



Call from the participants of the Forum of Lyon

Lyon, France, 8-9 February 2012



THE DECLARATION of the XIIIth Summit of Heads of State and Government (Montreux, Switzerland, 22nd of October 2012) reaffirmed the need to strengthen solidarity in the French speaking countries towards the challenges of sustainable development, including food security, desertification, climate change and biodiversity.

For this occasion, the Heads of State and Government pledged to seek joint positions for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in 2012. The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) has therefore endeavoured to mobilize, for the success of this conference, its Member States and Governments, its scientific community, its local leaders and civil society.

THE COMMITMENT OF THE FRANCOPHONIE

It was during the Dakar Summit in 1989 that the Heads of State and Government adopted the concept of sustainable development and called for integration of environmental issues into economic development.

In Tunis in 1991, during the First Conference of Ministers of the Environment to prepare *Francophone* participation in the Rio Summit (1992), the Francophonie adopted an action plan which structured its operations to facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21.

The Francophonie has continued to provide active and concerted participation in the Johannesburg summit and has contributed to its work and its results. In Johannesburg, the Francophonie has been the bearer of a political declaration in which it emphasized on the one hand, its commitment to a controlled globalization, the fight against poverty, good governance and cultural

diversity; and on the other hand, the promotion of education and training, including environmental and sustainable development practices and the equitable access of all people to natural resources.

Johannesburg was a proven milestone in diplomatic success for the Francophonie since it allowed the adoption of culture as a fourth pillar of sustainable development, interdependent with economic development, social equity and protection of the environment which was mainly carried and defended by French speaking countries.

The Francophonie has subsequently adopted a Framework for Action (Tunis, June 2002) which determines the priorities of multilateral Francophone cooperation in support of the Plan of Implementation of the Summit, for economic growth as well as social and cultural promotion, and for sound management of the environment.

Furthermore, the Heads of State and governments of the French speaking countries wanted to make of the Ouagadougou Summit, in 2004, a milestone in the implementation of the Johannesburg World Summit decisions, particularly regarding the development and implementation of sustainable development strategies which are defined as being based on "sound and controlled management of natural resources, ongoing and inclusive economic progress, equitable social development involving tolerance and relying on education and training, guarantees of democracy and the Rule of law to all citizens and an expanded emphasis on cultural and linguistic diversity".¹

1. Traduction libre: « *la gestion maîtrisée et saine des ressources naturelles, un progrès économique inclusif et continu, un développement social équitable faisant appel à la tolérance et s'appuyant sur l'éducation et la formation, des garanties de démocratie et d'État de droit à tous les citoyens et une large ouverture à la diversité culturelle et linguistique* ».

Through these various international events since Rio in 1992, OIF sought to strengthen its multilateral cooperation in developing appropriate means of action:

- Promoting joint action and mobilization of francophone expertise in the service of the community;
- Capacity building that focuses on education, training and research;
- Information and awareness for the involvement of all stakeholders at local and global levels of citizenship;
- A catalyst and support for North-South, South-South, public-private, government /civil society partnerships and between local authorities, and with other regional and international organizations.

Finally, political action and cooperation of the Francophonie have ensured an active presence of the community of French speaking countries in the global debate on sustainable development, with scientific and technical production related to these questions in French, significant with the consolidation of network diplomacy and of communities of practice, and with an offer of targeted training which also reflects the richness and diversity of francophone expertise.

THE FRANCOPHONIE: CARRIER OF ORIGINAL POLICY APPROACHES

As an area of solidarity, the Francophonie affirms its commitment to a controlled globalization that benefits all.

In addition to what are commonly called the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, in their integration, not just mere juxtaposition, the Francophonie seeks to defend the inclusion of culture as the fourth dimension.

Thus the consensus reached in Johannesburg through the contribution of the Francophonie has considered sustainable development as a global project: a development that is economically efficient, socially equitable, and ecologically sustainable and that takes into account cultural specificities.

It is important to focus on what gives the francophone action an added value. The Francophonie must identify priority areas to which it attaches particular importance and expects to make a specific contribution.

Concerned with the strengthening of governance at all levels, the Francophonie reaffirms the importance of supporting, at the international level, efforts towards a greater coherence in Multilateral Environmental Agreements, a reinforced synergy of international conventions, particularly those from Rio '92 as well as improved monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of these conventions. Domestically, it supports the strengthening of institutional and regulatory frameworks for sustainable development.

Democracy is inseparable from sustainable development. It creates the conditions for a mobilization freely accepted by the population and a fair distribution of national resources for equal access to education, training, health and employment. In this context, the Francophonie is committed to the exercise of citizenship, the regulatory role of the rule of law and good governance for the consolidation of the progress of democracy, and making people the actors and beneficiaries of sustainable development in respect to social justice.

The approach of the Francophonie puts respect for cultural and linguistic diversity as a necessary condition for sustainable development. Cultural pluralism-based models of development, rooted in local cultures promote the ownership of these models by the concerned populations, and efficiency in their implementation. Its fundamental role in sustainable development contributes to the promotion of peace and democratization in international relations.

This approach further takes into account the needs and the role of women and youth in sustainable development.

The Francophonie, which is also pursuing specific objectives, encourages the International Community to intensify its efforts to improve conditions for increased mobilization of public and private resources, including access to markets for South trade promotion at the regional scale, technology transfer, and development of innovative financing mechanisms, particularly concerning global public goods.

The Francophonie is working to make access to information and democratization of technology of information and communication, which form a cross-cutting dimension of sustainable development, a tool of learning, of economic development and social and cultural promotion.

The Francophonie highlights the close link between sustainable management of natural resources and eradication of poverty. It supports the definition of national sectoral policies guaranteeing food security, sustainable land management, prevention and management of natural disasters and facilitating access to safe water and sustainable energy.

Considering the special importance of the fight against desertification and climate change and the protection of biodiversity, the Francophonie, by calling upon the international community to address these global challenges, has sought to strengthen its efforts in favor of development of and support to the implementation of national policies in this framework.

It has made the reform of consumption and production patterns necessary to allow fair access of all peoples to natural resources and the maintenance of biological diversity.



The Francophonie has mobilized to promote urban development policies that take into account the strategic nature of the city as a sustainable development space and means, and the establishment of Agenda 21 and the strengthening of local networks of cities around good practices and policies.

It is within this political framework and its commitment that the Francophonie invited various stakeholders to interact in Lyon and formulate proposals amenable to converging political positions to:

- First, create and secure a renewed international and national commitment in favor of Sustainable Development;
- Next, review the progress made since the adoption of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 in 1992, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in 2002, but also the gaps and difficulties encountered in the implementation of these commitments;
- Meet the challenges from new and emerging issues and propose courses of action and practical solutions for achieving sustainable development;
- Consider the two themes chosen for discussion in Rio+20: the green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and the institutional framework of governance for sustainable development.

Considering the negotiating text "The future we want" which consists of five parts:

- The preamble;
- The renewed political commitment;
- The green economy in the context of sustainable development and eradication of poverty;
- The institutional framework for sustainable development;
- The framework for action and monitoring.

The Lyon Forum has prepared the contribution of Francophone actors to the negotiation process, as it was done for the Rio Summit in 1992 and Johannesburg in 2002.

In advance of the High Level Forum on the 8th and 9th of February, thematic workshops were organized, bringing together French-speaking experts from different fields : forestry, finance, energy transition, local authorities, social responsibility and standards for sustainable development, environmental law, and environmental justice, sustainable development and information, training and skills, innovation and eco-design, culture and sustainable development, access to essential services for sustainable development, media and sustainable development, youth and green jobs.

The discussion and debates have resulted in proposed courses of action and practical solutions allowing the Francophonie to inform its member States and governments and to offer them elements of negotiation and justification. These

recommendations promote the management and integration of the green economy and governance principles of sustainable development in developing and implementing the various sectorial policies.

The present document reports the synthesis of the key recommendations of each workshop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PREAMBLE

Aware that there is no example of successful development without ties to the culture that is the main driver for any society, we emphasize the need to promote global cultural pluralism as the basis for harmonious and sustainable human development.

The results expected for the proposals and programs of action from the Forum and proposed at Rio must take into account the crosscutting dimension of Culture in the development and implementation of strategies. Culture, respecting the universal values of human rights, is indeed a key driver of both good governance and sustainable development.

I. YOUTH

Meeting in Niamey from 16th to 20th of January 2012 at the International Forum of Youth and Green Jobs, co-chaired by HE the President of Niger and HE the Secretary of La Francophonie, the Francophone youth has reported on its commitments and expectations for Rio+20.

In Niamey, youth participation at all levels of governance was highlighted as a key driver of sustainable development, green economy and green jobs as a measure for equitable consideration in this new generation and for future generations' interests: it is not possible to achieve sustainable development goals without fully integrating youth in all stages of decision making at local, regional, national and international levels.

To do this, it is important to create conditions for young people, especially those in rural areas, to be adequately informed and have the necessary capacity to ensure their effective participation in the processes of political and financial decisions, and of those related to the conventions and policies related to environment and development.

Given that building green economies and creating green jobs are interdependent, Francophone youth recommends further recognition of the role of youth entrepreneurship to facilitate access to funding projects led by young people through establishment of financial instruments including micro-credit and the establishment of guaranteed funds or equity for the Young. The Regional Development Banks should also play a greater role in funding projects that create green jobs borne by the young of

the Francophone world. Moreover, the exchanges underscored the importance of promoting the development of business incubators and facilitating access for young entrepreneurs to public markets, in particular through promoting mechanisms and criteria for competitive bidding that promote young entrepreneurs.

They finally called to invest in environmental education and to facilitate the integration of young people including through partnerships between training centers, the public sector and businesses to enable work placements and paid internships for young graduates.

II. GREEN ECONOMY

The green economy, which is on the Agenda of the Rio+20 Conference, is a powerful lever for change that can contribute to sustainable development, combating climate change and the fight against poverty. It aims to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems to ensure the base that supports economic development integrating ethical dimensions (fairness, justice and accountability) and the inclusion of natural capital that is not unlimited. The green economy is not a substitute for sustainable development, and must be implemented according to the national priorities of each country. It cannot be reduced to green technologies and know-how, to eco-businesses, or to specific financial entities, but primarily involves a profound transformation of production and consumption patterns. Such a transformation involves the integration of environment and the consideration of social and cultural development in all economic activity. The green economy also requires civic engagement and collective capacity to preserve ecosystems.

In this period of global economic and financial crisis, a green economy appears to be a way to curb the effects thereof by creating local jobs, by producing and consuming more responsibly, while respecting the planet. The adoption of the ten-year framework program on sustainable consumption and production contributes to achieving these objectives. In the same vein, projects and programs implemented as part of the green economy shall be subject to periodic environmental impact assessments.

In addition, new practices such as eco-design from renewable resources allow the integration of green economy into the traditional economy by encouraging the inclusion of the environment throughout the life cycle of a product or service from conception to disposal.

A partnership initiative in this context is likely to enable the collection and exchange of good practices and tools available in French and international levels to share resources, create collaboration platforms (and business experts) on Eco-design, environmental assessment (LCA), design for recycling, the extended responsibility of producers, etc..., based on international standards of environmental management (ISO 14000 and others) or eco-design and buildings. Such a platform would be a source of awareness, intelligence and decision-making support.

III. GOVERNANCE

a) The legal framework

At the meeting of global environmental lawyers in preparation for Rio+20 (Limoges from September 28th to October 1st, 2011), various recommendations were reaffirmed to underline the importance of a legal framework of governance.

Lyon's forum participants noted that despite the existence of numerous legal frameworks in the environmental field, there remain significant gaps due to the worsening of certain environmental problems and the emergence of new ones (nanotechnologies, soils...). They therefore call upon States and Governments of the need to establish a non-regression Principle in environmental law.

The participants further call upon states and governments to engage in negotiations leading to the creation of new legal instruments governing the environment to satisfy the imperative necessities of health, biodiversity conservation and human rights.

They also affirm the need to recognize and reinforce the emergence of specific laws for sustainable development which include Environmental Law and the provisions and principles that address the social, cultural and economic dimensions in an integrated way. Particular attention should be paid to emerging issues such as the massive appropriation of agricultural land in natural and rural regions as well as their accelerating impacts on food security, biodiversity, soil and resources from the oceans. In this spirit, greater coordination of activities related to sustainable management of oceans and their resources is essential.

These decisions must be supported by established scientific data, in conjunction with an application of the precautionary principle, particularly on new issues and technologies, including green technologies. To this end, areas of control and regulation should be established for matters likely to affect the environment and health, including those related to emerging nanotechnology and biotechnologies.

b) The Institutional framework

Global governance for sustainable development must be based on strengthening the global governance of the environment on the one hand, and on strengthening institutions and processes for sustainable development on the other, allowing for integration of all dimensions of the latter – and at all levels, including globally, nationally, federally, regionally and locally.

To this end, participants call for the transformation of UNEP into a UN specialized agency of universal character and with all the financial and human resources necessary to ensure the governance of the global environment.



They call also, concomitantly, for the Commission on Sustainable Development, or the reinforced structure that will be issued from Rio+20, to allow action for:

- the integration of sustainable development by the various UN agencies;
- the support of National Strategies for Sustainable Development and the sharing of experiences through peer review;
- support for international partnerships for sustainable development, the most important being the commitment of all participants to sustainable development goals and to coherent ground-level feedback of experiences and difficulties encountered in the field.

IV. NATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING

Participants at the workshop on governance and funding of sustainable development believe that the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) is desirable as the optimal framework of governance for sustainable development, together with other “strategies” or action programs for poverty reduction, green technologies, sustainable production and consumption, etc. All of these strategies should be integrated to allow the affirmation of sustainable development as a governing priority to ensure consistency, integration and synergy among all sectoral policies.

On financing, the participants call for the majority of funding to come from the national budget, which ensures the inclusion of sustainable development into all policy-making decisions. Innovative financing such as green funds or fast start financing and funding from classic bilateral and multilateral donors should be incorporated only in a complementary way.

It is appropriate for all countries of the Francophonie to adopt a NSSD, and that development of community of practices, processes of peer review and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of countries be encouraged and consolidated.

Considering that the question of private financing of sustainable development, green technologies and innovation is essential, participants call for the establishment of a network for cooperation and dialogue around these issues.

V. LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Participants in the workshop on Local Authorities and Communities, sustainable development governance and green economy, consider the role of local government as a major player in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. In particular, local Agenda 21 integrating climate plans constitute genuine tools of local governance and strengthening of participatory strategic planning processes.

The green economy also addresses the main responsibilities of local authorities across key sectors, such as those for establishing renewable and energy efficiency and smart power grids, buildings, development and sustainable urban planning, transport infrastructures and eco-mobility, industrial ecology, ecological management of liquid, solid and electronic waste, integrated management of water resources, etc.

The participants recommend:

- The involvement of local authorities and taking into account their contribution in international negotiations and their active role in future global environmental governance;
- Recognition of the role of cities and local authorities in the fight against poverty through public policy of access to basic services and development of the green economy;
- Strengthening the decentralization process in the South and deepening of representative democracy and participatory decision-making processes of territorial policies for sustainable development;
- Strengthening capacities of local authorities and access to financing by relying primarily on decentralized cooperation through the twinning of North-South and South-South local Agenda 21;
- The institutionalization of local Agenda 21 and the establishment of legislative and regulatory frameworks, repositories, incentives and support mechanisms;
- Support for collaborative platforms and sharing of knowledge and practices.

Given the specific issues to local authorities and communities, the participants recommend that local authorities and their associations establish a stronger partnership to share best practices and experiences and promote their involvement in international programs and green economy funding mechanisms. Participation of States and international donors to implement this partnership would strengthen their activities and their role.

VI. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social Responsibility (social and environmental) of organizations, particularly the guidelines for the international standard ISO 26000, is the key to sustainable development for all kinds of organizations. It encourages public but also private and civil society organizations to apply national law and to be guided in their practices by “international norms of behavior”. To this end, the deployment of ISO 26000 is a public but also a private issue.

This is a public issue because it is an opportunity to promote law, public commitments and good practices in sustainable development. It contributes to governance by providing a framework for implementation of international commitments, national sustainable development strategies and local Agendas 21.

It is also a private issue for all the organizations which can find guidelines for their contribution to sustainable development and the bases to form partnerships.

In this spirit, it is proposed to establish an international partnership for sustainable development on social and environmental responsibility for concrete implementation and involvement of public organizations, private enterprise and civil society actors.

VII. ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

Participants agree on the fact that global poverty reduction by 2015 requires an improved access to basic services (water, energy, telecommunications, health, environmental services, transportation, etc.) in a sustainable development approach. The critical lack of infrastructures and effective human resources hinder the capacity of States and their local authorities in the policy design and delivery of quality basic services, available at low cost to rural and urban populations, and compatible with social, national and regional demand.

The liberalization of basic services that is observed should only be done in the context of sustainable development and with governance focused on strengthening the regulatory authorities in charge of public services and involving a broad participation of users and various stakeholders.

VIII. ENERGY TRANSITION

Energy transition targets a low-energy society, efficient in its consumption and production patterns and developing local renewable energy programs that are decentralized, affordable, socially acceptable, environmentally sound and low in carbon, as was pointed out during the consultation of Energy Ministers of the Francophonie held in Montreal, in September 2010.

It must be based at the state level, on the establishment of an adapted legal framework and a code of conduct, on training and awareness of all participants involved in energy management, the development of integrated poles of excellence, the establishment of sectors of qualified professionals, on awareness raising of policy-makers and the public on the challenges of energy transition, and on the development of research and innovation at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

To do this, an empowerment of local and regional governments is necessary, by taking into account the contribution of international norms such as ISO 50001 on energy management, in order to allow the localization of global objectives. This reinforcement should be linked to the sharing of responsibility in defining overall objectives but also the sharing of resources intended for the implementation and evaluation of national energy budgets.

To facilitate this change in developing countries, all developed countries and international financial institutions, as well as emerging countries within their capabilities, are asked to support developing countries through appropriate financial mechanisms, flexible enough to facilitate a durable implementation, in order to promote energy efficiency and access to clean energy.

IX. FOREST, GREEN ECONOMY AND FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Participants in the symposium “forest, economy and fight against poverty” have considered that beyond their economic services (production and exploitation of non-timber products, ecotourism, etc.), the forest also provides intangible benefits, difficult to quantify, that modern economics ignore and at best can't take into account such as ecosystem services (climate regulation, drainage, soil and biological), and socio-cultural services (production of symbolic, cultural, artistic, patrimonial, educational values and physical and spiritual healing).

Agroforestry systems help to ensure these three types of service. It is thus recommended to integrate agroforestry systems in the definition of forests so that they are eligible for funding programs for ecosystem services (CDM, PES, REDD+). Especially considering the global challenges posed by the Congo Basin forests, the participants call for their conservation and sustainable management.

Countries should pursue integrated strategies for sustainable development and where forests and forest products fully play their roles in particular through national policies, international and regional initiatives, through the appropriate legal frameworks for both forests and for agroforestry systems. Countries should also support their local and indigenous peoples to ensure their full command over forests resources and services on which they depend. It is therefore important to invest in research and capacity building to facilitate decision-making, which requires governance and an intersectoral mobilization to ensure sustainable development of the services provided by the forest at international and national levels.



X. INFORMATION ECONOMY AND CULTURAL ECONOMY

The information society which interacts with culture and practices rooted in the reality of societies on one hand, and with the educational system on the other, contributes to a knowledge-based society.

Information and communication technologies are key elements of development, of initiatives and activities generating employment. In the same way, the cultural sector and the activities linked to it participate in an economy contributing to sustainable development.

The participants therefore call for the development of an initiative to promote activities related to information, knowledge and culture, including promoting youth entrepreneurship in these fields and education for sustainable development.

A proposal was made for the establishment of a UN decade for Culture as a component of sustainable development after the decade of Education for sustainable development.

XI. SKILLS AND TRAINING

Participants recommend a global and integrated approach to education and training throughout life for the strengthening of individual and collective skills of actors of sustainable development. This strengthening must go beyond the education sphere in the direction of stakeholders and field managers as well as researchers.

Participants call on academics to become more involved in the promotion and evaluation of sustainable development and encourage them to further disseminate the knowledge on sustainable development.

Education and training throughout life should be seen not only as resources but also as the first conditions for the implementation of sustainable development, for the advent of a culture of social responsibility and the building of an equitable green economy. The participants therefore call for the development and coordination in the Francophone countries of a renewed emphasis on the training and building of skills, qualifications, and training of trainers in the field of sustainable development. The principles of sustainable development must be included in training programs, from primary school through higher education.

They finally recommend the convergence of education information systems and virtual universities in the French-speaking area, promoting a multidisciplinary and concerted management of knowledge.

XII. INNOVATION

Sustainable development must also be able to benefit from the contributions of innovation because the challenges we face are complex, global and trans-disciplinary. These developments require active interventions at all levels of governance (local, regional, state and international) and the establishment of balanced and unifying cooperation networks.

The workshop participants call for the establishment of a Francophone collaborative platform for scientific cooperation in order to facilitate innovation, information and knowledge dissemination. The involvement of a variety of stakeholders is considered essential to generating prospects for innovation and to facilitate its dissemination. Participants discussed the difficulty of researchers from developing countries to protect their knowledge and inventions.

It is hoped that the proposed integrated centre of excellence for energy (IEEP) in West Africa should be supported through partnerships with well-established players in the region. This model could be applied and extended to other topics including the green economy and agrifood.

XIII. MEDIA

The media play an essential role in understanding the world and sustainable development issues. Freedom of the press is a condition for democracy and must be based on the social responsibility of media and journalists. This evolution goes hand in hand with the emergence of new media business models less dependent on capital and resources (advertising) linked with economic players; what is perceived as a way for some journalists to become more "actor" of change. The participants encourage the press to get more involved in the collective efforts related to changes in consumption and production patterns.

Participants noted that the use of information technology and communications (ICT) help decrease important sources of carbon footprint in the production of information.

XIV. INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Considering the opportunities of ICT for public participation in decision-making on environment and sustainable development, and to facilitate their commitment to further develop practices, technologies and services, the participants call for development of an economic and participative governance model to ensure its sustainability; the participants consider that ICT must be designed to facilitate the creation of an open and inclusive society of information.

They call the Francophone States and Governments to support the development and implementation of proactive and intersectoral digital strategies, particularly in priority areas identified in the final document of Rio+20.

This should consolidate the existing Francophone information platforms on Agenda 21 and other topics (Green ICT, building, adaptation to climate change, etc.), which allow exchanges between professionals and researchers, but also with the general public.

They call to ensure interoperability of platforms with systems, open data and exchange mechanisms based on a common Francophone ontology on sustainable development.

They recommend the establishment of a report on the current state of international regulation of intellectual property, including the potentially negative impacts of ACTA provisions on cultural and digital goods. ■

*Informal courtesy translation of the French original
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