



Press release

AUF INAUGURATES THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF THE SCIENTIFIC FRANCOPHONIE

Rabat, March 21, 2023 | The AUF launches the International Academy of the Scientific Francophonie (AIFS). Professor Slim KHALBOUS, Rector of the AUF and Professor Abdellatif MIRAOU, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation of the Kingdom of Morocco will inaugurate, on Tuesday March 21, 2023 in Rabat, the International Academy of the Scientific Francophonie, in the presence of several scientific and political francophone leaders and representatives of AUF bodies.

Genesis of the Academy: a response to several challenges of the scientific Francophonie

Designed by the AUF as part of the co-construction of its 2021-2025 four-year strategy, the AIFS reflects the determination to ensure a durable, structuring, and multi-faceted response to the key essential needs expressed by many actors of the scientific Francophonie. These needs were identified by the Global Consultation conducted by the AUF in 2020 and are recorded in the White Paper of the scientific Francophonie published in 2021. They include:

- Improving and systematizing knowledge of the French-speaking scientific community through studies, monitoring, prospective approaches, and decision-making tools;
- Enhancing the richness and diversity of scientific production - current and potential - by supporting the publication of Francophone content and enhancing its discoverability; and
- Promoting the attractiveness of scientific Francophonie, particularly among young people, teachers, and researchers.

The components of the Academy: 3 complementary and interrelated poles of activities

The AIFS activities will be organized around 3 poles which are the respective responses to the above-mentioned needs:

- **Pole 1 - Observatory of the Scientific Francophonie:** Dedicated to prospective monitoring and thematic and territorial studies, it will be at the service of the AUF, its member institutions, its technical and financial partners, the political authorities of its host countries and, more generally, all decision-makers in the Francophone scientific space. Its mission is to improve the understanding of the issues at stake and to anticipate the transformations of the francophone educational and university space.

- **Pole 2 - Publication and promotion of the Scientific Francophonie:** Focused on the promotion of scientific excellence in the Francophone world, its mission is to strengthen the production and dissemination of knowledge in French and to promote the visibility and discoverability of the research activities of French-speaking scientists.
- **Pole 3 - Governance of institutions of the Scientific Francophonie:** This pole is specialized in the management of university and educational structures. It provides advice, expertise and support to member institutions, public entities and international bodies in the development and strategic implementation of reference frameworks and standardization systems for the adoption of a quality approach and support for Francophone alternatives for labelling and accreditation.

Multicultural governance and high-level experts

In order to meet the expectations of very diverse beneficiaries, the AIFS has a board of directors composed of 5 high-level experts from different French-speaking countries with varied and complementary cultural, professional, and academic backgrounds. The Academy is supported by the Scientific Council of the AUF where 17 nationalities are represented - and as many different scientific and professional profiles - and headed by a Board of directors of 22 members comprising the presidents of the regional conferences of the rectors and the leaders of academic institutions partners of the AUF. The president of the AIFS Board of Directors is designated by the Kingdom of Morocco, host country and strategic partner of the AUF.



The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), created 60 years ago, is today the first university network in the world with more than 1030 members: universities, grandes écoles, and research centers in 120 countries. Revealing the genius of the scientific Francophonie throughout the world, the AUF, an international non-profit organization, is also a label that carries a vision for a better development of educational and university systems: "Thinking globally about the scientific Francophonie and acting regionally while respecting diversity".

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