

Agreements with intergovernmental organizations

Agreement between the World Health Organization and the International Organisation of La Francophonie

Report by the Director-General

1. Discussions have taken place between the Secretariats of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF/Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie) on formalizing and enhancing cooperation between the two organizations.
2. OIF is an international organization established in 1970 and aimed at strengthening and promoting the French language and universal values. OIF has 54 full members, seven associate members and 27 observers. In 32 of these members, French is the official language or one of the official languages. The combined population of OIF members is 900 million people, of whom 274 million are French speaking. OIF members are spread across the five continents. More than one third of Member States of the United Nations are members of OIF.
3. The objectives of OIF relevant to cooperation with WHO are to promote basic human rights, including the right to health, to promote French language and cultural and linguistic diversity, to support education and training and to foster economic cooperation for sustainable development.
4. The discussions between the two organizations have resulted in the drawing up of a draft agreement that would formalize, better define and strengthen cooperation between WHO and OIF on matters pertaining to the WHO Academy, universal health coverage and malaria, as well as on any other relevant matters.
5. The text of the draft agreement is contained in the Annex to this report. The proposed draft agreement is submitted to the World Health Assembly under the terms of Article 70 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. In accordance with Article 5 of the draft agreement, the agreement would enter into force on the date of the signature by the Director-General of the World Health Organization and the Secretary General of La Francophonie, subject to its approval by the World Health Assembly.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

6. The Health Assembly is invited to consider for adoption the following draft resolution:

The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the proposed agreement between the World Health Organization and the International Organisation of La Francophonie;¹

Considering also Article 70 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization,

APPROVES the proposed agreement between the International Organisation of La Francophonie and the World Health Organization.

¹ Document A74/44.

ANNEX

ORIGINAL VERSION: FRENCH

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF LA FRANCOPHONIE**

The World Health Organization (hereafter “WHO”); and

The International Organisation of La Francophonie (hereafter “OIF”);

Hereafter individually and collectively termed “the Party” and “the Parties”;

Considering that the objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, and to this end WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health-related work with an international dimension;

Considering that OIF is a major stakeholder in implementing international instruments of a universal nature with respect to the promotion and protection of basic rights including the right to health; and that it ensures, through advocacy and mobilization, the effective implementation of resolutions and declarations with respect to well-being and health adopted by its Member States and Governments;

Recalling that WHO and OIF concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on 14 April 2021 to intensify their cooperation and collaboration in the area of advocacy and mobilization of francophone States and Governments regarding questions of public health;

Desiring to coordinate their efforts within their respective mandates and in accordance with the Constitution of WHO and the Charter of La Francophonie;

Wishing to strengthen their cooperation on the basis of regular consultations;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1**Object and areas of cooperation**

1. The object of this Agreement is to facilitate and reinforce cooperation and collaboration between the Parties on all questions in the area of health that relate to the activities and commitments of the Parties.
2. Within the scope of their respective mandates and programmes of work, the Parties agree to a general strengthening of their cooperation, specifically as regards the WHO Academy; universal health coverage and primary health care; malaria; and any other area of common interest.

Article 2

Reciprocal representation

1. On the basis of reciprocity, OIF is invited to represent itself at sessions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board in accordance with the rules and decisions adopted by these bodies and, as appropriate, any other meetings held under the auspices of WHO in the deliberations of which OIF could participate, without the right to vote, on agenda items of concern to it.
2. On the basis of reciprocity, WHO is invited to represent itself at Summits of La Francophonie and, as appropriate, any other meetings held under the auspices of OIF in the deliberations of which WHO could participate, without the right to vote, on agenda items of concern to it.

Article 3

Sharing of information

The Parties agree to exchange, by whatever means, information concerning their activities which they deem appropriate, subject to their existing policies, respect for the sovereign rights of their Member States and Governments, confidentiality obligations and the protection of commercial, contractual or other secrets.

Article 4

Privileges and immunities

No provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted or considered as a renunciation, limitation, waiver or modification of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the Parties under international agreements and national laws applicable to them.

Article 5

Entry into force, amendment and denunciation

1. This Agreement is valid from the date of its signature by the Director-General of WHO and the Secretary General of La Francophonie, subject to approval by the World Health Assembly.
2. This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties.
3. Either Party may denounce this Agreement at any time by serving written notice on the other Party of its intent to do so six (6) months in advance. The denunciation of the Agreement shall not prejudice any activities being conducted under the terms of the Agreement at the time of said denunciation.

Article 6

Settlement of differences

Any difference, dispute or litigation arising from the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through negotiation between the Parties. If attempted negotiation yields no result, either Party may request that the difference be submitted for arbitration in accordance with the currently applicable Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is done and signed at Geneva on [.....], in two copies, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic. In the event of any difference of interpretation of this Agreement, the French text is authoritative.

For the International Organisation of La
Francophonie

For the World Health Organization

Secretary General of La Francophonie
Louise Mushikiwabo

Director-General
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

= = =