



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Other legal issues**Agreement between the International Labour Organization and the Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF)**

1. The Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) was created in 1997, following the decision of the Hanoi Summit to strengthen the French-speaking community on the international scene by developing the institutional machinery, in the form of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, which had been established in 1970 in Niamey (Niger) on the initiative of a number of African Heads of State. This became, as the Intergovernmental Agency of Francophonie, the main agency of the OIF, which also includes a number of specialist agencies in the fields of higher education, audiovisual media and urban development. The OIF is based in Paris and covers 55 States and governments. Its principal official bodies are: (i) the biennial Conference of Heads of State and Government (the Summit), which is the supreme body of the OIF; (ii) the Ministerial Conference, which meets every year to discuss the implementation of decisions by the Summit; (iii) the Standing Committee, consisting of personal representatives of Heads of State and Government and presided over by the Secretary-General; and (iv) the Secretariat, directed by the Secretary-General who is elected by the Summit for a four-year term of office. There is also a consultative Parliamentary Assembly of Francophonie. Under the terms of its Charter, the aims of the OIF are: to promote democracy and dialogue between cultures and civilizations; to prevent conflicts; to enhance multilateral cooperation in the interests of economic development; and to promote the use and status of French as an international language. To those ends, it is actively involved in international cooperation in favour of social and economic development. The OIF has participated in the International Labour Conference at the invitation of the Conference or Governing Body. It has also been invited to participate, as an observer, in the work of the Board of the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin.
2. The OIF has observer status with the United Nations General Assembly which, in resolution A/RES/43/25 of 15 November 1999 invited "*the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to collaborate to this end with the International Organization of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of development, in particular in the areas of poverty elimination, energy, sustainable development, education, training and the development of new information technologies.*" The OIF also has observer status with most of the United Nations specialized agencies. It has four permanent

missions – to the United Nations in both New York and Geneva, to the European Union in Brussels and to the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa.

3. In recent years, a number of individual cooperative projects have been implemented by the ILO and OIF together, and contacts between the Director-General of the ILO and the Secretary-General of the OIF have become more frequent. The two organizations have accordingly expressed their wish to conclude a cooperation agreement with a view to establishing a more solid and stable basis for their joint activities in areas of mutual interest. The text of the proposed agreement is reproduced in the appendix.
4. The proposed agreement aims to strengthen relations between the two organizations with a view to the effective implementation of mutually complementary activities. It will permit closer cooperation in joint efforts to promote their common objectives of peace and democracy. It provides that the two organizations will assist one another, especially with regard to: (a) the social dimension of globalization, with a view to combating poverty and bringing about broadly based and sustainable development; (b) the promotion of the ILO Declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work and its follow-up, as well as the application of international labour standards; (c) other important areas, such as the integration of young people at work, promotion of equal opportunities for men and women, training, enterprise development, new technologies and the promotion of cultural diversity and of the French language. The agreement also includes provisions on the exchange of information and documents concerning issues or activities of mutual interest and on reciprocal rights of representation at one another's meetings and conferences. Lastly, it contains implementing provisions.
5. *In the light of the foregoing remarks, the Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body approve the text of the proposed agreement between the International Labour Organization and the Organisation internationale de la francophonie, and that it authorize the Director-General or his representative to sign the agreement on behalf of the ILO.*

Geneva, 16 October 2001.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.

Appendix

**The *Organisation internationale de la francophonie* (OIF) in Paris (hereinafter referred to as “the OIF”), represented by the Secretary-General, and
The *International Labour Organization* (ILO) in Geneva (hereinafter referred to as “the ILO”), represented by the Director-General,**

Considering that the objectives of the OIF include those of helping to prevent conflicts, supporting the rule of law and human rights, bringing peoples closer together through mutual knowledge and strengthening their solidarity through multilateral cooperation with a view to promoting the growth of their economies, with respect for the sovereignty, languages and cultures of different States;

Considering also that the fundamental goal of the ILO is to promote justice, social progress and access to employment, specifically through the development of international standards, technical cooperation programmes and research activities, with a view to achieving material progress and spiritual fulfilment for all people in conditions of freedom and dignity, economic security and equality of opportunity;

Considering, furthermore, the many member countries and areas of activity which the OIF and ILO have in common;

Valuing institutional dialogue between governments and representatives of civil society in their respective bodies;

Recalling the institutional relations that have existed for many years between the two organizations;

Convinced of the importance of linguistic diversity as a factor in development and peace and as a key element in multilateralism and international democracy;

Desirous of continuing and strengthening their collaboration in order to enhance the effectiveness of their respective activities and better achieve their common objectives for the benefit of their members;

Agree to direct and harmonize their efforts to ensure reciprocal information, consultation and cooperation in accordance with the following provisions.

Article 1 – Reciprocal information

Subject to any provisions that may be needed to safeguard the confidentiality of certain documents, the OIF and ILO shall regularly exchange information, publications and any documents on matters of common interest, so as to promote the development of their activities. The practical means of organizing such exchanges shall be determined by the two parties jointly.

Article II – Reciprocal invitations

The parties shall invite one another to appoint representatives at meetings and conferences of common interest where the relevant regulations provide for the attendance

of such representatives. To that end, each of the parties shall inform the other in advance of its schedule of meetings and of the nature of those meetings.

Article III – Consultation

1. A joint committee may be established to administer the application of the present agreement. Its members in that case shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the OIF and the Director-General of the ILO. The practical organization of the committee's meetings and the content of its discussions shall be defined jointly by the parties.
2. The OIF shall inform the ILO of any of its projects relating to common objectives for which it desires the ILO's cooperation. Similarly, the ILO shall inform the OIF of any of its projects relating to common objectives for which it desires the cooperation of the OIF.

Article IV – Cooperation

1. As part of their respective programmes, the ILO and OIF may agree to formulate and implement joint collaborative activities, in particular in the following areas:
 - the social dimension of globalization, within the framework of a comprehensive social and economic development strategy in which economic and social policies are mutually reinforcing with the aim of combating poverty and bringing about broadly based and sustainable development based on respect for the fundamental rights at work, promotion of access to employment and income, improvement and expansion of social protection, and strengthening of social dialogue;
 - the promotion of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work namely, freedom of association and effective recognition of the right of collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation – and of its follow-up, and the study, promotion and application of international labour standards;
 - integration of young people at work, in particular through the development of vocational training and support to the creation and management of small and micro-enterprises and cooperatives;
 - promotion of equal opportunities for men and women in the world of work, in particular through vocational training;
 - strengthening of the training capacities of the *Ecoles nationales d'administration* and the regional labour administration centres, especially in Africa, making use in particular of distance training tools and new information technologies;
 - strengthening of the capacity of management training schools with a view to promoting cooperation between enterprises;
 - harnessing of new information technologies, such as the Internet, by vocational training providers, through a programme to introduce multipurpose cyber centres;
 - promotion of cultural diversity and of the French language in the various spheres of activity of the ILO and OIF.
2. The development and implementation of joint activities in areas of common interest shall be the subject of special arrangements defining the practical, technical and financial modalities of participation of the parties which shall be clearly defined.

3. Any minor and routine expenses arising from the implementation of the present agreement shall be borne by each of the respective organizations. Any other obligation, activity or expenditure which either of the parties might wish to undertake under the present agreement shall be the subject of consultations between the ILO and the OIF with a view to determining the availability of the necessary resources, the best way of sharing the cost burden and, if resources are not available, the best means of obtaining them.

Article V – Implementing provisions

1. The Secretary-General of the OIF and the Director-General of the ILO shall consult one another as necessary on matters relating to the present agreement. They may agree on additional administrative provisions for the purpose of implementing the present agreement.
2. The present agreement, having been approved in advance by the Governing Body of the ILO and by the competent bodies of the OIF, shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.
3. The present agreement shall not be amended except by formal agreement of both parties. Any such amendment shall enter into force three months after the date on which agreement is given.
4. Each of the parties may abrogate the present agreement by giving prior notice in writing, six months in advance, to the other party. Denunciation of the present agreement by one of the parties shall not in any way affect any obligations previously entered into.
5. Each party shall apply the agreement in accordance with its own rules and regulations and in accordance with any decisions by its competent bodies.
6. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of the present agreement shall be settled amicably by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of the OIF and ILO have signed two copies of the agreement in French, both copies being equally authoritative.

Done at , 2001

For the *Organisation internationale
de la francophonie* (OIF)

For the *International Labour
Organization* (ILO)
