

Press Release

The AUF presents at the Djerba Summit the first Manifesto for a Francophone Scientific Diplomacy adopted by ministers of higher education from 40 countries

Djerba, Tunisia, November 20, 2022, | Operator of the Francophonie Summit for higher education and research, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) presented the Manifesto* for a Francophone Scientific Diplomacy to the Heads of State and Government participating in the 18th Francophonie Summit in Djerba. The Manifesto has been co-signed or validated in principle by nearly 40 countries.

After having initiated the idea in Bucharest, in October 2021 during the 5th conference of the French-speaking ministers of higher education, the AUF undertook a work of dialogue and synthesis to lead to a project of co-constructed and ambitious Manifesto. It was validated by nearly 40 countries represented at the 6th Ministerial Conference in Cairo, on October 26, 2022, on the 2nd edition of the World Week of the Scientific Francophonie.

This unpublished manifesto is a reference document focused on the contribution of education and university systems to policy makers. Its originality lies in the fact that it proposes a methodology and priority themes for international cooperation and partnerships in the French-speaking world, supported by governments and a global network of French-speaking experts and scientists.

In addition to the AUF, initiator of the Manifesto, and the OIF, which represents the institutional Francophonie, the countries and governments that have agreed to endorse the Manifesto for a Francophone Scientific Diplomacy, including those who have already signed during the 2nd edition of the World Week of the Francophonie in Science in Cairo and those who expressed their agreement in principle through remote conferencing, are to date 37 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Egypt, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Romania, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia, Vietnam) and those who will join this initiative express through this manifesto their commitment to:

- Promote francophone expertise and political-scientific networking in a globalized and multilingual context, while guaranteeing the cohabitation of French and other languages of this space;
- Promote cooperation that is supportive, inclusive, contextualized and results-oriented;
- Adopt a more forward-looking approach to anticipate the desired changes in education and university systems in response to specific country needs and global challenges.



The signatory countries agree to prioritize the following seven themes in international cooperation policies related to science and education in the Francophone space:

- Institutionalizing the mobility of skills;
- Professionalizing the teaching staff and diplomas;
- Valorize French-speaking scientific publications;
- Standardize the quality of scientific institutions;
- Democratize digital education;
- Develop the employability of young people and promote entrepreneurship;
- Disseminate the culture of mediation and conflict management.

To operationalize the commitments of this Manifesto, a mode of governance has been adopted. It is based on the institutionalization and the perpetuation of the Conference of Ministers in charge of higher education and research in the Francophone scientific space which will operate in an iterative, co-constructed and consensual manner, thus conferring on the Manifesto the function of roadmap.

Read the Text of the manifesto [here](#)

About AUF

The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), created 60 years ago, is today the first university network in the world with more than 1000 members: universities, Higher Schools, and research centers in nearly 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: "to think globally about the scientific Francophonie and to act regionally while respecting diversity".

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