

What is La **Francophonie**?

**300 MILLION
FRANCOPHONES
ON THE 5 CONTINENTS!**

ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE
la francophonie



@OIFfrancophonie – francophonie.org

300 MILLION FRANCOPHONES.

La Francophonie represents the men and women who share a common language, French, a global language, which, while not the most spoken in the world, is the most widespread and the most widely taught after English. The 2018 report of the French Language Observatory estimates that there are **300 million French speakers** across the five continents.

French is the fifth most spoken language in the world after Chinese, English, Spanish and Arabic; it is the fourth most used language on the Internet and the second most learned language in the world. The largest number of speakers using French in their daily lives is in Africa.

Francophonie with a small «f» refers to people who speak French; **Francophonie** with a capital «F» refers to the institutional framework that organizes relations between Francophone countries.

La Francophonie aims to create an area of solidarity, based on the values of humanism, democracy and the respect of the diversity of cultures and languages.

To optimise the actions that La Francophonie takes together with the civil society, it works closely with the **Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF)** and its specialised operators (**The Academic Agency of La Francophonie –AUF–**, **TV5MONDE**, **The Senghor University of Alexandria** and the **International Association of Francophone Mayors – AIMF–**).

WHAT IS THE OIF?

The International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) represents a unique entity that, through the link of the common language, develops a political, educational, economic and cultural cooperation between its member countries, at the service of the populations.

AN ORGANIZATION THAT BRINGS TOGETHER COUNTRIES THAT SHARE THE FRENCH LANGUAGE. Since the Erevan Summit, in October 2018, the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) includes 88 member states and governments (54 members, 7 associate members and 27 observers). Its guiding principles are solidarity, diversity, experience-sharing, commitment and dialogue.

AT THE HEART OF POPULATIONS. In all its actions, the OIF devotes particular attention to young people and women. La Francophonie takes action on a daily basis to create favorable conditions for youth and women's entrepreneurship and to enable access to education for all and to innovation through digital tools. It focuses on mobility, capacity building and gender equality.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY. La Francophonie aims to promote the French language, its evolution, its cultural and linguistic diversity and the different cultures that exist on its territory.

PROMOTING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY. In collaboration with the international community, the OIF contributes to a peaceful political climate, to the consolidation of the institutions of the rule of law and to the respect of human rights.

MAKING EDUCATION AND TRAINING A PRIORITY. La Francophonie has made education a priority, in order to achieve the goals regarding girls' education and youth integration.

COOPERATING TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The OIF supports less privileged Francophone countries in their efforts towards economic growth and the management of their natural resources.



+ MORE FRENCH

The notion of Francophonie is by its nature inclusive. La Francophonie is by nature a space where diversity flourishes. It acts not «against» a language but «for» **diversity, multilingualism and modernity**.

The OIF is setting up a «**massive French learning**» framework/scheme, adapted to various audiences so as to ensure that French is more widely used and better spoken and understood all over the world.

In the member and observer countries where French is not an official language, the OIF takes action to reinforce the capacities of civil servants and diplomats to work in French, in the interest of furthering development and international cooperation. Likewise, the OIF organises thematic training for the staff of regional African organisations. In parallel, the OIF takes on the task of facilitating access to content in French to enable Francophones to have a better grasp of international issues. It plans on doing this by encouraging production and dissemination of resources in French, particularly digital resources. In order to have reliable statistical data, the **French Language Observatory** gathers and analyses data on the situation of French in each country, industry and international organisation. Every four years, it publishes a Report on the status of the French language worldwide. observatoire.francophonie.org

+ MORE CULTURE

Today, as in the past, la Francophonie is first and foremost a **cultural and civilizational project**. Its role in the adoption by the UNESCO of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions has gained it international acclaim. It has also initiated cooperation with other linguistic areas, (Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic-speaking areas) thus fostering **dialogue among cultures**.

The OIF implements programs to support Francophone **writers, filmmakers, musicians and plastic and digital artists**. It helps them disseminate their work throughout the world and gain access to the international audiences and markets. It also supports the cultural policies and the cultural industries in Francophone countries and focuses particularly on exploiting the possibilities offered by digital technology. Through its flagship program of **Centres for Reading and Cultural Activities** (CLAC) in rural and peri-urban areas, the OIF promotes reading for all as an essential means of acquiring knowledge.





+ MORE DEMOCRACY

Maintaining peace, democracy, human rights and freedom of the press are the priorities of La Francophonie's political action. Its main objectives are crisis recovery, supporting the electoral process, reinforcing the institutions of the state of law and guaranteeing the respect of rights and freedoms. The OIF is permanently committed to building and consolidating democracy by implementing, in its member states and governments, mediation initiatives and actions to support policy dialogue and by mobilising Francophone expertise during elections or justice, security systems or media regulation reforms. The OIF is assisted in widening the scope of this commitment by the **Francophone institutional networks** that are present throughout its territory and by the partnerships that it develops **with international organisations, NGOs and civil society actors**. Civil society organisations are at the heart of the Francophone project and have a privileged relationship with the OIF. There are now 127 organisations accredited by bodies of la Francophonie, they meet every other year during the Conference of INGOs.

+ MORE DEVELOPMENT

Solidarity, a guiding principle of La Francophonie, is at the base of its cooperative efforts for sustainable development. It is taking firm action to promote gender equality in the development of society in its Southern territories.

For this reason, during the Erevan Summit, heads of state and government have adopted a Francophone Strategy to promote gender equality and women and girls' rights and empowerment. It aims to put in place concerted and transparent actions in all of the OIF's missions and areas of intervention. In the fight against poverty, it works in close collaboration with local stakeholders, such as administrations, local authorities, rural communities and organisations that support small and medium-sized enterprises. It supports populations in implementing projects that generate income and employment. It strongly encourages the regional economic integration of less advanced Francophone countries and their inclusion in global trade. At the same time, the **Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development (IFDD)**, established in 1988 in Quebec, supports member countries of the OIF in managing their natural resources, implementing energy policies and participating in international negotiations regarding sustainable development. The OIF has set up a volunteering program that enables youth to act on major development issues while experiencing international mobility.





+ MORE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The future of the Francophonie and of the French-speaking economic community depends mainly on youth and women. In keeping with its founders' beliefs, the OIF is compelled to act towards encouraging entrepreneurship, as human development would be impossible without a harmonious integration in society. The OIF's economic strategy is articulated along four axes.

Deploying incubators for small, medium and individual companies in innovative and responsible development sectors, such as green economy, sustainable agriculture, social and solidarity economy and digital and cultural industries. The program that promotes employment through entrepreneurship for youth and women in Francophone sub-Saharan Africa focuses mainly on youth between the ages of 18 and 35 and women.

Helping entrepreneurs develop their activity by **contributing to a better business and entrepreneurship environment**. This can be done by introducing labels, certifications and quality standards and by providing institutional, normative, strategic and financial help.

Enabling entrepreneurs from the Southern territories to develop new opportunities by accessing the global market.

Facilitating networking in order to encourage experience sharing and the dissemination of good practices, identifying problems and solutions and collectively lobbying the international community.

+ MORE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Digital technology is essential to entrepreneurship. According to various studies, the digital divide affects women the most. In the digital technology field, the OIF works towards gender equality and towards enhancing the visibility and quality of content in French. **Through the Francophone fund for digital innovation**, the OIF aims to use digital creativity to help social innovation that contributes to the socio-economic needs of developing countries. As such, the Fund aims to consolidate these countries' public policies through the use of applications developed by local young professionals.

The **Finnov Network**, the Francophone network for innovation, created at the demand of heads of state and government, enables innovation stakeholders to network while developing local initiatives. Finnov encourages reflection on innovation, the dissemination of information and the exchange of good practices.

francophonieinnovation.org



54 member states and governments

Albania • Andorra • Armenia • Belgium • Benin • Bulgaria • Burkina Faso • Burundi • Cape Verde • Cambodia • Cameroon • Canada • Canada– New-Brunswick • Canada-Québec • Central African Republic • Chad • Comoro Islands • Congo • Democratic Republic of the Congo • Ivory Coast • Djibouti • Dominica • Egypt • France • Gabon • Greece • Guinea • Guinea-Bissau • Equatorial Guinea • Haiti • Laos • Lebanon • Luxembourg • The Republic of North Macedonia • Madagascar • Mali • Morocco • Mauritius • Mauritania • Moldova • Monaco • Niger • Romania • Rwanda • Togo • Tunisia • Vanuatu • Vietnam • The Federation Wallonia-Brussels

7 associate states

Cyprus • United Arab Emirates • France– New Caledonia • Ghana • Kosovo • Qatar • Serbia

27 observers

Argentina • Austria • Bosnia Herzegovina • Canada–Ontario • Costa Rica • South Korea • Croatia • Dominican Republic • Estonia • Gambia • Georgia • Hungary • Ireland • Latvia • Lithuania • Louisiana • Malta • Mexico • Montenegro • Mozambique • Poland • Slovakia • Slovenia • Czech Republic • Thailand • Ukraine • Uruguay



#malanguefrançaise

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