announced the “Fermenti” call for applications with a total funding of EUR16 million.<sup>2278</sup> The objective of “Fermenti” is to provide financial and technical support to projects that explore fundamental social challenges for young people, and “equality for all genders” is one of the five social challenges identifies as priorities by the call for applications.<sup>2279</sup>

From 4 – 5 April 2019, the President of the Council of Ministers Giuseppe Conte attended the Sustainable Economy Forum in Coriano and reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Italy to foster sustainable development which includes, among other priorities, access to credit for SMEs and support for female entrepreneurship.<sup>2280</sup>

Italy has taken efforts to support the development of finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries that include providing access to capital that enhance economic opportunities for women.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Foti Vito*

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<sup>2274</sup> Roma 4 marzo 2019: Conferenza di lancio del progetto CL.E.A.R, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome), 27 February 2019. Date of access: 6 June 2019. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/roma-4-marzo-2019-conferenza-di-lancio-del-progetto-cl-e-a-r/>

<sup>2275</sup> Roma 4 marzo 2019: Conferenza di lancio del progetto CL.E.A.R, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome), 27 February 2019. Date of access: 6 June 2019. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/roma-4-marzo-2019-conferenza-di-lancio-del-progetto-cl-e-a-r/>

<sup>2276</sup> Il Fondo Nazionale Innovazione è realtà, Donna in Affari (Rome), 5 March 2019. Date of access: 7 June 2019. <http://www.donnainaffari.it/2019/03/il-fondo-nazionale-innovazione-e-realta/>

<sup>2277</sup> Il Fondo Nazionale Innovazione è realtà, Donna in Affari (Rome), 5 March 2019. Date of access: 7 June 2019. <http://www.donnainaffari.it/2019/03/il-fondo-nazionale-innovazione-e-realta/>

<sup>2278</sup> Bando “Fermenti”, l’uguaglianza per tutti i generi tra le sfide, Department for Equal Opportuntiiies (Rome), 2 April 2019. Date of access: 6 June 2019. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/bando-fermenti-luguaglianza-per-tutti-i-generi-tra-le-sfide-sociali/>

<sup>2279</sup> Bando “Fermenti”, l’uguaglianza per tutti i generi tra le sfide, Department for Equal Opportuntiiies (Rome), 2 April 2019. Date of access: 6 June 2019. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/bando-fermenti-luguaglianza-per-tutti-i-generi-tra-le-sfide-sociali/>

<sup>2280</sup> Il Forum dedicato al Nuovo modello di economia con tavole rotonde su finanze, tecnologie e smart cities, Donna in Affari (Rome), 5 April 2019. Date of access: 7 June 2019. <http://www.donnainaffari.it/2019/04/sustainable-economy-forum-a-san-patrignano/>

**Japan: -1**

Japan has not complied in its commitment to support development finance programs that strive to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

On 28 November 2018, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Vietnam Office and the Vietnam Women's Union signed agreements to promote "gender-responsive financial inclusion," through commercial banks and microfinance organizations.<sup>2281</sup> This project is planned to be implemented from March 2019 to March 2021.<sup>2282</sup> As per, the news source Vietnam Plus, "although the majority of customers of microfinance services are women, the types of financial products available to them are quite limited."<sup>2283</sup>

Japan has taken the effort to promote economic and stability in a partner country through agreeing to provide access to capital via commercial banks and microfinance organization that enhance economic opportunities for women. However, this action is not mutually reinforcing and involves finance programs carried out by private institutions, not the Japanese government. Therefore, Japan has not complied in its commitment to support development finance programs that strive to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

Thus, Japan receives a score of -1.<sup>2284</sup>

*Analyst: Tyler Rae McMurdo*

**United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied in its commitment to support development finance programs that strive to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

On 20 August 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May announced that the United Kingdom will be initiating a GBP 200 million "Women's Integrated Sexual Health" program to help the poorest, most marginalized women and girls in nineteen countries around the world gain access to birth control in effort to promote economic empowerment and gender equality.<sup>2285</sup> The British government

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<sup>2281</sup> Japan Helps to Promote Financial Services for Vietnamese Women, Vietnam Plus (Hanoi) 28 November 2018.

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/japan-helps-to-promote-financial-services-for-vietnamese-women/142690.vnp>;

Japan, VN Cooperate to Promote Financial Service for Women, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam Online Newspaper of the Government (Hanoi) 30 November 2018. <http://news.chinhphu.vn/Home/Japan-VN-cooperate-to-promote-financial-service-for-women/201811/35309.vgp>

<sup>2282</sup> Japan Helps to Promote Financial Services for Vietnamese Women, Vietnam Plus (Hanoi) 28 November 2018.

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/japan-helps-to-promote-financial-services-for-vietnamese-women/142690.vnp>

<sup>2283</sup> Japan Helps to Promote Financial Services for Vietnamese Women, Vietnam Plus (Hanoi) 28 November 2018.

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/japan-helps-to-promote-financial-services-for-vietnamese-women/142690.vnp>

<sup>2284</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a deep search fo the following website: <https://www.japan.go.jp/>, <http://www.gender.go.jp>, <https://asia.nikkei.com/>, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp>, <https://www.scmp.com>, <https://www.channelnewsasia.com>, <https://www3.nhk.or.jp>, <http://www.asahi.com>,

<sup>2285</sup> UK to Help Poorest Women Around the World Gain Access to Birth Control, The Telegraph (London) 30 August 2018. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/family-planning/>;

Kenyan President Rubukes Theresa May on Last Day of Africa Trip, The Guardian (London) 30 August 2018.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/aug/30/kenya-president-rebuked-theresa-may-last-day-africa-trip>.

recognizes the link between access to birth control and economic empowerment and gender equality.<sup>2286</sup> Through this initiative, the British government announced that through its “Leave No Girl Behind” program in Kenya, it will support 5000 girls to resume their education.<sup>2287</sup>

On 22 September 2018, the Minister for Women Victoria Atkins announced a new government start-up fund of GBP 489,050 for relevant organizations to help women returners to work get back into work and progress in their careers through investment in “training, refreshing skills and facilitating work placements.”<sup>2288</sup> Atkins affirmed her goal of women’s economic empowerment and gender equality through this fund by stating, “for too long, taking time out of work to care for others has cut short careers and brilliant, talented women are unable to re-enter industries which will not support them to return ... By taking action on this issue we can grow the economy and achieve true equality in our workplaces.”<sup>2289</sup>

On 13 November 2018, the Government of the United Kingdom invested GBP200 million in the Wish program which will be implemented by the International Planned Parenthood Federation and Maria Stopes International.<sup>2290</sup> This program will promote development and “increase the availability of contraceptives in twenty-seven countries across Africa and Asia” and aims to help empower women to “stay in education, forge a career, [and] stay healthy.”<sup>2291</sup>

On 23 November 2018, the UK announced it will invest GBP50 million to provide funding for initiatives to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in Africa by 2030.<sup>2292</sup> As per the Guardian, the Department for International Development, approximately GBP15 million of this funding “will be allocated to Sudan, where an estimated 87 percent of women and girls aged 15 to 49 have undergone FGM.”<sup>2293</sup> In Sudan, this money will be used to support the Saleema Initiative, which runs clubs at schools to discuss women and girls’ rights and FGM.<sup>2294</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment. The United Kingdom has taken efforts to support development of finance programs by creating a fund for organizations to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality and has taken effort to promote mutually

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<sup>2286</sup> Kenyan President Rubukes Theresa May on Last Day of Africa Trip, The Guardian (London) 30 August 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/aug/30/kenya-president-rebukes-theresa-may-last-day-africa-trip>.

<sup>2287</sup> Kenyan President Rubukes Theresa May on Last Day of Africa Trip, The Guardian (London) 30 August 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/aug/30/kenya-president-rebukes-theresa-may-last-day-africa-trip>.

<sup>2288</sup> £500,000 Awarded to Organisations Helping to Tackle Causes of the Gender Pay Gap, Government Equalities Office (London) 22 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/500000-awarded-to-organisations-helping-to-tackle-causes-of-the-gender-pay-gap>.

<sup>2289</sup> £500,000 Awarded to Organisations Helping to Tackle Causes of the Gender Pay Gap, Government Equalities Office (London) 22 September 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/500000-awarded-to-organisations-helping-to-tackle-causes-of-the-gender-pay-gap>.

<sup>2290</sup> UK Gives ‘Landmark’ £200m to Improve Contraceptive Access in Africa and Asia, The Guardian (London) 13 November 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/nov/13/uk-gives-landmark-200m-to-improve-contraceptive-access-in-africa-and-asia>.

<sup>2291</sup> UK Gives ‘Landmark’ £200m to Improve Contraceptive Access in Africa and Asia, The Guardian (London) 13 November 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/nov/13/uk-gives-landmark-200m-to-improve-contraceptive-access-in-africa-and-asia>.

<sup>2292</sup> UK Aid Makes Largest Ever Investment to Help End FGM, Department for International Development (London) 23 November 2018. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2018/11/23/uk-aid-makes-largest-ever-investment-to-help-end-fgm/>. UK Pledges £50m to Help End FGM Across Africa by 2030, The Guardian (London) 23 November 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/nov/23/uk-funding-pledge-fgm-female-genital-mutilation-africa>.

<sup>2293</sup> UK Pledges £50m to Help End FGM Across Africa by 2030, The Guardian (London) 23 November 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/nov/23/uk-funding-pledge-fgm-female-genital-mutilation-africa>.

<sup>2294</sup> UK Pledges £50m to Help End FGM Across Africa by 2030, The Guardian (London) 23 November 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/nov/23/uk-funding-pledge-fgm-female-genital-mutilation-africa>.

reinforcing economic prosperity in partner countries (such as Kenya and Sudan) by providing access to capital that enhance economic opportunities and gender equality for women.

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

*Analyst: Tyler Rae McMurdo*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to supporting development finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

On 11 June 2018, the U.S. extended its “2X” initiative to G7 members, creating a new and collaborative goal of mobilizing USD 3 billion by 2020 for investment in business activities that will benefit women.<sup>2295</sup> Development Finance Institutions from G7 countries will use innovative ways, including using blended finance, to support investments and initiatives that provide women in developing countries with access to leadership opportunities, quality employment, finance, enterprise support.<sup>2296</sup>

On 17 July 2018, U.S. Senate passed The Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act.<sup>2297</sup> The Act develops a development cooperation policy for the United States to support women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion.<sup>2298</sup> Additionally, the Act authorizes USAID to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those owned, managed, and controlled by women.<sup>2299</sup>

On 18 July 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a development finance bill called The Better Utilization of Investment Leading to Development (BUILD) Act.<sup>2300</sup> This creates a new agency which will combine the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Development Credit Authority in order to expand U.S. development finance capabilities.<sup>2301</sup>

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<sup>2295</sup> The Development Finance Institutes of the G7 Commit to Mobilise US\$3 Billion to Invest in the World’s Women, CDC (London), 11 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.cdcgroup.com/en/news-insight/news/the-development-finance-institutes-of-the-g7-commit-to-mobilise-us3-billion-to-invest-in-the-worlds-women/>

<sup>2296</sup> The Development Finance Institutes of the G7 Commit to Mobilise US\$3 Billion to Invest in the World’s Women, CDC (London), 11 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.cdcgroup.com/en/news-insight/news/the-development-finance-institutes-of-the-g7-commit-to-mobilise-us3-billion-to-invest-in-the-worlds-women/>

<sup>2297</sup> H.R. 5480, Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, Republican Policy Committee (Washington, D.C.), 17 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://policy.house.gov/legislative/bills/hr-5480-women-s-entrepreneurship-and-economic-empowerment-act>

<sup>2298</sup> H.R. 5480, Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, Republican Policy Committee (Washington, D.C.), 17 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://policy.house.gov/legislative/bills/hr-5480-women-s-entrepreneurship-and-economic-empowerment-act>

<sup>2299</sup> H.R. 5480, Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, Republican Policy Committee (Washington, D.C.), 17 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://policy.house.gov/legislative/bills/hr-5480-women-s-entrepreneurship-and-economic-empowerment-act>

<sup>2300</sup> US House of Representatives Approves Finance Development Bill, DEVEX (Washington, D.C.), 18 July 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. [https://www.devex.com/news/us-house-of-representatives-approves-development-finance-bill-93132?utm\\_source=article&utm\\_medium=88888&utm\\_campaign=line](https://www.devex.com/news/us-house-of-representatives-approves-development-finance-bill-93132?utm_source=article&utm_medium=88888&utm_campaign=line)

<sup>2301</sup> BUILD Act for New US Development Finance Corporation Sails through Senate Committee Vote, DEVEX (Washington, D.C.), 27 June 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. [https://www.devex.com/news/build-act-for-new-us-development-finance-corporation-sails-through-senate-committee-vote-93015?utm\\_source=article&utm\\_medium=88888&utm\\_campaign=line](https://www.devex.com/news/build-act-for-new-us-development-finance-corporation-sails-through-senate-committee-vote-93015?utm_source=article&utm_medium=88888&utm_campaign=line)

On 12 September 2018, OPIC CEO Ray Washburne said that OPIC will have more capital for initiatives that invest in women-owned businesses should The BUILD Act be passed by U.S. Congress.<sup>2302</sup> On 3 October 2018, U.S. Senate passed The BUILD Act legislation, creating a USD 60 billion agency called the U.S. International Development Finance Corp.<sup>2303</sup> On 5 October 2018, President Donald Trump signed the BUILD Act into law.<sup>2304</sup> The passing of the BUILD Act led to the creation of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (USIDFC), which will take up to a year to operationalize.<sup>2305</sup> The USIDFC will help the U.S. solidify the work of different U.S. agencies that assist in fostering the private sector abroad. It will also help the U.S. work better on development challenges with its allies such as Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and other partners with enhanced capabilities.<sup>2306</sup> The USIDFC can also help with a series of national security and foreign policy challenges to better the current development finance instruments in the U.S.<sup>2307</sup> The BUILD Act allows USIDFC to: make equity investments; provide technical assistance; increase the ability to take smart risks using local currency loans, first loss guarantees, and the provision of small grants; raise the spending cap of the USIDFC's investments to USD60 billion, more than doubling OPIC's current USD29 billion funding cap; provide a 7-year authorization; and create a "preference" for U.S. investors, rather than a requirement.<sup>2308</sup> Another key aspect of USAID which will be transferred over to USIDFC is the Office of Private Capital and Microenterprise within the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment.<sup>2309</sup>

On 25 September 2018, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announces that The White House is planning on launching "an umbrella initiative" in 2019.<sup>2310</sup> The initiative will focus on economic empowerment of women for three pillars: vocational education and skills training, promotion of women entrepreneurs, and eliminating barriers and creating enabling environments so women in the developing world are able to freely and fairly participate in their local economies.<sup>2311</sup>

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<sup>2302</sup> OPIC Chief: Agency's Focus on Women an Attractive Alternative to Chinese Investments, DEVEX (Washington, D. C.), 13 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.devex.com/news/opic-chief-agency-s-focus-on-women-an-attractive-alternative-to-chinese-investments-93426>

<sup>2303</sup> Congress, Eyeing China, Votes to Overhaul Development Finance, Reuters (London), 3 October 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congress-development/congress-eying-china-votes-to-overhaul-development-finance-idUSKCN1MD2HJ>

<sup>2304</sup> Trump Strikes A Blow In US-China Struggle with BUILD Act to Contain Xi's Belt and Road, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong), 20 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/geopolitics/article/2169441/trump-strikes-blow-us-china-struggle-build-act-contain-xis>

<sup>2305</sup> The BUILD Act Has Passed: What's Next?, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C.), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/build-act-has-passed-whats-next>

<sup>2306</sup> The BUILD Act Has Passed: What's Next?, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C.), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/build-act-has-passed-whats-next>

<sup>2307</sup> The BUILD Act Has Passed: What's Next?, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C.), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/build-act-has-passed-whats-next>

<sup>2308</sup> The BUILD Act Has Passed: What's Next?, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C.), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/build-act-has-passed-whats-next>

<sup>2309</sup> The BUILD Act Has Passed: What's Next?, Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington, D.C.), 12 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/build-act-has-passed-whats-next>

<sup>2310</sup> Ivanka Trump: White House to Launch Women's Empowerment 'Umbrella Initiative' in 2019, DEVEX (Washington, D.C.), 26 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.devex.com/news/ivanka-trump-white-house-to-launch-women-s-empowerment-umbrella-initiative-in-2019-93531>

<sup>2311</sup> Ivanka Trump: White House to Launch Women's Empowerment 'Umbrella Initiative' in 2019, DEVEX (Washington), 26 September 2018. Access Date: 18 October 2018. <https://www.devex.com/news/ivanka-trump-white-house-to-launch-women-s-empowerment-umbrella-initiative-in-2019-93531>

In October 2018, the Council on Foreign Affairs publishes a report introducing the “Women’s Workplace Equality Index” which ranks 189 countries on legal gender equality in the world place.<sup>2312</sup> The United States ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries.<sup>2313</sup> On 7 February 2019, the White House launches the Women’s Global Development Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative.<sup>2314</sup> The initiative will be led by the White House and the National Security Council in collaboration with USAID.<sup>2315</sup> The initiative is intended to bring women’s economic empowerment to the forefront of the U.S. Government’s development agenda by focusing on three pillars: advancing workforce development and vocation education; promoting women’s entrepreneurship and access to capital, markets, and technical assistance and networks; and, striving to remove the legal, regulatory, and cultural barriers which constrain women from participating in the economy.<sup>2316</sup> W-GDP works with the Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act passed by Congress in July 2018 to improve access to finance, reduce gender disparities, eliminate gender-based violence, support women’s property and land rights, and improve education.<sup>2317</sup>

On 5 June 2019, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announces a deal between USAID and Mastercard. Within the partnership, Mastercard will increase its efforts to promote women’s economic empowerment in developing countries and improve women entrepreneur’s access to formal financial services through targeted programs such as skill training, business development, and advocacy.<sup>2318</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment. The United States has taken measures to support development programs for women through the passing of Acts. The United States has also promoted economic prosperity and stability in partner countries by collaborating with other G7 members — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Union — and through its own national projects, in order to enhance access to capital for women, specifically by improving financial inclusion and opportunities for developing countries.

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

*Analyst: Tirtha Shah*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support development finance programs that strive to advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in partner countries, including by providing access to capital that enhances economic opportunities for women.

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<sup>2312</sup> New Interactive Reports on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Council on Foreign Relations (New York), 15 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/new-interactive-reports-womens-economic-empowerment>

<sup>2313</sup> New Interactive Reports on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Council on Foreign Relations (New York), 15 October 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2018. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/new-interactive-reports-womens-economic-empowerment>

<sup>2314</sup> Realizing Women’s Economic Potential, USAID (Washington, D.C.), 13 March 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment/womens-economic-empowerment>

<sup>2315</sup> Realizing Women’s Economic Potential, USAID (Washington, D.C.), 13 March 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment/womens-economic-empowerment>

<sup>2316</sup> Realizing Women’s Economic Potential, USAID (Washington, D.C.), 13 March 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment/womens-economic-empowerment>

<sup>2317</sup> Realizing Women’s Economic Potential, USAID (Washington, D.C.), 13 March 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment/womens-economic-empowerment>

<sup>2318</sup> Mastercard and USAID Extend Relationship to Support Women Entrepreneurs, Yahoo Finance (California), 5 June 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/mastercard-usaid-extend-relationship-support-152200392.html>

On 14 June 2018, the European Commission proposed a 30 percent funding increase for the external action budget of the European Union from EUR94.5 billion in the period 2014-2020 to EUR123 billion from 2021 to 2027.<sup>2319</sup> Among other features, an element of the new external budget proposal is the implementation of a streamlined Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument that will jointly address global challenges such as gender equality in external partner countries by promoting and financing greater external action programs.<sup>2320</sup>

On 19 June 2018, the European Commission organized the inaugural Digital4Her conference titled “More Women in Digital: A Strategy for Growth and Equality” that formed part of an initiative to foster women’s participation in the tech sector, as a means to boost the economy and bridge gender gaps within society.<sup>2321</sup> The online database European Network for Women in Digital was launched at the event and aims to promote greater participation of girls and women in digital studies and careers across the EU by facilitating partnerships between organizations and business to promote “women in digital.”<sup>2322</sup>

On 30 June 2018, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, alongside the Chair of the African Union (AU) and President of Rwanda Paul Kagamé co-hosted the “Women in Power” side-event at the 31st African Union Summit.<sup>2323</sup> Among other issues, the event promoted women’s empowerment and gender equality as a priority on the common AU-EU agenda and European Commissioner Mimica made specific reference to the promotion of women in entrepreneurship.<sup>2324</sup>

On 10-11 July 2018, the European Commission, the European Trading Foundation, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development held the Working Group on SME and Entrepreneurship Policy event in Tunis under the framework of the OECD-MENA Competitiveness programme. Among other topics, this event re-affirmed a commitment to the entrepreneurship potential of women and the skill base of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and assessed that education, employment, and economic policies need to be re-evaluated in order to promote women entrepreneurship.<sup>2325</sup>

On 18 July 2018, the EP published a briefing titled “Women in the Western Balkans: Gender equality in the EU accession process” that reaffirms gender equality as part of the accession conditions that

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<sup>2319</sup> EU budget: Making the EU fit for its role as strong global actor, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (Brussels) 14 June 2018. Date of access: 30 September 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-budget-making-eu-fit-its-role-strong-global-actor\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-budget-making-eu-fit-its-role-strong-global-actor_en).

<sup>2320</sup> EU budget: Making the EU fit for its role as strong global actor, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (Brussels) 14 June 2018. Date of access: 30 September 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-budget-making-eu-fit-its-role-strong-global-actor\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-budget-making-eu-fit-its-role-strong-global-actor_en).

<sup>2321</sup> Digital4Her, European Commission (Brussels), 19 June 2018. Date of access: 27 October 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital4her>

<sup>2322</sup> European Network for Women in Digital, European Commission (Brussels), 19 June 2018. Date of access: 27 October 2018. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-network-women-digital>

<sup>2323</sup> Africa and Europe put women’s empowerment and gender equality at the top of their agenda, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (Brussels) 30 June 2018. Date of access: 30 September 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-and-europe-put-womens-empowerment-and-gender-equality-top-their-agenda\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-and-europe-put-womens-empowerment-and-gender-equality-top-their-agenda_en).

<sup>2324</sup> African Union Summit: Joint AU-EU Side event “Women in Power”, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2018. Date of access: 30 September 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/mimica/announcements/african-union-summit-joint-au-eu-side-event-women-power-nouakchott-30062018\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019/mimica/announcements/african-union-summit-joint-au-eu-side-event-women-power-nouakchott-30062018_en).

<sup>2325</sup> A more entrepreneurial drive in North Africa and the Middle East, European Trading Foundation (Turin), 31 July 2018. Date of access: 30 September 2018. <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/more-entrepreneurial-drive-north-africa-and-middle-east>.

candidate and potential candidate countries from the Western Balkans have to comply.<sup>2326</sup> The briefing promotes that the Western Balkans should strive to advance gender equality by investing in the potential and skills of women to underpin achievements such as economic growth, employment, and social cohesion.<sup>2327</sup>

On 24 July 2018, the European Commission launched the 2018-2020 Work Programme for Horizon Europe, a framework research and innovation program that aims to eliminate gender inequalities women face in fields of research and innovation.<sup>2328</sup> This initiative will conduct an analysis of current gender gaps and biases in the allocation of grants in order to contribute to more gender equal research grant systems at the EU level.<sup>2329</sup>

On 27 July 2018, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a financial agreement worth EUR375 million with the National Bank of Egypt to fund investments by SMEs and mid-caps in Egypt under the EIB's Economic Resilience Initiative.<sup>2330</sup> This agreement will enhance the prospects for more resilient and inclusive growth in Egypt through financial inclusion and the creation of sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for women and in less-developed areas.<sup>2331</sup> A percentage of the EIB's financing, which come from EU support, will target firms specifically owned or run by women.<sup>2332</sup>

On 28 August 2018, the European Parliament passed the resolution on “Gender Budgeting in the EU Budget — The way forward.”<sup>2333</sup> This resolution affirms gender mainstreaming as an effective strategy towards realizing gender equality, which involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures, and spending programs.<sup>2334</sup> The resolution calls on the European Commission and the Council of the

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<sup>2326</sup> Women in the Western Balkans: Gender equality in the EU accession process, European Parliament (Brussels) 18 July 2018. Date of access: 27 October 2018.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625139/EPRS\\_BRI\(2018\)625139\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625139/EPRS_BRI(2018)625139_EN.pdf)

<sup>2327</sup> Women in the Western Balkans: Gender equality in the EU accession process, European Parliament (Brussels) 18 July 2018. Date of access: 27 October 2018.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625139/EPRS\\_BRI\(2018\)625139\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/625139/EPRS_BRI(2018)625139_EN.pdf)

<sup>2328</sup> Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, European Commission (Brussels), 24 July 2018. Date of access: 14 October 2018. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-swfs\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-swfs_en.pdf).

<sup>2329</sup> Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, European Commission (Brussels), 24 July 2018. Date of access: 14 October 2018. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-swfs\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-swfs_en.pdf).

<sup>2330</sup> EIB signs EUR375 million financing agreement with NBE to support SMEs in Egypt, European Investment Bank, 27 July 2018. Date of access: 10 October 2018. <http://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2018/2018-208-eib-signs-eur-375-million-financing-agreement-with-nbe-to-support-smes-in-egypt>.

<sup>2331</sup> EIB signs EUR375 million financing agreement with NBE to support SMEs in Egypt, European Investment Bank, 27 July 2018. Date of access: 10 October 2018. <http://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2018/2018-208-eib-signs-eur-375-million-financing-agreement-with-nbe-to-support-smes-in-egypt>.

<sup>2332</sup> EIB signs EUR375 million financing agreement with NBE to support SMEs in Egypt, European Investment Bank, 27 July 2018. Date of access: 10 October 2018. <http://www.eib.org/en/infocentre/press/releases/all/2018/2018-208-eib-signs-eur-375-million-financing-agreement-with-nbe-to-support-smes-in-egypt>.

<sup>2333</sup> European Parliament resolution on Gender Budgeting in the EU Budget — The Way forward, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 August 2018. Date of access: 10 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/FEMM/DV/2018/09-03/20180828DraftResolutionGenderBudgetingintheEUBudget-thewayforward\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/FEMM/DV/2018/09-03/20180828DraftResolutionGenderBudgetingintheEUBudget-thewayforward_EN.pdf).

<sup>2334</sup> European Parliament resolution on Gender Budgeting in the EU Budget — The Way forward, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 August 2018. Date of access: 10 October 2018. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/FEMM/DV/2018/09-03/20180828DraftResolutionGenderBudgetingintheEUBudget-thewayforward\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/FEMM/DV/2018/09-03/20180828DraftResolutionGenderBudgetingintheEUBudget-thewayforward_EN.pdf).

European Union to re-affirm their commitment to gender equality by a clear commitment on gender budgeting in the regulation of the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027.<sup>2335</sup>

From 29 to 30 August 2018, the EU, in partnership with the UN Women and the International Labor Organization, launched the “Win-Win: Gender equality means good business” regional programme at the 2018 Women’s Empowerment Principles Forum.<sup>2336</sup> This initiative will engage private sector companies, women’s business networks, women entrepreneurs and others to foster women’s economic empowerment and exchange good practices to advance gender equality and promote partnerships and innovation between women from Europe and Latin American region.<sup>2337</sup> The initiative will be implemented across six countries over a period of three years: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Uruguay.<sup>2338</sup>

On 30 August 2018, the EU through its “Support to SME Development in Armenia” and EU4Business initiative funded the second gathering of the Women Entrepreneurs’ Club in Yerevan.<sup>2339</sup> This initiative was officially opened by the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia Ambassador Piotr Switalski and brought women entrepreneurs together to exchange their experience, build new business connections and cooperation opportunities in order to promote more participation of women in entrepreneurship and narrow the gender gap.<sup>2340</sup>

On 5 September 2018, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the EC Frederica Mogherini announced a new EUR2 million programme that will train and educate Afghan women in Kazakhstan.<sup>2341</sup> This initiative strives to economically empower women to advance gender equality.<sup>2342</sup>

On 18 September 2018, the EU through its EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion supported the extension of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Women in Business Programme to launch in Morocco.<sup>2343</sup> This initiative will provide EUR35 million to support women-

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<sup>2335</sup> European Parliament resolution on Gender Budgeting in the EU Budget — The Way forward, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 August 2018. Date of access: 10 October 2018.

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/FEMM/DV/2018/09-03/20180828DraftResolutionGenderBudgetingintheEUBudget-thewayforward\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/FEMM/DV/2018/09-03/20180828DraftResolutionGenderBudgetingintheEUBudget-thewayforward_EN.pdf).

<sup>2336</sup> Gender equality is good for business, leaders say at 2018 WEPs Forum, UN Women (New York) 26 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/9/news-2018-weps-forum>.

<sup>2337</sup> Gender equality is good for business, leaders say at 2018 WEPs Forum, UN Women (New York) 26 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/9/news-2018-weps-forum>.

<sup>2338</sup> Gender equality is good for business, leaders say at 2018 WEPs Forum, UN Women (New York) 26 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/9/news-2018-weps-forum>.

<sup>2339</sup> Armenian women entrepreneurs gather in Yerevan, EU4Business (Yerevan), 4 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <http://eu4business.eu/news/armenian-women-entrepreneurs-gather-yerevan>.

<sup>2340</sup> Armenian women entrepreneurs gather in Yerevan, EU4Business (Yerevan), 4 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <http://eu4business.eu/news/armenian-women-entrepreneurs-gather-yerevan>.

<sup>2341</sup> EU supports Kazakh programme to educate women, EURACTIV.com (London), 7 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/central-europe/news/eu-supports-kazakh-programme-to-educate-afghan-women/>.

<sup>2342</sup> EU supports Kazakh programme to educate women, EURACTIV.com (London), 7 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/central-europe/news/eu-supports-kazakh-programme-to-educate-afghan-women/>.

<sup>2343</sup> EBRD, backed by EU, launches Women in Business Programme in Morocco, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 18 September 2018. Date of Access: 13 October 2018.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2018/ebrd-backed-by-eu-launches-women-in-business-programme-in-morocco.html>.

led SMEs and provide business advice, training, mentoring and network-building services to women entrepreneurs.<sup>2344</sup>

From 21 to 22 September 2018, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Frederica Mogherini, alongside the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Chrystia Freeland co-chaired the women foreign ministers' meeting.<sup>2345</sup> Among other issues, the meeting included a discussion on ways to expand the global commitment to gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and girls and the co-chairs pledged their support to build a network of governments and civil society organizations to advance gender equality and women's rights.<sup>2346</sup>

On 27 September 2018, the EU in partnership with the United Nations announced a EUR50 million regional programme to end femicide in Latin America as part of the Spotlight Initiative, a partnership to promote gender equality and women and girl's empowerment by eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, backed by an initial EUR500 million.<sup>2347</sup>

On 29 September 2018, the EU through its "Direct Action for Women — Reform, Inclusion and Confidence" funded the organization of gender equality training and round table discussions that focused on the importance of women economic empowerment in Lebanon.<sup>2348</sup>

On 9 October 2018, the EU supported the launch of the "Jobs, Skills and Finance for Women and Youth in The Gambia Programme."<sup>2349</sup> This initiative will provide EUR15 million to stabilize the economic, social, and security situation of The Gambia by facilitating social inclusion and employment of youth and women, with a specific emphasis on promoting gender equality.<sup>2350</sup>

From 10 to 11 October, the EU supported the 2018 edition of the Women4Mediterranean Conference entitled "Women build inclusive societies in the Mediterranean" that gathered more than 300 high-level stakeholders from all sectors involved in gender equality and women's empowerment

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<sup>2344</sup> EBRD, backed by EU, launches Women in Business Programme in Morocco, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 18 September 2018. Date of Access: 13 October 2018.

<https://www.ebrd.com/news/2018/ebrd-backed-by-eu-launches-women-in-business-programme-in-morocco.html>.

<sup>2345</sup> The EU and Canada reiterate a shared commitment to advance gender equality and women's contributions to peace and security at the women Foreign Ministers' Meeting, European Union External Action (Montréal) 23 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/50954/eu-and-canada-reiterate-shared-commitment-advance-gender-equality-and-women-s-contributions\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/50954/eu-and-canada-reiterate-shared-commitment-advance-gender-equality-and-women-s-contributions_en).

<sup>2346</sup> The EU and Canada reiterate a shared commitment to advance gender equality and women's contributions to peace and security at the women Foreign Ministers' Meeting, European Union External Action (Montréal) 23 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/50954/eu-and-canada-reiterate-shared-commitment-advance-gender-equality-and-women-s-contributions\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/50954/eu-and-canada-reiterate-shared-commitment-advance-gender-equality-and-women-s-contributions_en).

<sup>2347</sup> EU-UN Spotlight Initiative — Latin America Regional Programme officially launched, European Union External Action (Brussels), 27 September 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/51262/eu-un-spotlight-initiative-latin-america-regional-programme-officially-launched\\_fr](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/51262/eu-un-spotlight-initiative-latin-america-regional-programme-officially-launched_fr).

<sup>2348</sup> The EU-funded project DAWRIC organises two events on gender equality in Lebanon, EU Neighbours (Brussels), 4 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-project-dawric-organises-two-events-gender-equality-lebanon>.

<sup>2349</sup> <sup>2349</sup> The Jobs, Skills and Finance for Women and Youth Programme has Launched in The Gambia, UN Capital Development Fund (Banjul), 9 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <http://www.uncdf.org/article/3967/the-jobs-skills-and-finance-for-women-and-youth-programme-has-launched-in-the-gambia>.

<sup>2350</sup> The Jobs, Skills and Finance for Women and Youth Programme has Launched in The Gambia, UN Capital Development Fund (Banjul), 9 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <http://www.uncdf.org/article/3967/the-jobs-skills-and-finance-for-women-and-youth-programme-has-launched-in-the-gambia>.

in the Euro-Mediterranean region, including the Secretary General of the European External Action Service Helga Schmid.<sup>2351</sup> The conference followed the declaration of the “Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society” that was sponsored by the European Union and attached great importance to the economic rights of women, including the entitlement of all women to freely earn decent living in the labor market with equal pay and equal access to economic resources.<sup>2352</sup>

On 15 October 2018, the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Ambassador Sem Fabrizi announced the implementation of a three-year project entitled “Priority Action for Gender Equality” in partnership with UN Women.<sup>2353</sup> This initiative will strengthen administrative capacities for gender equality and contribute to the empowerment of women in the labour market, women’s entrepreneurship, and the empowerment of rural women, through awarding at least 30 financial grants to women’s civil society organizations in Serbia.<sup>2354</sup>

On 17 October 2018, the European Commission provided an additional EUR15 million in support of its pledge to assist Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, backed by an initial EUR65 million in humanitarian assistance.<sup>2355</sup> The priority of this support package will focus on advancing gender equality by meeting the needs of female-headed households and families.<sup>2356</sup>

On 26 October 2018, the EC greenlighted the start of the implementation of the Instrument for Pre-accession for Rural Development II program for Albania.<sup>2357</sup> The program enables Albanian farmers and agribusiness to have access to EUR71million of funding from the EU available for the period 2014-2020 for investment in agriculture and rural development, with particular emphasis on creating new employment opportunities for women in agriculture.<sup>2358</sup>

On 16 November 2018, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica participated in a Gender Equality panel alongside the United Nations,

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<sup>2351</sup> EU behind the Women4Mediterranean Conference 2018, EU Neighbours (Brussels), 20 August 2018. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-behind-women4mediterranean-conference-2018>.

<sup>2352</sup> Adopted Declaration by Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, Union for the Mediterranean (Cairo), 27 November 2017. Date of access: 13 October 2018. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/FINAL-ADOPTED-Declaration-on-Strengthening-Women-in-Society.pdf>.

<sup>2353</sup> Fabrizi: Priority Action for Gender Equality, The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia (Belgrade) 15 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <https://europa.rs/fabrizi-priority-action-for-gender-equality/?lang=en>.

<sup>2354</sup> Fabrizi: Priority Action for Gender Equality, The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia (Belgrade) 15 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. <https://europa.rs/fabrizi-priority-action-for-gender-equality/?lang=en>.

<sup>2355</sup> Commission delivers on its pledge to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (Brussels), 17 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/commission-delivers-its-pledge-support-rohingya-refugees-bangladesh\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/commission-delivers-its-pledge-support-rohingya-refugees-bangladesh_en).

<sup>2356</sup> Commission delivers on its pledge to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (Brussels), 17 October 2018. Date of access: 19 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/commission-delivers-its-pledge-support-rohingya-refugees-bangladesh\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/commission-delivers-its-pledge-support-rohingya-refugees-bangladesh_en).

<sup>2357</sup> EU greenlights the start of the implementation of IPARD II programme for Albania, Independent Balkan News Agency (Pomorie), 26 October 2018. Date of access: 27 October 2018. <https://balkaneu.com/eu-greenlights-the-start-of-the-implementation-of-ipard-ii-programme-for-albania/>

<sup>2358</sup> EU greenlights the start of the implementation of IPARD II programme for Albania, Independent Balkan News Agency (Pomorie), 26 October 2018. Date of access: 27 October 2018. <https://balkaneu.com/eu-greenlights-the-start-of-the-implementation-of-ipard-ii-programme-for-albania/>

the Chinese government, and non-governmental organization representatives during the China-EU Development Conference. During the panel, Mimica highlighted the EU's interest to work more in and with China on advancing gender equality following a meeting with the chair of the newly established China International Development Cooperation Agency where both sides agreed to greater cooperation on sustainable development.<sup>2359</sup>

On 20 November 2018, the EU supported the launch of the BUSINESSMED's three thematic committees in Barcelona, Spain which promote economic integration in the Mediterranean as part of the EU-funded Enhancing Business Support Organizations and Business Networks in the Southern Neighbourhood project.<sup>2360</sup> One of the three committees is focused on "Women and Youth Empowerment" and aims to promote "cutting-edge and strategic support in women and youth programming in all development contexts."<sup>2361</sup>

On 26 November 2018, the EC announced an additional EUR5 million in support of the projects of 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates Nadia Murad and Doctor Denis Mukwege maintaining its commitment to eradicating violence against women and girls.<sup>2362</sup> The European support for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates is part of the EU's broader commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment globally and will ensure the continuity of respective support programmes for victims of sexual violence in Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Congo.<sup>2363</sup>

On 27 November 2018, the EC announced a financial package worth EUR474 million to support state building and public sector reforms in Afghanistan.<sup>2364</sup> Among other issues, advancing gender equality is identified as at the core of this EU action financing Afghanistan's reform agenda.<sup>2365</sup>

On 29 November 2018, the European Union and the Mauritius Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare announced a Joint Monitoring Framework Agreement with the objective of tracking progress on the implementation of the Mauritius-EU Gender Action Plan.<sup>2366</sup> The agreement underlines that a number of performance indicators relating to the promotion of

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<sup>2359</sup> EU and China step up their cooperation on sustainable development, European Commission (Brussels), 16 November 2018. Date of access: 25 November 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6408\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6408_en.htm)

<sup>2360</sup> BUSINESSMED's Launch of the 3 Employer Thematic Committees, EBSOMED (Barcelona), 20 November 2018. Date of access: 25 November 2018. <http://www.ebsomed.eu/en/content/activit-s/businessmeds-launch-3-thematic-committees>

<sup>2361</sup> BUSINESSMED's Launch of the 3 Employer Thematic Committees, EBSOMED (Barcelona), 20 November 2018. Date of access: 25 November 2018. <http://www.ebsomed.eu/en/content/activit-s/businessmeds-launch-3-thematic-committees>

<sup>2362</sup> EU supports the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege, European Commission (Brussels), 26 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6536\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6536_en.htm)

<sup>2363</sup> EU supports the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nadia Murad and Dr Denis Mukwege, European Commission (Brussels), 26 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6536\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6536_en.htm)

<sup>2364</sup> New €474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan, European Commission (Geneva), 27 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IP-18-6565\\_EN.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IP-18-6565_EN.pdf)

<sup>2365</sup> New €474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan, European Commission (Geneva), 27 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IP-18-6565\\_EN.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IP-18-6565_EN.pdf)

<sup>2366</sup> Joint Monitoring Framework Agreement for tracking progress of Mauritius-EU Gender Action Plan, Republic of Mauritius (Port Louis), 29 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018.

<http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/Joint-Monitoring-Framework-Agreement-for-tracking-progress-of-Mauritius-EU-Gender-Action-Plan.aspx>

gender equality, elimination of gender-based violence, and economic empowerment of women will be more effectively monitored.<sup>2367</sup>

On 30 November 2018, the first regional Women Entrepreneurs Club (WE Club) was launched in Goris, Armenia, with the support of EU4Business and the EU-SMEDA project.<sup>2368</sup> The WE Club aims to establish an effective platform for capacity building, business connections and networking for Armenian women entrepreneurs on a monthly basis and EU-SMEDA supports the improvement of the business and investment climate in Armenia, as well as providing access to finance for SMEs.<sup>2369</sup>

On 3 December 2018, the EU, with the Libyan Ministry of Labor and Rehabilitation, supported the organization of a training program for women under the framework of Libyan Women's Support Project in the Public Sector.<sup>2370</sup> The program lasted eight days and about 70 women from 17 public sectors participated in the program aimed at the economic empowerment of women to enhance their role in society.<sup>2371</sup>

On 4 December 2018, EUR17.2 million in co-financing from the EU through the Western Balkans Investment Framework was announced as part of the modernization of Kosovo's railway infrastructure.<sup>2372</sup> It was signed in the presence of the Head of the EU Office in Kosovo Bedri Hamza and supports equal opportunities with an emphasis on workforce diversity and gender equality.<sup>2373</sup>

On 5 December 2018, EU supported the launch of a new program under the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Tonga.<sup>2374</sup> The EUR19.5 million program is funded primarily by the EU (EUR12.7 million) to transform the social norms that allow violence against women and girls to continue, ensure survivors have access to quality response services, and support national and regional institutions to meet their commitments to gender equality in the Pacific region.<sup>2375</sup>

On 9 January 2019, the EIB gave a EUR22.3 million loan to Garanti Bank Romania to support businesses in Romania. EUR5 million of the loan amount is devoted to female entrepreneurs,

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<sup>2367</sup> Joint Monitoring Framework Agreement for tracking progress of Mauritius-EU Gender Action Plan, Republic of Mauritius (Port Louis), 29 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <http://www.govmu.org/English/News/Pages/Joint-Monitoring-Framework-Agreement-for-tracking-progress-of-Mauritius-EU-Gender-Action-Plan.aspx>

<sup>2368</sup> Women Entrepreneurs Club expands to Armenia's regions, EU4Business (Yerevan), 30 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <http://eu4business.eu/news/women-entrepreneurs-club-expands-armenias-regions>

<sup>2369</sup> Women Entrepreneurs Club expands to Armenia's regions, EU4Business (Yerevan), 30 November 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <http://eu4business.eu/news/women-entrepreneurs-club-expands-armenias-regions>

<sup>2370</sup> Libya: EU supports a training program for women, EU Neighbors (Brussels), 3 December 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/libya-eu-supports-training-program-women>

<sup>2371</sup> Libya: EU supports a training program for women, EU Neighbors (Brussels), 3 December 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/libya-eu-supports-training-program-women>

<sup>2372</sup> EU gives an additional 17.2 million Euro for rail project, GazetaExpress (Pristina), 4 December 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/en/news/eu-gives-an-additional-17-2-million-euro-for-rail-project-174674/>

<sup>2373</sup> EU gives an additional 17.2 million Euro for rail project, GazetaExpress (Pristina), 4 December 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <https://www.gazetaexpress.com/en/news/eu-gives-an-additional-17-2-million-euro-for-rail-project-174674/>

<sup>2374</sup> New Pacific Partnership program increases commitment to End Violence Against Women and Girls, Matangi Tonga (Nuku'alofa), 5 December 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <https://matangitonga.to/2018/12/05/new-pacific-partnership-program-increases-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls>

<sup>2375</sup> New Pacific Partnership program increases commitment to End Violence Against Women and Girls, Matangi Tonga (Nuku'alofa), 5 December 2018. Date of access: 5 December 2018. <https://matangitonga.to/2018/12/05/new-pacific-partnership-program-increases-commitment-end-violence-against-women-and-girls>

matched by another EUR5 million from Garanti Bank, as part of the EIB's goal of fostering gender equality and diversity.<sup>2376</sup> As the first EIB loan dedicated to female entrepreneurs in the EU, the loan will give female entrepreneurs representing SMEs and mid-caps access to more favourable financing.<sup>2377</sup>

On 26 February 2019, the EU and the UN announced a EUR50 million investment to tackle domestic and gender-based violence in the Pacific region, as part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.<sup>2378</sup> The investment will fund new programmes to support concrete measures to end domestic and gender-based violence such as supporting preventative measures and providing protection and quality services to victims.<sup>2379</sup> Notably, it was announced that such measures will be accompanied by broader efforts to ensure women's economic empowerment and their participation in all aspects of society.<sup>2380</sup>

On 6 March 2019, the EU Initiative for Financial Inclusion supported the expansion of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Women in Business programme in Morocco.<sup>2381</sup> The programme provides a total of EUR35 million in local currency to BMCE Bank of Africa and BMCI to support women-led SMEs in Morocco and aims to reach at least 200 women entrepreneurs with access to finance, advisory services, and trainings.<sup>2382</sup>

On 12 April 2019, the European Commission financed EUR4.2 million under the External Investment Plan (EIP) to help banks in Africa and the European neighbourhood to better assist underfinanced sectors such as small businesses, including young entrepreneurs and women.<sup>2383</sup> This technical assistance will complement the EIP's "Small Loans and Guarantee Program (SLGP)" worth EUR42 million, which aims to encourage local banks to lend to small companies, which have had difficulty accessing finance to date, including women-owned SMEs.<sup>2384</sup>

From 24 to 26 April 2019, the EU co-financed the Tunis Forum on Gender Equality in Tunisia which explored the role of innovation and technology in encouraging women's economic empowerment and the role of women participating in local government.

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<sup>2376</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIB and Garanti Bank join forces to support businesses run by women in Romania, European Commission (Luxembourg/Bucharest), 9 January 2019. Date of access: 17 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09_en)

<sup>2377</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIB and Garanti Bank join forces to support businesses run by women in Romania, European Commission (Luxembourg/Bucharest), 9 January 2019. Date of access: 17 February 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09_en)

<sup>2378</sup> Spotlight Initiative – EU and UN fight against domestic violence in Pacific region, European Commission (Brussels), 26 February 2019. Date of access: 27 February 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1410\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1410_en.htm)

<sup>2379</sup> Spotlight Initiative – EU and UN fight against domestic violence in Pacific region, European Commission (Brussels), 26 February 2019. Date of access: 27 February 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1410\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1410_en.htm)

<sup>2380</sup> Spotlight Initiative – EU and UN fight against domestic violence in Pacific region, European Commission (Brussels), 26 February 2019. Date of access: 27 February 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1410\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1410_en.htm)

<sup>2381</sup> EBRD extends Women in Business programme in Morocco, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 6 March 2019. Date of access: 6 June 2019. <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/ebrd-extends-women-in-business-programme-in-morocco.html>

<sup>2382</sup> EBRD extends Women in Business programme in Morocco, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London), 6 March 2019. Date of access: 6 June 2019. <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/ebrd-extends-women-in-business-programme-in-morocco.html>

<sup>2383</sup> EU to facilitate financing for small businesses in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, European Commission (Brussels), 12 April 2019. Date of access: 12 April 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2112\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2112_en.htm)

<sup>2384</sup> EU to facilitate financing for small businesses in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, European Commission (Brussels), 12 April 2019. Date of access: 12 April 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2112\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2112_en.htm)

The EU has taken extensive efforts to support the development of finance programs that strive to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality by passing a resolution for gender budgeting while promoting mutually reinforcing economic prosperity and stability in multiple partner countries through funding external action programs that include providing access to capital that enhance economic opportunities for women.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

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