The pressure is rising for the world leaders. They have set themselves the goal of reaching an agreement on climate change at the end of 2015 in Paris, during the Conference of the Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Several tricky questions, inevitably politically-oriented, must nevertheless be resolved to reach this agreement, mainly on the need to raise the ambition level of international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

Faced with these political deadlocks, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, has convened the world leaders to a Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014. This Summit is meant to be an important milestone in mobilising the political will so that the agreement can be concluded in 2015. It is designed to offer political leaders, corporate heads and the civil society a forum for discussion outside the formal negotiating framework of the Convention, to formulate ideas for ambitious actions and thus breathe new optimism into the UNFCCC process.

The International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) has responded enthusiastically to the invitation by undertaking to contribute actively to this Summit. The OIF has requested its subsidiary body, the Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable (IFDD - Institute of the French-speaking world for Sustainable Development), to prepare a document to highlight a few actions underlining the contribution of the Francophonie and its member countries in world efforts to combat climate change.

Mainly through the action of the Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable (IFDD), the Francophonie has been involved in international negotiations on the environment and sustainable development since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. IFDD aims to help French-speaking countries to reach a common position and support the developing French-speaking countries in preparing national sustainable development strategies, taking into account the control of natural and energy resources.

The Institute also sets out to build up the capacities and professional expertise in the rational use of energy and environmental management tools and to circulate top-quality information in French on sustainable development.

The OIF has been active for over two decades in implementing programmes supporting the member countries of the Francophonie in their efforts to lower GHG emissions and to reduce the vulnerability of populations to climate disturbances. The Francophonie action harnesses its skills and expertise in supporting negotiators within UNFCCC and the execution of concrete projects, especially in the energy sectors, GHG emission mitigation and adaptation to global warming.
Support for the French-speaking countries in the negotiations

OIF has been offering support to the French-speaking countries in climate change negotiations for several years. Aware that some developing countries suffer from poor integration of climate issues in their national policies and little involvement in the negotiations through lack of technical and institutional capacities, OIF decided in 2006 to boost its monitoring and assistance mission to the French-speaking countries. The Initiative Climat et Développement de la Francophonie (ICDF - Climate and Development Initiative of the Francophonie), implemented by IFDD, was born in this context. Its goal is to increase the international negotiating capacities of member States of the Francophonie by enabling them to grasp the issues collectively and by helping them to develop common positions and implement the UNFCCC provisions nationally.

The first tools developed by the IFDD under this initiative were a series of ‘Guides to the Negotiations’, designed to support the negotiators from French-speaking countries by helping them to understand the major issues to be discussed during the UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties.

The work of the ICDF quickly revealed the need for African countries to coordinate with each other and define negotiating positions, whilst rallying national players in key sectors to improve the implementation of the UNFCCC in their respective countries. Thus the Négociation Climat pour Toute l’Afrique Réussie (NECTAR - Successful climate negotiations for all of Africa) project commenced in 2008. Flagship project of the IFDD commitment in supporting negotiators, NECTAR proved to be a significant contribution to the involvement of governments of the Francophonie in climate regime negotiations.

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<tr>
<th>NECTAR project</th>
<th>Support for French-speaking negotiators</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective:</strong> Support African speakers in the UNFCCC negotiating process by giving them tools to facilitate their understanding of the issues and encourage the inclusion of the problem of climate change in the national sectoral development policies of these countries.</td>
<td>The aim is to identify the development priorities of French-speaking developing countries and to demonstrate the importance of sectoral approaches in action to combat climate change.</td>
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<td><strong>Targeted audience:</strong> UNFCCC French-speaking African negotiators, specialists and sectoral decision-makers and policymakers.</td>
<td><strong>Deciphering notes:</strong> Deciphering notes for issues of major world climate regime negotiation meetings.</td>
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<td><strong>Execution period:</strong> 2009 - to date</td>
<td><strong>French-speaking preparatory workshops:</strong> Organised on the eve of each Conference of the Parties. They aim to prepare African negotiators for the various rounds of negotiations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Achievements:</strong></td>
<td><strong>French-speaking consultations:</strong> Organised with experts or at ministerial level on the fringes of major negotiating sessions. They aim to help the French-speaking countries to reach a common position on the stumbling blocks in the negotiations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sectoral studies: Preliminary studies to bridge the gap between the countries’ development priorities in various sectors and the international climate change negotiations.</td>
<td>Creation, in 2011, of the Gender and Climate Change French-speaking Network.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyses: In-depth analyses, with sectoral studies in three key sectors - energy, agriculture and construction and building - facing the impacts of climate change.</td>
<td>For further information: <a href="http://www.ifdd.francophonie.org/programmes/operation.php?id=217">www.ifdd.francophonie.org/programmes/operation.php?id=217</a>.</td>
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Support programmes for the preparation and implementation of policies for combating climate change

Created in the aftermath of the 1980s global energy crises, IFDD’s initial task was to conduct a cooperative action to develop the energy sector in all OIF member countries. IFDD thus helped to reduce the GHG emissions through its action in the energy sector. IFDD offers technical support in line with the different types of energy sector operators through all these programmes and broadcasts knowledge and practices on sustainable use of energy. In addition, IFDD attaches considerable importance to rallying players through sharing information in French on sustainable development topics.

One of the main IFDD programmes relates to the preparation and implementation of energy policies. This programme has set up a few projects which, since 1998, have supported the developing French-speaking countries in introducing national energy information systems. The project was so successful that several African countries adopted energy information systems, frequently in partnership with such institutions as UEMOA, CEMAC and the European Union.

With energy information systems in place in these countries, IFDD could continue its action and support them in designing their energy policies through the Processing Information for Energy Policy and Ecodevelopment (TIPEE) project. The project aims to make available to developing French-speaking countries a tool to improve integration of climate issues in the energy policies.

The Institute has also contributed to building up the advocacy and awareness-raising capacities of the French-speaking civil society on access to renewable energies and energy efficiency to control poverty and climate change in Africa.

IFDD has also set up an impressive capacity-building programme in the preparation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies, which often incorporate the question of climate change. The programme will affect some fifteen French-speaking countries in 2014.

IFDD has organised several climate change workshops to help policymakers to consider the new climate reality in their development plans and saw the completion of the RISACC project (Institutional Strengthening to Conceptualisation and Adaptation to Climate Change). Completed in 2011, its goal was to assess the impacts of climate change on the water resources of the Nakambé basin - a cross-border water course shared by Burkina Faso upstream and Ghana downstream - based on different climate scenarios.

Sharing information in French

IFDD promotes information sharing and circulates several publications, including:

- A bi-monthly newsletter Bulletin francophone du Marché du Carbone et des Mesures d’atténuation appropriées à l’échelle nationale (MAAN)” (French-speaking newsletter on the Carbon Market and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMA)).
- The Objectif Terre (Objective Earth) magazine, which is an international negotiations networking newsletter linked to the sustainable development of the French-speaking world.
- Médiaterre, the OIF’s online portal on sustainable development (www.mediaterre.org).
- The Liaison Énergie-Francophonie (Energy-Francophonie Connection), magazine touching on topics relating to energy, climate change and sustainable development.
Achievements in French-speaking countries

Governments of French-speaking countries, both North and South, have gone beyond actions undertaken by OIF and committed extensively to combating climate change. Their actions are often quoted as an example on the international stage due to their ambitions or their innovative nature. There is genuine cooperation also between the French-speaking countries - the Northern countries provide support for their Southern counterparts - both in terms of mitigation and of adaptation to climate change.

The French-speaking countries also contribute to numerous international or regional initiatives to combat climate change. Their participation in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) is proof of this.

Several actions by member countries of the Francophonie, including some with support from OIF, deserve to be highlighted as testimony to the innovation and commitment by the French-speaking countries in implementing policies to support the efforts of the international community to combat climate change. The following projects give a good overview of this commitment, without being exhaustive:

- Initiative of the Francophonie for sustainable cities;
- Processing Information for Energy Policy and Ecodevelopment (TIPEE) initiative;
- Positive Energy Home in Dakar;
- Training of African professionals in the urban planning, construction and building sector in the challenges of energy transition;
- Building up of adaptive capacities of coastal communities in Haiti to climate change;
- Quebec carbon market;
- Emissions Reduction Programme REDD+ of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Dakar Integrated Regional Climate Plan;
- Solar plan in Morocco under an energy diversification policy.

All these initiatives bear witness to the clear innovation by French-speaking countries in policies to deal with climate change and their firm commitment to contributing significantly to this global effort.

The full version of this Contribution of the Francophonie, (in French only) including detailed sheets on each project, can be downloaded on the Internet from the following address: www.ifdd.francophonie.org/ressources/ressources-pub.php?id=4.