



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 130 (j)

### **Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie**

#### **Côte d'Ivoire: draft resolution**

#### **Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [33/18](#) of 10 November 1978, [50/3](#) of 16 October 1995, [52/2](#) of 17 October 1997, [54/25](#) of 15 November 1999, [56/45](#) of 7 December 2001, [57/43](#) of 21 November 2002, [59/22](#) of 8 November 2004, [61/7](#) of 20 October 2006, [63/236](#) of 22 December 2008, [65/263](#) of 14 January 2011, [67/137](#) of 18 December 2012, [69/270](#) of 2 April 2015, [71/289](#) of 24 May 2017 and [73/290](#) of 15 April 2019, as well as its decision 53/453 of 18 December 1998,

*Recalling also* its resolutions [61/266](#) of 16 May 2007, [63/306](#) of 9 September 2009, [65/311](#) of 19 July 2011, [67/292](#) of 24 July 2013, [69/324](#) of 11 September 2015, [71/328](#) of 11 September 2017 and [73/346](#) of 16 September 2019 on multilingualism, recognizing that multilingualism, as a core value of the Organization, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of its Charter,

*Recalling further* its resolution [75/144](#) of 15 December 2020, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that multilingualism, as a core value of the United Nations, is not undermined by the measures taken in response to the liquidity situation and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19),

*Considering* that the International Organization of la Francophonie, which is made up of 81 States Members of the United Nations, representing more than one third of the members of the General Assembly, is promoting multilateral cooperation in areas of common interest,

*Bearing in mind* the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations through regional cooperation,

*Bearing in mind also* that, according to the Charter of la Francophonie, adopted on 23 November 2005 at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held in



Antananarivo, the objectives of the International Organization of la Francophonie are to assist in the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts, support for the rule of law and for human rights, the intensification of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the establishment of closer ties among peoples through mutual knowledge, the strengthening of their solidarity through multilateral cooperation activities with a view to promoting the growth of their economies, and the promotion of education and training,

*Welcoming* the transformation of the International Organization of la Francophonie undertaken by the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, its participating States and Governments, to make this multilateral organization more flexible, efficient and relevant in the context of its fiftieth anniversary,

*Welcoming also* the steps taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie to strengthen its ties with the organizations of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations with a view to attaining its objectives, including strengthening the mandate of its external representations and their role in promoting partnership with United Nations interlocutors,

*Affirming* the importance of a balanced and effective multilateral system that is representative of today's world, one that is based upon a strong and renewed United Nations,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the multilateral system, which, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, remains the principal framework for sustainable solutions to global challenges,

*Recalling* the appeal made by the Secretary-General of la Francophonie during the interactive dialogue between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of regional and other organizations, held on 23 November 2020, for a renewed, supportive and effective multilateralism based on multiculturalism, multilingualism and solidarity, able to guarantee a multilateral response adapted to the realities and needs of individuals and populations,

*Noting with satisfaction* the commitment of the International Organization of la Francophonie to human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of women, girls and youth and their active participation in society, access to quality education and training, multilingualism and multilateral cooperation for peace, democratic governance and the rule of law, economic governance and solidarity, sustainable development and its financing, especially poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions, protection of the environment, access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all, combating climate change, promotion and progressive realization of access for all to economic, social cultural, civil and political rights, the prevention of genocide, countering terrorism in all its forms and preventing and countering radicalization to terrorism,

*Recalling* the adoption of the Yerevan Declaration<sup>1</sup> at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, held in Yerevan on 11 and 12 October 2018 on the theme "Living together in solidarity, with shared humanistic values and respect for diversity: a source of peace and prosperity for the French-speaking community", and noting the decision to hold the eighteenth Summit on the island of Djerba, Tunisia, in November 2021,

<sup>1</sup> [A/73/596](#), annex.

*Looking forward with interest* to the eighteenth Summit of la Francophonie, to be held in Djerba in November 2021 on the theme “Connectivity in diversity: the digital vector of development and solidarity in the francophone space”,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>2</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Recalling with satisfaction* the commitments by the member States and Governments of the International Organization of la Francophonie to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>3</sup> and the Paris Agreement on climate change,<sup>4</sup> reaffirmed by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, together with an undertaking to play an active role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and a determination to implement national sustainable development strategies to make an effective contribution to eradicating poverty, to ensuring sustainable and universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services and to protecting the environment, and recalling with satisfaction also the outcome of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 December 2018, including the adoption of the decisions on the Paris Agreement work programme,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 73/290,<sup>5</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the substantial progress achieved in cooperation between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and programmes and the International Organization of la Francophonie,

*Convinced* that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie serves the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

*Noting* the will of the two organizations to consolidate, develop and strengthen the ties that exist between them in the political, economic, social and cultural fields with respect to each of the pillars of international peace and security, development and human rights,

*Noting with satisfaction* that, in the framework of the fiftieth anniversary of the International Organization of la Francophonie, initiatives have been developed,

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>4</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>5</sup> See A/75/345-S/2020/898, sect. II.

notably on the theme “La Francophonie of the future”, in particular the broad consultation with francophone youth,

*Welcoming* the commitment of the Secretary-General of la Francophonie in the framework of the mobilization for debt relief, and the mobilization of the International Organization of la Francophonie in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the establishment of the La Francophonie avec Elles fund, as well as the actions developed for raising awareness and educating the populations under lockdown, sharing innovative solutions, setting up an economic monitoring mechanism aimed at informing and supporting decision-making and international cooperation, and initiatives to combat misinformation,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the statement by the Group of Francophone Ambassadors to the United Nations in support of a strong and effective multilateral response in the context of the coronavirus pandemic – COVID-19,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, on 25 November 2020, of a resolution on living together during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the post-COVID-19 world, as well as a new economic strategy for la Francophonie for the period 2020–2025, a concrete framework for intervention to contribute to the resilience of the francophone world after the global health crisis caused by the pandemic,

*Recalling* the appeal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 23 March 2020 for a global ceasefire, supported by the Security Council in its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) adopted on 1 July 2020 and by the Permanent Council of la Francophonie at its session held in July 2020, and expressing its concern about the difficulties encountered in the immediate implementation of the global ceasefire,

*Welcoming* the first open debate at the Security Council, organized by the Niger in its capacity as President of the Security Council, on 8 September 2020, on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, which highlighted the substantial cooperation between the two organizations on international peace and security issues, and during which the Secretary-General of la Francophonie called for, inter alia, strengthening cooperation with the United Nations,

*Noting* that this debate made it possible to highlight the synergies developed in this area, as well as the tangible and lasting results achieved, in particular thanks to the comparative advantages of the International Organization of la Francophonie, including the ease of mobilizing expertise in mediation, promoting dialogue and strengthening mutual trust for the peaceful settlement of disputes,

*Noting also* the establishment of the francophone platform in the Security Council, launched on 25 September 2019 by the Secretary-General of la Francophonie and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d’Ivoire, in order to develop a constructive synergy within the French-speaking diplomatic family on issues of common interest on the agenda of the Security Council, to promote multilingualism and to increase and strengthen the francophone position in the development and implementation of the normative and political framework of the peace and security agenda, including youth, peace and security and women and peace and security, consistent with Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000 and all other relevant resolutions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, and welcomes the strengthened and fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

2. *Notes with satisfaction*, in accordance with the Yerevan Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, the active participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie in the work of the United Nations, among whose purposes, as set forth in its Charter, are to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and respect for the principle of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of those common ends;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the continued strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of human rights and in the promotion of gender equality, commends the initiatives taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of crisis and conflict prevention, management and resolution, the promotion of peace, support for democracy and the rule of law, full respect for human rights and good governance, the fight against impunity and the promotion of international criminal justice, in accordance with the commitments set forth in its Bamako Declaration of 3 November 2000 on the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the francophone world,<sup>6</sup> and reaffirmed at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie on Conflict Prevention and Human Security, held on 13 and 14 May 2006 in Saint Boniface, Canada, and notes the organization of francophone conversations within the framework of the twentieth anniversary of the Bamako Declaration;

4. *Recalls* the signing in December 2018 of a memorandum of understanding between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Permanent Secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the involvement of the International Organization of la Francophonie in high-level consultations on the Sahel and its genuine contribution, in cooperation with, among others, the United Nations, to conflict resolution, recovery and peacebuilding, including through relevant initiatives such as the establishment of the Sahel Youth Radio Project, a regional project aimed at fostering living together and a constructive vision of the future by offering young people a sense of ownership of their future, a reflection of their reality and genuine, credible, reliable and inspiring content;

5. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organization of la Francophonie, including to provide support for French-speaking countries in the context of the universal periodic review and other human rights mechanisms, and also welcomes the refocusing of this important cooperation around two areas, in line with the expectations of French-speaking States and Governments, in particular support for the United Nations human rights mechanisms, as well as the fight against all forms of discrimination;

6. *Recalls* the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)<sup>7</sup> and the establishment of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, also recalls the resolution on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Paris Principles adopted at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, and recognizes in this regard the potential for strengthened and complementary cooperation among the United Nations, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the International

<sup>6</sup> A/55/731, annex.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.

Organization of la Francophonie, taking into account the specific expertise of each of these organizations, in the promotion and protection of human rights;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* about the continued violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including in countries affected by conflict or in post-conflict situations, and particularly against women and children, as well as refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, and welcomes the implementation of the cooperation agreement between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

8. *Welcomes* the development of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, with the participation of other regional and subregional organizations, in the fields of early warning and crisis and conflict prevention in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, encourages the pursuit of this initiative with a view to formulating practical recommendations to facilitate the establishment of relevant operational mechanisms, where necessary, and invites the relevant stakeholders to redouble their efforts to reduce risks and latent vulnerabilities, including by considering the development of risk management and resilience strategies;

9. *Recognizes*, as part of the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, the interest in intensifying efforts to move towards rapid response and the need to promote the full participation of women and youth in conflict prevention and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and protection of women in all aspects and at all levels of conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms, including through their involvement in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreement processes through the full implementation of the women and peace and security agenda in accordance with all relevant Security Council resolutions;

10. *Welcomes* the impetus given to the participation of States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie in peacekeeping operations, while recalling that it is up to the United Nations to preserve multilingualism and the Secretariat to integrate multilingualism into the activities of these operations, and draws attention to the strengthened cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie, on the one hand, and the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support of the Secretariat, on the other, with a view to reaching a satisfactory level of French-speaking personnel involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations in French-speaking countries, where the need has been expressed by the Secretariat, including the number of women, within the existing relevant United Nations legislative framework on staff selection;

11. *Also welcomes* that this cooperation, carried out in conjunction with the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie in order to develop technical and linguistic capabilities in French, has contributed to strengthening the presence of French speakers in peacekeeping operations and their full participation in the strategic discussions on peacekeeping, and thus calls for the consolidation of these achievements;

12. *Recalls* that the International Organization of la Francophonie was among the first international organizations to endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and has volunteered to promote capacity-building of French-speaking personnel and the development of French-language skills, and underlines that the Action for Peacekeeping initiative recognizes language skills as a necessary specialized capability, which is part of, inter alia, the performance of peacekeeping operations;

13. *Welcomes* the good functioning of the Boutros-Ghali Peacekeeping Observatory, which constitutes in particular a framework for exchanges between French-speaking experts and personalities from personnel-contributing countries and strives to support French-speaking States in their efforts to better prepare for their participation in peacekeeping operations, particularly those deployed in a francophone environment;

14. *Also welcomes* the participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, and strongly encourages the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to cooperate actively;

15. *Notes* the activities of the Francophone Network for the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Violent Extremism That Could Lead to Terrorism (FrancoPREV), which aims to pool francophone expertise, disseminate results of research conducted in French-speaking countries and exchange good practices in the area of prevention, while respecting the local context of each country;

16. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, to prevent and combat terrorism and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

17. *Recalls* the endorsement by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie of the declaration commending the adoption of General Assembly resolution [71/291](#) of 15 June 2017 on the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism;

18. *Welcomes* the involvement of the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting international criminal justice, and recalls the signing of a partnership agreement between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Criminal Court, which illustrates the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in protecting human rights, restoring the rule of law and combating impunity;

19. *Also welcomes* the importance given by the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie to cooperating in the area of international criminal justice, and their efforts to prevent the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and to combat impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes, and in this connection stresses the importance of facilitating the development of mutual legal assistance between States in order to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes;

20. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the International Organization of la Francophonie to establish citizen-responsive democratic governance of the security sector, to define a francophone position with regard to justice, truth and reconciliation in order to support French-speaking States in crisis and in transition, and to promote the diversity of legal systems;

21. *Welcomes* the creation of two new regional offices of the International Organization of la Francophonie, one for North Africa, in Tunis in 2019, and one for the Middle East, in Beirut in 2021, following the decision endorsed at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie;

22. *Also welcomes* the action taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie and its member States and Governments aimed at promoting the

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>8</sup> recalls the organization in 2019 and 2020 of two joint training workshops for climate, commercial and digital negotiators from the francophone space, welcomes the cross-cutting approach that prevailed in the context of this training, thus underlining the concern to take into account the comprehensive approach needed to overcome the multilateral challenges that the world is facing, and also welcomes the spirit of complementarity that has been at the heart of this joint training, for which the International Organization of la Francophonie has partnered with many United Nations agencies, namely, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme Europe Office, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the World Intellectual Property Organization;

23. *Further welcomes* the action taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting education and training, including the integration of digital issues in those areas, and recalls in this regard the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Protocol establishing the International French-Language University for African Development (Senghor University in Alexandria, Egypt) and its primary and effective role in training African country executives and in supporting the promotion of their skills;

24. *Welcomes* the work of the Francophonie Institute for Education and Training in Dakar, the main mission of which is to provide the States and Governments of the International Organization of la Francophonie and their partners with technical expertise for developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating their education policies in order to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;

25. *Also welcomes* the holding of the international conference on the theme “Girls’ education and training of francophone women: challenges, good practices and avenues for action”, in N’Djamena on 18 and 19 June 2019, whose recommendations enabled the establishment by the International Organization of la Francophonie of a digital portal of free educational resources known as RELIEFH, launched in Dakar on 26 January 2021, which allows for the exchange and sharing of resources and best practices between member States and Governments in order to improve access to equal education from an early age, taking fully into account the fact that States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie have different education systems, further welcomes the approach of consultation and coordination in the field of education between the actors of the Charter of la Francophonie, the francophone alliance for education, which has defined as priority areas teachers’ training and mobility, girls’ education, bilingual education and digital education, and further welcomes the strengthening of the regional centres for French-language education (CREF) deployed for Asia and the Pacific from Viet Nam (CREFAP), for Central and Eastern Europe from Bulgaria (CREFECO) and for East Africa and the Middle East from Djibouti (CREF), which strengthen international cooperation in the field of quality education in French;

26. *Recalls* the economic forum held in Yerevan on 9 and 10 October 2018 on the margins of the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, which brought together business leaders from francophone countries and representatives of international economic organizations, and in this regard recalls with appreciation the launch of the Francophone Network of Ministers for the Digital Economy at the economic forum, and notes the regular collaborations and exchanges between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Conference on Trade and

<sup>8</sup> See resolution [70/1](#).

Development and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on digital issues, with a view to enabling French-speaking countries to take advantage of digital opportunities;

27. *Welcomes* the strengthening of cooperation between the World Health Organization and the International Organization of la Francophonie, which has been established by the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations in Geneva on 14 April 2021;

28. *Also welcomes* the contribution of the Secretary-General of la Francophonie to the international community's advocacy for universal access to safe, efficacious and affordable vaccines and global access to treatments, as well as to diagnostic tools against communicable diseases, in particular COVID-19, and further welcomes the holding of a francophone ministerial consultation in 2019 on the margins of the World Health Assembly, dedicated to the fight against malaria;

29. *Underlines* the strengthening of cooperation between the International Labour Organization and the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the context of COVID-19, in particular through information exchanges, which allows French-speaking States to have up-to-date data on the consequences of the pandemic on the world of work and to have access to the recommendations made at the international level to overcome them, through the Academy of the World Health Organization based in Lyon, France;

30. *Welcomes* the commitment of the International Organization of la Francophonie to drawing on the expertise and tools developed by the International Labour Organization and the International Telecommunication Union to implement its project to train young people in digital professions, and also welcomes joint actions between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the framework of the Francophonie economic forums held on the margins of the Summits of la Francophonie, to support economic regeneration initiatives;

31. *Notes with satisfaction* the development of collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in electoral monitoring and assistance, encourages the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in that area, welcomes the support given by the International Organization of la Francophonie to electoral processes in French-speaking countries in 2020, namely, in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic Côte d'Ivoire, the Niger and Togo, which aimed at holding elections in a peaceful environment, and also welcomes the efforts undertaken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in combating intolerance, hate speech and misinformation that can impact the enjoyment of human rights and democratic processes, including electoral processes, as well as the contribution of the International Organization of la Francophonie in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in efforts to counter the spread of stigmatization, misinformation and disinformation;

32. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for including the International Organization of la Francophonie in the periodic meetings he holds with heads of international and regional organizations, and invites him to continue to do so, taking into account the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and sustainable development, and in that regard encourages cooperation in the field between the United Nations, the International Organization of la Francophonie and other international and regional organizations aimed at promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through mediation;

33. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to involve the International Organization of la Francophonie, taking into account its expertise as well as the adoption at the twenty-second session of the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held in Bucharest on 26 September 2006, of the Vademecum on the Use of French in International Organizations, and the follow-up documents produced by the French Language Observatory of the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the efforts to promote multilingualism, a core value of the United Nations, bearing in mind the objective of eliminating disparities between the use of English and the use of other official languages within the Organization, including the activities linked to public relations and information, documentation, language services and conference services, human resources management and staff training, as well as the activities affected by those disparities in field offices and peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, and takes note in this regard of the concrete contribution made by the International Organization of la Francophonie to the implementation of an integrated policy on multilingualism at the United Nations by providing high-level expertise;

34. *Reaffirms* the need to respect the equality of the two working languages of the Secretariat, also reaffirms the use of additional working languages in specific duty stations as mandated, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure that vacancy announcements specify the need for either of the working languages of the Secretariat unless the functions of the post require a specific working language, welcomes the establishment by the International Organization of la Francophonie of a monitoring, alert and action system for the French language and multilingualism in international organizations, and also welcomes the publication in December 2020 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the implementation of multilingualism in the United Nations system,<sup>9</sup> in which 13 recommendations are made to the deliberative or governing bodies of United Nations system agencies to improve the effective implementation of this principle;

35. *Considers* that the interaction of the United Nations with the local population in the field is essential and that language skills constitute an important element of the selection and training processes, and therefore affirms that a good command of the official language or languages spoken in the country of residence should be taken into account as an important asset during those processes;

36. *Notes* the commitment of States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie to promote a balanced multilateral system which assures permanent and equal representation of African member States in decision-making bodies;

37. *Also notes* the firm commitment by the member States and Governments of the International Organization of la Francophonie to international peace and security, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, linguistic and cultural diversity, good governance, sustainable development and bridging the digital divide, as reaffirmed at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, and the commitment of the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie to take specific actions in the following areas, as agreed at the seventeenth Summit and set out in the Yerevan Declaration and the resolutions adopted at the Summit:

- (a) Prevention of violent radicalization and violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism;
- (b) Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- (c) Ending child, early and forced marriages;

<sup>9</sup> [JIU/REP/2020/6](#) and [JIU/REP/2020/6/Corr.1](#).

- (d) Sustainable management of water resources;
- (e) Engaging local authorities in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level;
- (f) Promotion of education and professional and technical training;
- (g) Implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change;
- (h) Promotion of ocean-based economies that aim at sustainable management of natural resources, as well as of green economy as one of the tools available for achieving sustainable development;
- (i) Promotion of investments in the health sector;
- (j) Promotion of intercultural dialogue as a factor for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (k) Promotion of the use of the French language and linguistic diversity;
- (l) Promotion of the role of youth, their employment and mobility;
- (m) Promotion of education for democracy, citizenship and human rights;
- (n) Promotion of cultural participation;
- (o) Promotion of knowledge transfer and research commercialization;
- (p) Fight against neglected tropical diseases;

38. *Invites* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to strengthen the cooperation with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of sustainable development, in particular in the areas of poverty eradication, economic growth, energy, the environment and the fight against climate change, culture, education, training and the development of new information technologies, in particular with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, to the benefit of all, including children, young people and women;

39. *Welcomes* the implementation of the agreement between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Organization of la Francophonie, as well as their cooperation, in particular in such areas as women's participation in political decision-making and in economic, social and cultural life, advocacy for the equality of women and men, the integration of gender equality into sustainable development, and combating violence and sexual exploitation and abuse against women and girls, as well as in the implementation of the strategy entitled "Equality in law for women and girls by 2030: a multi-stakeholder strategy for accelerated action", and invites the two institutions to strengthen their cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

40. *Notes* the launch in July 2020 of the La Francophonie avec Elles fund, a support fund for women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that provides technical and financial support to women and girls in vulnerable situations so that they have full and equal access to economic development, education, health, citizenship and training within the francophone area, and welcomes the establishment of the Equality for Women and Men Unit within the International Organization of la Francophonie, in accordance with the resolution of the sixteenth Summit of la Francophonie, held in Antananarivo on 26 and 27 November 2016, and for the purpose of operationalizing the strategy for the promotion of equality between women and men and the rights and

empowerment of women and girls in the francophone countries, adopted in October 2018 at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, held in Yerevan;

41. *Also notes* the participation of the International Organization of La Francophonie in various meetings on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular through relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives, including the Generation Equality Forum initiative co-chaired by France and Mexico;

42. *Recalls* the Framework Agreement between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the International Organization of la Francophonie to enhance cooperation in addressing conflict-related sexual violence, signed in Yerevan on 10 October 2018;

43. *Also recalls* the Framework Agreement for Cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Peacebuilding Support Office, signed in New York on 26 September 2018;

44. *Further recalls* the adoption by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language, at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie, of the strategy for the promotion of equality between women and men and the rights and empowerment of women and girls in the francophone countries, which is intended to promote gender equality in the public and private spheres, encourage access for girls and women to high-quality and inclusive education, training, decent work and health, promote their empowerment, prevent and combat all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination committed against them, and promote their full, effective and equal participation in political, economic, cultural and public life, including the prevention and resolution of conflicts;

45. *Welcomes* the implementation of the Framework Agreement signed on 7 December 2015 between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Development Programme, and their cooperation, particularly in the fields of peace and democracy, sustainable development, climate change, economic development, South-South cooperation and support for civil society, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, giving priority to job creation and entrepreneurship, as well as inclusive, sustainable and resilient development;

46. *Also welcomes* the strengthening of the partnership between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for the benefit of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalls, in particular, the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two parties in New York on 25 September 2018, as well as the launch of the Network of Francophone Actors for South-South and Tripartite Cooperation in Rabat in July 2018;

47. *Further welcomes* the cooperation between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Organization of la Francophonie to implement the memorandum of understanding signed in Geneva on 12 May 2014 between the two organizations aimed at intensifying their technical cooperation efforts for the benefit of their members;

48. *Expresses its gratitude* to the International Organization of la Francophonie for the steps it has taken in recent years to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations, refers to the Yerevan Call on Living Together, endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the seventeenth Summit of la Francophonie as a document to set forth the principles of living together for the francophone countries and to guide their collective efforts towards enhanced cooperation, solidarity, dialogue and tolerance, and encourages the United Nations

and the International Organization of la Francophonie to cooperate more closely to ensure full respect for provisions on multilingualism;

49. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of la Francophonie for their sustained efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organizations, thereby serving their mutual interests in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental fields, in particular in the framework of the joint activities carried out by the International Organization of la Francophonie with the United Nations Environment Programme and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as in the context of developing exchanges between the International Organization of la Francophonie and United Nations Volunteers;

50. *Welcomes* the involvement of the countries that use French as a common language, particularly through the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the preparation for, conduct of and follow-up to international conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations, as witnessed at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2015, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post 2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held in New York on 19 September 2016, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016, and the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, and notes the intergovernmental conference held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, which resulted in the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;<sup>10</sup>

51. *Also welcomes* the high-level meetings held periodically between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, to encourage the holding of periodic meetings between their representatives as well as with the Group of Francophone Ambassadors at United Nations Headquarters in order to promote the exchange of information, coordination of activities and identification of new areas of cooperation through the use of the French language as a vector for development;

52. *Further welcomes* the participation of la Francophonie in the high-level interactive dialogue organized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the heads of regional organizations and other organizations, on 23 November 2020, which was aimed at strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and its

<sup>10</sup> Resolution [73/195](#), annex.

regional and international partners, as an invitation for regular exchanges of views and experiences, particularly in areas related to peace and security;

53. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the steps necessary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, to continue to promote cooperation between the two organizations;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

55. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie”.

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