The Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF), the major operator of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, groups together 50 States and governments* located on the five continents and which share a common language: French. With the five other countries that participate in Francophone Summits, a total of 55 States and governments form the Francophone community that is one out of every four countries in the world representing over half a billion people. Among them, 170 million use the French language more or less intensively in their daily lives.

Founded in 1970, with the motto: Equality, Complementarity and Solidarity, the Agence de la Francophonie is actively involved in multilateral co-operation in many fields, including education and training, culture and multimedia, new information and communication technologies, legal and judicial co-operation, human rights and democracy, economic development and solidarity, and energy and the environment.

* 50 members:
  Albania, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Canada-New Brunswick, Canada-Quebec, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, The French Community of Belgium, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Gabon, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Niger, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Témo and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

Moreover Belgium is a member of the Francophone Summit. Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia are observers.
This program aims at human and institutional capacity-building, developing skills for mastering environmental management tools, notably in the economy and in environmental assessment, promoting energy efficiency and the appropriation of renewable energy technologies, while taking into account the social and financial conditions that ensure sustainability.

Construction of a digestion tank for retrieving bio-gas, in view of lighting a village, Guinea

The goal of IEPF’s activities is to promote sustainable development. These activities are built around two complementary and interdependent Programs:

Energy Policies:
- Support for the development and implementation of national energy policies;
- Capacity building in planning and management of national energy systems.

Environmental Policies and Implementation of International Agreements:
- Follow-up of international negotiations on the environment and sustainable development;
- Organization of concerted action on the contents of regulations and their states;
- Training and raising awareness for appropriate recognition of the environment in national development policies.

Sustainable Development Intelligence:
- Information production and dissemination;
- Prospective analysis about the evolution of ideas and technologies in energy and environment;
- Development and leadership of partner networks.

Energy Efficiency:
- Institutional and regulatory capacity building in the definition and implementation of strategies for energy systems efficiency;
- Promotion of a market for energy efficiency.

Energy Access Technologies and Mechanisms:
- Promotion of sustainable management of traditional fuels and modern renewable energy technologies;
- Institutional support and diffusion of innovative financing mechanisms.

These two Programs are divided into six Projects:

- Mastering sustainable development tools in energy and environment:
  - This program aims at human and institutional capacity building, developing skills for mastering environmental management tools, notably in the economy and in environmental assessment, promoting energy efficiency and the appropriation of renewable energy technologies, while taking into account the social and financial conditions that ensure sustainability.

- Supporting policies and concerted action for sustainable development in energy and environment:
  - With an integrated vision of energy and environment as spheres of action, this program aims at making sustainable development the cornerstone of action, aiding in the development of national policies, to improve the dissemination of knowledge, and promoting concerted action among Francophone countries.

IEPF fosters synergies by mobilizing Francophone institutions and experts, by networking, and by supporting concerted actions. The Institute maintains close links and collaborates with major international organizations involved in supporting sustainable development.